



# Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Tony Newman October 2017

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## Latest News

### Borough of Culture 2019

We have successfully launched our bid "to put culture at the heart of regeneration" starting with the very successful Mela that we brought back to Croydon. We are also on track to see the new Fairfield Halls open again next year.

Warhol Croydon, delivered by Croydon's award-winning RISEgallery, was another event that has added to our borough's burgeoning cultural reputation.

When these events are taken alongside: the Pride festival returning to our borough, Croydon magnificently bringing back to life the Ashburton Library building, helping deliver Boxpark, the transformation of Surrey Street, every library remaining open – then we have so much to be proud of in Croydon.

### Tram Memorial

Almost a year has passed since the tram derailment on the 9 November 2016, when a tram at Sandilands derailed killing seven and injuring 58. Those who lost their lives, their families and others affected by this terrible incident are never far from our thoughts.

In memory of all those affected, two permanent memorials will be unveiled on the first anniversary this November to show that Croydon will never forget this tragedy or the huge impact it has had.

The memorials will be at two locations in the borough and have been designed in consultation with the families who lost loved ones. Stone plinths with a carved inscription have been commissioned for the Sandilands and New Addington sites along with seating and planting.

On the morning of the anniversary, a civic ceremony will take place in New Addington during which the permanent memorial will be unveiled and a minute silence will also be held.

It will be the time to come together as a community to reflect and remember, and is also an opportunity to pay tribute to the tireless efforts of the emergency services



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and all those who helped in the aftermath of the incident. I'd encourage anyone who wants to attend to join us in New Addington and show their support.

## Remembrance

As in past years, a traditional ceremony will take place on Saturday 11 November 2017 with a one-minute silence at 11am at the Cenotaph in Katharine Street to mark the end of World War I on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918.

The Armistice Day ceremony will be followed, on Sunday, by the annual Civic Service of Remembrance to pay tribute to the sacrifices of military and service personnel in conflicts past and present.

## Westfield

Along with the Greater London Assembly (GLA) we continue to work together to secure this exciting opportunity for Croydon.

Both the GLA and Croydon have invested heavily in the ongoing infrastructure changes required to support the project. We have now also met with national government at Cabinet level, to seek a commitment and support from them to ensure this project can be delivered bringing jobs and investment to Croydon. Initial discussions have been positive.

## Children's Services

Our improvement plan is taking shape and extra resources and support are already focused on the frontline.

The role councillors have to play as corporate parents is fundamental to changing and improving our services for the children who depend on them most. And this is not just for the short term, but also taking us forward to a sustainable and ongoing improvement that will be embedded in all we do.

## Croydon Sprinkler Instalments

After the catastrophic fire in Grenfell Tower that affected hundreds, Croydon made a firm promise to its residents that 25 of our tallest tower blocks will be fitted with sprinklers by next spring to prevent such a tragedy from ever happening in our borough.

**AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON**



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The works have already started with a flat already completed in College Green Upper Norwood.

It is a shame that Croydon's commitment to improve residents' safety following the Grenfell tragedy has not been supported by the Government. Twice we have written to the Government requesting aid for help in paying for the estimated £10m cost and to date, no Government financial assistance has been provided.

**Councillor Tony Newman**

**Leader of the Council**