



Clean Green Croydon

Cabinet Member Bulletin

Councillor Stuart Collins

October 2017

Investing in a Cleaner, Greener Croydon

Surveillance Team

The Flytip team have been carrying out night/early morning surveillance operations in all areas of the borough and during the day in known hotspots. They have been surveying between 03:00 and 07:00 and 21:00 – 03:00 to collect evidence before Veolia clear the fly tips. As a result a number of people have been caught in the act and 56 FPNs were issued in August and September. 16 cases are currently undergoing investigation.

The team have also distributed leaflets and given advice to residents in known hot spot areas. 10 “No Fly Tip” signs have been installed along with four CCTV cameras. A dedicated Refuse Collection Point has been agreed on Raymead Avenue and on Brigstock Road to alleviate problems for residents in flats above KFC.

Thornton Heath Enforcement Initiative

This took place during August and September. It involved the distribution of 2000 leaflets working with local residents and councillors in Thornton Heath and Bensham Manor, and surveillance of Brook Road, Melfort Road, Thornton Heath High Street, Colliers Water Lane, Thornton Heath Pond and Raymead Passage and other known hotspots. Officers also observed suspected drug dealers and all details were passed to the local police for investigation. Increasing the number of uniformed patrols along Thornton Heath High Street has reduced littering and improved the environment. Other hotspot locations are currently being monitored covertly.

Broad Green November

The team will be moving into Broad Green Ward from November 2017 where another 2000 leaflets will be delivered and where they will intensify work around known hotspots. This will include installation of cameras, patrols, early morning and late evening visits and covert surveillance.

Vacuum Introduction Update and Future Plans

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Many of you will have seen the “Green Machine” electric vacuums which are being introduced to replace and enhance 25 barrow beats for street cleansing. These battery powered machines have zero CO2 emissions and are ideal for town centres and areas of high footfall. The power and adaptability of these units is making a real difference in hard to reach areas such as the back lines of pavements and between parked cars. These vacuums are already being utilised on ten rounds, with the remainder set to follow shortly. These vacuums have created a real talking point among residents whose rounds they service, raising public perceptions of Croydon’s Street Cleansing services. A competition will follow for local residents to name their vacuum, with the winning suggestions being liveried on the front of the machines.

Last year saw an overhaul of the way in which the Council monitored the Veolia contract. The standards of street cleansing came under particular scrutiny with a new monitoring regime being introduced jointly with Veolia which involved, for the first time in Croydon’s history, approximately two hundred joint streets inspections each month. Both the monitoring staff and Veolia’s Environmental Managers undertook training from Keep Britain Tidy to ensure the standard with which both parties were assessing street cleanliness was consistent. The new monitoring system, allied with the £1.3M investment into new street cleansing technology, has yielded some very impressive results. Last September, the number of streets being swept to standard was just 47%, however, I’m pleased to report that for the past four months, the overall standard has been over 90%, and I have noticed a real visual improvement in many streets across the borough. Of course, there is always room for improvement, and officers and Veolia will be continuing their good work and targeting resources into monitoring areas of high litter accumulation to ensure a smooth transition to the South London Waste Partnership in March 2018. The new contract has even more rigorous standards for street cleansing, meaning that not only will streets have to be swept to a certain standard, they will also have to be maintained at a certain level at all times. These are exciting times for Croydon, and officers will continue to work with Veolia to ensure they meet the challenges of the new contract.

Positive News

It’s wonderful news to hear that the hard work in improving street cleansing standards and removing fly tips is being recognised at the Croydon Council Awards. The commitment shown by Council Officers and Veolia’s staff has been remarkable and has resulted in visibly enhanced streets throughout the borough. Congratulations and good luck to the following:

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Croydon's Street Cleansing Monitoring Team and Veolia - Nominated for the Best Partnership Award

- Jacki Ager (Senior Technical Officer) - Nominated for the Residents' Choice Award
- Veolia's Jason Ives - Nominated in the Mayors Civic Awards for his role in making the borough a cleaner place to live
- Fly tip task force – Nominated for Team of the Year
- Margaret Peel Boyce (Neighbourhood Safety Officer) – Nominated for the WoW Impact Award

'Don't Mess with Croydon' Clean-ups

These have been a resounding success. More and more residents are organising clean up days and we provide them with pickers, bags, appropriate training and make sure that the rubbish collected is taken away at the end of day. Areas that have been blighted for years by constant littering are now looking remarkably cleaner.

Over August and September there were 15 community clean ups which were attended by over 200 residents and Street Champions in the borough. The events have ranged from litter picks to clearing an alleyway.

We now have over 330 Street Champions in the borough, all of whom take pride in their community by supporting neighbours with recycling and collection days, reporting environmental issues, litter picking, organising community days, creating community gardens. Being the link between the community and our Neighbourhood Safety Officers.