



Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Tony Newman January 2015

Latest News

Happy New Year everyone. The last seven months of 2014 were hugely positive for Croydon and I am certain that 2015 will deliver even more improvements for our residents, businesses and visitors.

At Budget Scrutiny in December we outlined our plans for tackling the £100m 'black hole' left by the outgoing Conservative administration and how we will tackle the 45% cut to funding for essential services imposed on Croydon by this Conservative-led coalition government.

The good news is that we will be delivering a Council tax freeze. We have been able to do this by writing a three year budget programme that refocuses our limited resources on front line services. We will be undertaking truly innovative efficiency programmes to reduce our back office costs and looking to work with people that need our help much earlier to reduce dependency on more expensive, acute services.

As you will all know, we have also been working hard with the government to deliver a fairer share for Croydon. We recognise that there isn't more money to be thrown at our problems but we do believe that the overall pot of funding can be distributed in a fairer way. Our negotiations with the government have led to their agreement to work with us on delivering a 'growth zone' in the borough. This will devolve significant powers to us, allowing us to refocus further available funding in the area on the services that matter most locally.

Delivering our Ambitions

At the December Cabinet, we considered a new Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy. We are determined to do everything that we can to both tackle and prevent these awful crimes and to make Croydon a White Ribbon Borough. We have launched a petition to the Government seeking the creation of a national register of domestic abuse offenders. This would be a significant tool in tackling domestic violence and I would be grateful if everyone would consider supporting this petition – it can be found at https://www.change.org/p/the-right-honourable-theresa-may-mp-home-secretary-create-a-national-register-of-domestic-abuse-offenders?recruiter=195987931&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=share_email_responsive.

We also considered new plans to redevelop the Taberner House site. I am delighted to say that the new plans will dramatically reduce the encroachment on the Queen's Gardens and prioritise

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improvement work to this treasured public space. The plans will also deliver a greater number of affordable homes – one of our key priorities to help tackle the housing crisis in the area.

The 'Best Start' report agreed at the Cabinet meeting outlines our plans for delivering better services for our youngest residents. We will be bringing together a range of services, including health visiting, early learning and childcare, family support and children's centres into one integrated service. I am delighted that families from across the Borough have been put at the heart of the design of these services.

The 'Employability, Jobs & Skills - Local Jobs for Local People' report forms part of our overall plan to deliver 16,000 new jobs in the Borough. In partnership with Job Centre Plus, we will deliver a new job brokerage service that will be a one stop shop where Croydon residents can receive advice about their employment options and training needs, and where employers can recruit quality staff.

The Cabinet also considered two reports focused on our transformation strategy. This strategy will help us to deliver the significant savings required while maintaining vital frontline services. The first report, 'Digital and Enabling' will develop and apply digital solutions that help reduce costs and streamline the way in which the Council does business. The second report, 'Contract Management Transformation', will deliver a more outcome and commercially focused approach to how the Council procures goods and services. This new strategy will save £2m in the next financial year alone.

The Cabinet also agree that we work with our geographical neighbours to form a 'South London Partnership Joint Committee'. This important step will help to give South London Councils a unified voice, irrespective of political persuasion, that will help us to collectively engage more successfully with Government departments in delivering a better deal for South London overall.

Finally, we considered the current in year financial performance. While we continue to tackle the projected overspend inherited from the previous administration, we are now in a much better position than the Council has been at this stage in the past two years and we have taken into account where overspends are occurring when preparing the budget for next year.

January's Cabinet meeting will provide an update on how we are continuing to clean up the Borough. The headline news is that 85% of fly tips are now being cleared within 48 hours, compared to the 3% being cleared in that time before we took office in May.

One other area on the January Cabinet that I would like to highlight is the report on financial inclusion. We all know that wages have not kept up with the dramatic rises in the cost living over recent years and too many people have experienced significant problems with debt. This paper will outline our new strategy for supporting people that are suffering such financial problems and also to provide new services that will help prevent many people falling into the cycle of unsustainable debt in the first place.

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Economic Development Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Toni Letts January 2015

Latest News

Celebrating Croydon's Apprentices

On Wednesday, 11 March Croydon will be hosting the first ever Croydon Apprenticeships Graduation Ceremony at Fairfield Halls.

To enter the competition, apprentices must upload a five-minute video to YouTube explaining why their placement and employer offers the best experience.

The winning video should describe the employer and apprentice experience, include a skills demonstration and demonstrate the benefits to both the apprentice and employers.

<http://www.croydonenterprise.org.uk/apprenticeship-graduation-flyer/>

Events at Surrey StrEatery

Croydon's new food hub, the Surrey StrEatery, hosted a range of foodie-themed events over the festive period.

Cookery workshops for children took place in December, where the youngsters learnt about the ingredients they are using, baking techniques and how to decorate their creations.

There will be other chances to attend cookery classes, led by professionals such as cookery teacher Lois Lawrence, head baker at Plumbun, based at the StrEatery. For up to date details please go to:

<http://www.croydon.gov.uk/business/support/retail-support/surrey-streatery>

Delivering our Ambitions

Thornton Heath is to benefit from nearly £3m of investment which will transform one of the borough's major district centres.

Croydon's Growth Plan, approved by cabinet in September, pledges to revitalise the borough's district centres, with Thornton Heath a priority area.

The proposed project focuses on 1km of high street stretching from Thornton Heath Library to the Whitehorse Lane roundabout, encompassing the train station and leisure centre to support trading environment for businesses.

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The council will be consulting with the community and businesses about the proposals to transform the area.

Work is scheduled to be completed by 2017/18.

Working Together

Job Brokerage Service

The council is working to ensure that jobs created from major commercial developments in and around the borough go to Croydon residents. The proposal is to launch a job brokerage service where the council will work alongside Jobcentre Plus, local colleges and training providers, to provide employers with three job-ready applicants for every vacancy.

The service will work with employers to come up with a clear pipeline of job opportunities which need to be filled.

There are three major opportunities that will generate jobs in Croydon – the Whitgift redevelopment, expansion of Gatwick Airport and work opportunities from growth sectors such as in construction, retail and information technology.



Finance and Treasury Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Simon Hall January 2015

Local Government Funding

The 2015/16 local government settlement has reinforced the unfairness of the system and the adverse impact for residents of our borough. Croydon has been working with a number of other London Boroughs for a co-ordinated approach to submissions to DCLG on this year's settlement.

This is in addition to our ongoing work with Ministers and Shadow Ministers regarding the various areas where Croydon residents are penalised. As detailed previously, this includes the disconnect between the Local Housing Allowance and rent levels, the underfunding of health services in the borough and the failures generally to recognise the demographic changes in the borough.

Budget

Draft proposals were presented to the Scrutiny & Overview Committee in December.

The Leader and myself made clear the huge challenge, some £100 million savings imposed by Central Government over the next three years, when £100 million has already been found over the last four years.

There is ongoing work on budget options and, in particular, working on how we deliver the various major change projects, known collectively as the 'Croydon Challenge'.

Clearly, there are some tough choices being proposed as part of the Budget process and I want to thank Cabinet Members and officers for all their efforts on this.

Asset Strategy

We are actively reviewing the Council's assets as part of unlocking their potential, both in terms of supporting communities and safeguarding front-line services.

This is being done in a holistic manner. We need to use the assets to help meet the needs of residents in terms of services, meet the financial challenges of the Council, along with helping deliver wider objectives for the people of Croydon, such as regeneration, housing and employment opportunities.

Over the next few months, we expect to be able to present specific proposals.

Facilities Management

We are about to publish the procurement strategy for Facilities Management. Very detailed work has gone into making sure we have the right strategy. Our proposed strategy will see the Council move away from an all-encompassing quite rigid single contract, to a number of flexible lots, at least one of which is anticipated to be brought in-house.

Procurement and Commissioning

I was pleased to speak at the Strategy Commissioning Procurement and Performance team's annual conference in December. There was real energy at this conference, showing that staff are continuing to embrace the challenge of a new approach to commissioning, procurement and contract management.

On January 22, we will be holding the Value Croydon event, which is a way of linking major suppliers and Council departments with local businesses. This will show how we are actively promoting local businesses.

Valuing our Staff

With a tough financial context, it is even more important that our staff are treated with dignity and respect and are valued.

This is why we have given new impetus to our staff networks. This has included relaunching some and setting up new ones, such as one for staff with disabilities.

In addition, and contrary to the approach suggested by the Opposition, we value the relationship with the trade unions and consider that they should be given proper facility time and resources to support staff and ensure the staff's voice is heard.

IT

It is essential that we have the right IT infrastructure. In particular, we need this in order to meet the needs of residents, such as with the MyCroydon app and online interactions with the Council and so that we deliver the Digital and Enabling project.

Whilst there is still a lot of work to do, starting from a low base, there are now encouraging signs with the progress on our IT infrastructure and making sure we obtain the right level of service from our main IT supplier.



Clean Green Croydon Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Stuart Collins January 2015

Latest News

In June 2014 we made a commitment to make Croydon the cleanest and greenest borough in London through a programme of education, enforcement and making it easy for residents to report issues.

Don't Mess with Croydon, Take Pride is a four year campaign that will require continuous education, enforcement and review of the services we provide.

In the few short months so far the improvements in every area has been outstanding and a testament to how the Council's staff and those of our contractors have bought in to the campaign. As a Council we now measure performance more efficiently and have improved our accountability with the performance dash board we publish.

88% of fly tips cleared within 48 hours compared to only 3% 2013/14. An average of 46 fixed penalties for fly tipping issued per month compared to only 20 in 2013/14. Over 20 Interviews under Caution leading to cases booked in court, an average of 5 per month compared to only 1 in 2013/14. 6 warrants granted requesting seizure of vehicles involved in fly tipping. Arrangements in place to display crushed vehicles and name & shame those prosecuted. National BBC coverage of our campaign and other Borough's interested in adopting our approach.

Most importantly public is feedback saying that whilst there is still a long way to go, they recognise things are improving and that they support Don't Mess with Croydon, Take Pride campaign.





Clean Green Croydon

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Delivering our Ambitions

New initiatives being proposed:

In 2015 we will be carrying out an education drive involving residents, schools, landlords and businesses this will include talking to residents with eyesore gardens, signing up traders to an agreement with us to dispose of waste correctly which will be available for display. Promotion of recycling in our schools, community group meetings and working with our clean & green Street Champions we will also sign up residents to display a charter/agreement.

Having identified the problem of black bags from flats above shops along our district centres we are piloting a new bin that's part recycling, part landfill that's cleared daily with the street bins. If the Crystal Palace Triangle pilot works we can roll out to other problem areas.



People and Communities Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Louisa Woodley January 2014

LATEST NEWS

Homes for the Future



During December, in my role as Cabinet Member for People and Communities, I visited the four Council Day Services across the borough. These are the Reablement Resource Centres at Addington Heights, New Addington; and Coleby at Fellowes Court in Addiscombe and the Dementia Day Services, at Langley Oaks in Selsdon and the Marsh and Willow Units at Heavers Resource Centre in Selhurst.

During the visits, I took the opportunity to have first-hand contact and engagement with clients, carers and staff. I spent time with clients in a variety of settings including participating in group activities, joining clients for lunch and attending two festive events where I also met with relatives, carers and centre volunteers.

I was able to see and hear about the positive impact of the professional level of care and services provided at these excellently facilitated and equipped Centres. I was informed by both clients and carers of the significant difference the Centres and the staff teams make in enhancing their quality of life and in enabling clients to maintain health, wellbeing and independence for as long as possible.

Feedback from the visit was that Staff teams were very appreciative of the time I had spent at the centres and welcomed my offer to have continued contact with the centres.

Contact Officer: Dennis Murray, Service Manager, Ext: 0208 726 6000 Ext 15927

The Care Act 2014

Market Position Statement – this duty is to assist the providers of care in Croydon with a statement to indicate the current position of the market and the likely future requirements to ensure that the necessary services are available to meet the demand, there is now an annual requirement to publish this document. Engagement and consultation with providers, including those in the voluntary and community sectors has begun. Its main purpose is to find out through feedback whether the approach we are taking and the “style and format” of the draft Market Position Statement is one that will be useful to provider colleagues as a helpful and relevant tool that they can use in their own service and business planning, The final version will come to cabinet for approval in March.

Contact Officer: Paul Heynes, Head of Care Act Implementation Programme, Ext: 65500

Think Autism Capital Grant (£18,500)

Further to the letter from Department of Health dated 7th November, Croydon plan to use the funding to develop and roll out an e-learning module co-produced with parents of children with ASD and young people or adults with ASD. The objective of the learning tool would be to raise awareness of ASD and the needs of people with ASD among front-line practitioners and the wider community as part of the wider strategy for Croydon to be an Autism-friendly borough. The local organisations, businesses and community groups for whom an agreed proportion of the workforce complete the training, could then be awarded a Croydon autism-friendly kitemark. This would be using a similar awareness-raising approach to the successful National Dementia Friends campaign. The £18.5K funding would be used to develop the module (using the existing local e-learning platform which can be used by anyone who lives or works in Croydon) and contribute to the engagement of service users in co-production and the roll out of the module across the Local Strategic Partnership and community.

Contact Officer: Simon Wadsworth, Strategic Programme Project Manager, Adult Care Commissioning Ext. 13640

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

Croydon General Practice 2014

The Croydon Public Health Intelligence Team recently published annual profiles for Croydon GP practices and GP clinical networks.

The GP Network Comparison Profile shows variations across Croydon's six GP clinical networks in demography, disease prevalence, activity and quality of care. Each practice also receives its own individual profile, comparing data with national targets and other practices in Croydon.

The profiles are used by practices and GP clinical networks within Croydon Clinical Commissioning Group to assess the needs of their population, to inform clinical governance, and to inform decision making.

Contact: David Osborne, Senior Public Health Information Analyst, Public Health Croydon Ext. 84397

DELIVERING AMBITIONS

Croydon's Local Alcohol Action Area

In February 2014, Croydon was awarded Local Alcohol Action Area (LAAA) status. Led nationally by the Home Office and Public Health England, the LAAA programme aims to tackle the harmful effects of irresponsible drinking, particularly alcohol-related crime and health harms. Croydon's alcohol partnership, established by the LAAA, is led by the council and includes the police, other licensing authorities, health bodies, the voluntary sector and businesses.

Croydon's LAAA programme has set the following priorities over the coming year:

1. To screen more adults for high risk drinking and to offer appropriate support
2. To promote safe, sensible alcohol consumption through coordinating and running campaigns
3. To prevent violence through sharing information between urgent care centres such as A&E and the Safer Croydon Partnership.

Croydon is also working with the Home Office to explore how new local health powers can influence licensing decisions. Croydon recently hosted a regional event, facilitated by the Home Office and The Portman Group, to explore opportunities for local authorities to work more closely with the alcohol industry.

Contact Officer: Bernadette Alves, Consultant in Public Health, Public Health Croydon Ext 61317

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Annual Learning Disability Joint Health and Social Care Assessment Framework

The annual Joint Health and Social Care Self-Assessment Framework helps local areas check that people with learning disabilities and their families:

- Get the same opportunities as other people such as having a job or being safe where they live.
- Get good access to health services to stop them becoming unwell when this could be prevented.

For 2014/2015 -the process involves health and social care completing a template with a set of questions linked to **3** main areas of focus:

Staying Healthy- This includes getting a good service from the doctors, chemist, dentists, hospital and more.

Being Safe- This is about being safe in lots of different places such as in your home, whilst in hospital or out and about on public transport. .

Living Well- This is about making sure people are part of what happens in their area such as taking part in festivals or going to the cinema.

The focus for data collection was for 2013/2014 and there is an additional focus on the views of people with Learning Disabilities and their carer's in relation to two specific questions. To facilitate this a survey was undertaken of carers and also the Learning Disabilities Commissioning team hosted an LD day on November 7th 2014 which was attended by 95 people and included people with a Learning Disability , families, carers, health and social care professionals and service providers.

The two specific questions were:

Staying safe section: B6 Treating people with compassion, dignity and respect

What has the support that you have had been like in the last year?

Living well section: C8: A question for carers- How satisfied are you that your needs as a carer are being met

How well are we supporting family carers in Croydon?

The result was that attendees felt that both questions could be rated Green on the basis of their experience. The next stage is to complete the rest of the template for sign off by the Learning Disability Executive and the Learning Disability Partnership Board ahead of submission to the Department of Health at the end of January 2015.

Contact Officer: Sue Culling, Senior Joint Commissioning manager – Learning Disabilities, ICU Ext. 63059

Mental Health Older Adults

A multiagency project group led jointly by Dr John Linney, Croydon CCG Governing Body member and Brenda Scanlan, Director, Integrated Commissioning Unit have been progressing proposals to redesign services for Mental Health Older Adults to address project changes in demographics in respect of an increase in ageing population resulting in increased dementia and therefore demand for services.

Three multiagency working groups were set up to progress this work and the recommendations that have been approved by the project board include; Development of Dementia Support workers to work in the community to support navigation of the system, development of one stop shop directory of support services and training opportunities, integrated working across primary, community, secondary and social care via Community Mental Health Teams and development of mental health older Adults Crisis Management and Home Treatment service. The next steps will include further service user and carer engagement to finalise these proposals and initiate the implementation process.

Contact Officer: Aarti Joshi, Interim Head of Service Redesign, Croydon CCG, 020 3668 1369.

Bethlem Visit

In December I visited Croydon inpatient mental health services, run by the South London & Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust, based on the site of the Bethlem Royal Hospital. The visit was coordinated by Paul Richards, Croydon's Head of Social Care in the Integrated Adult Mental Health Service and was hosted on the Croydon Triage Ward. There was a round table discussion regarding some of the pressures and challenges in today's mental health services, including issues around staff recruitment, bed pressures and the wider impact of the economic recession. Contributions to the discussion came from Hammond Macaulay, Clinical Services Lead for the Community; Bal Johal, Clinical Services Lead for Inpatients; and the ward multidisciplinary team including the ward manager, ward doctor and ward social worker.

The Croydon Triage Ward provides assessment and care for up to 16 men and women, in separate wings, who have an acute psychiatric illness requiring 24 hour hospital care. The role of the ward is to receive and assess all inpatient admissions for the London Borough of Croydon with an average admission rate of 2-4 people per day. The average length of stay is 4-5 days with a maximum of 7 days. Patients are admitted for an intense period of assessment and / or treatment with the aim of returning them to their communities, sometimes with the support of the Home Treatment Team. Where a swift turnaround and early discharge is not possible then patients may get referred on to one of the acute inpatient units for further treatment.

Following the presentations and round table discussion I took the opportunity of touring the ward with the ward manager and meet several patients on the ward. During my conversations with the patients they commented positively on the quality of the care and treatment they were receiving.

Feedback from both staff and patients since my visit has been that they appreciated that I had taken the time to visit the ward.

Contact Officer: Paul Richards, Head of Social Care (Croydon Integrated Adult Mental Health Services), telephone 020 3228 0414

Croydon – Food Flagship Borough



Croydon has made significant progress since being granted food flagship status in the Summer. Pivotal to the success of the programme is the innovative Community Food Learning Centre in New Addington.

In addition to the work being undertaken to improve school food and increase uptake of school meals there will be a number of initiatives linked to Croydon's regeneration programme of which the Community Food Learning Centre is an example. On a recent visit to the centre I was impressed at the enthusiasm of the staff and the quality of the facility. Evelyn Findlater, the Chief Executive of Good Food Matters, took me for a tour of the extensive growing area and also the recently built teaching kitchen where a group of young women were receiving a cooking class.

The project will offer a range of interventions to residents, teachers and pupils in New Addington who want to learn to cook and grow as part of an integrated programme. This will also include engaging with young people not in employment, education or training to link them with careers in horticulture and catering.

Food flagship status also provides local community networks the opportunity to have their innovative ideas around growing and cooking to be funded through a small grants scheme and a Food Partnership Board will oversee the development of food initiatives over the lifetime of the programme.

Contact Officer: John Currie, Public Health Programme Manager Ext. 88751

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Homes and Regeneration

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Latest News

GROWTH ZONE

The Government, in its Autumn Statement, responded positively to the Council's proposal for a Growth Zone in central Croydon which seeks the devolution of powers to retain Stamp Duty, Business Rates and New Homes Bonus to fund infrastructure development. More detailed negotiations with the Treasury are due to start in January 2015. If agreed, this would go towards funding the infrastructure required to enable further growth in the town centre.

Delivering our Ambitions

DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

The Council is keen to ensure that as much value as possible is retained from the development process to benefit residents. For this reason, a new council Development Company is being established to enable the council to take on the delivery of a variety of sites itself.

Following September Cabinet's in principle approval to this approach, detailed operational proposals are now being worked up to be ready for Cabinet's consideration in the Spring. Sites with capacity for thousands of new homes and jobs have been provisionally identified.

SELECTIVE LICENSING SCHEME

The Council's consultation on a selective licensing scheme to improve homes in the private rented sector has been extended following a High Court judgement on Enfield Council's scheme. The new consultation deadline is March 2nd with the results to be presented to Cabinet in March.

SAVING QUEENS GARDENS

In December, Cabinet also agreed revisions to the Taberner House redevelopment scheme including: the Council taking a direct role in the development of Phase 2; an increase in affordable homes from 15% to 30%; an increase in disabled parking; and increasing the size and quality of open space remaining at Queens Gardens. Demolition of Taberner House continues in preparation for start on site of the new scheme.

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OTHER MAJOR SCHEMES

Following a very productive pre-inquiry meeting on 9th December, final preparations are underway for the start of the Whitgift CPO Inquiry on 3rd February. A second set of Business Surgeries, with specialist advisers in attendance, is also being provided on the 20th and 27th January in Bernard Weatherill House. The aim is to assist businesses with their transition to new properties.

Two major Council-led regeneration schemes, at College Green in the town centre and Central Parade New Addington, moved a step closer with tenders being issued to secure multi-disciplinary consultants to take the schemes through detailed design and the planning process. Appointments are expected in March. A commitment has been made to start Central Parade on site early in 2016, with the first phase to include a new leisure centre.

The development of 675 new homes at Cane Hill and a new food store at Lion Green Road in Coulsdon remain on hold pending a judicial review in the High Court - the date for this is still to be confirmed.

EMPTY HOMES CAMPAIGN

The Council is launching an Empty Homes Campaign on 13th January across the borough with a poster campaign linked to the launch of the new option on the Council's Report It App for reporting empty homes. The aim is to encourage residents to report empty homes that are not only affecting their neighbourhood but that could provide a much needed home for a homeless family.

COUNCIL LEADS THE WAY ON FIRE SAFETY IN SHELTERED HOUSING BLOCKS

Croydon is one of the first local authorities to support the London Fire Brigade initiative to require sprinklers in our new build properties and we are now applying the benefits of sprinklers to our existing housing stock.

We have committed to installing full retrofit sprinkler systems to all six of our special sheltered blocks thereby ensuring maximum protection is provided to our most vulnerable residents. This will provide protection throughout each flat as well as all communal areas within the building. The first block completed was Truscott House and was subject to an award from the LFB in November. The remaining five blocks are due to be finished in the next couple of months.

We have also taken the initiative (possibly the first authority in London) to install portable sprinkler systems within the homes of very vulnerable individuals in our retirement housing blocks where risk assessments have identified specific individuals would be unable to self-

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evacuate were a fire to occur in their own flat. This work was completed during 2014 and means that specific protection is now in place for those who most need it.

All of the sprinkler installations will lead to increased safety for vulnerable residents as they stop fires from spreading and help put them out quickly and help save lives.

This work led to the Council winning £7,500 through the LFB's competition for sprinkler funding and drew the following comment from the LFB Borough Commander: "One of our priorities is to reduce fires in care homes and sheltered accommodation so it's great news that Croydon Council has agreed to install sprinkler systems in its existing special sheltered housing complexes. We're delighted at the example they're setting and we hope that more local authorities and housing providers will follow its example."

PLANNING AWARDS

Over recent years the planning division of the council has been developing a strong reputation to establish itself as a leader in innovation and has become nationally acknowledged for best practice in proactive planning through its work with the development industry and its innovative pre-planning application processes. The division have received considerable recognition for masterplans and spatial strategies produced such as the East Croydon Masterplan and the Local Plan with its innovative place based methodology identifying the 16 places of Croydon.

In 2014 the planning division was successful in receiving two further awards endorsing the good work that is currently being carried out. The award for Planning Authority of the Year at the was awarded at the inaugural MIPIM UK Awards hosted by Estates Gazette and Planning Policy Team of the Year at the Planning Awards. Judges were impressed with how the Councils local plan had divided the borough into 16 distinct places, identified through consultation with communities and by analysis of areas' characters and functions, how these could change over the next 20 years and how the council aims to improve poorer-quality areas over the plan's lifetime.

RESIDENT INVOLVEMENT AWARDS 2014

The hard work and achievements of council tenants and leaseholders was celebrated at the resident involvement awards ceremony Wednesday, 17 December 2014.

The annual event, organised by the council's resident involvement team, recognises the effort people put into making their communities better places to live, whether that involves improving services or housing estates.

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A special buffet was laid on for residents at the Clocktower Café in Katharine Street, Croydon, as a “thank you” from the council to those who have regularly taken part in activities organised by the resident involvement team.

The awards were presented by the Deputy Mayor of Croydon, Councillor Patricia Hay-Justice and Councillor Alison Butler, deputy leader of the council and cabinet member for homes and regeneration

Residents were nominated for awards in four categories by fellow residents, councillors and officers.

And the winners were...

Resident of the year

Winner: Beverley Warner

Highly commended: Yusuf Osman & Sue & Steve Errett

Beverley was nominated by her local community in Shrublands where she volunteers to support the running of the community coffee shop and organises events for both older residents and children throughout the year.

Embracing new ways of working

Winner: Yaw Boateng

Highly commended: John Piper & Marilyn Smithies

Yaw is a very active member of a number of residents’ groups which work with the council to improve housing services. He uses his excellent IT skills to communicate effectively with the council and other residents.

Best personal development

Winner: Gary Allen

Highly commended: Yaw Boateng, Chris Crossdale, Guy Pile-Grey, Kim Wakely & Colin Wood

Gary joined the Housing Scrutiny Panel a few years ago whilst studying for a BA in Housing at university. The experience gained in this role helped him to obtain an excellent degree and find a job as a housing officer.

Outstanding residents group

Winner: The Housing Scrutiny Panel

Gary Allen, Margaret Ashmead, Carol Bennet, Yaw Boateng, Rosalie Burke, Christopher Crossdale, Guy Pile-Grey, Sheryl Read, Josephine Sackey & Caroline Stenbridge.

Homes and Regeneration Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Alison Butler January 2015

The Housing Scrutiny Panel worked extremely hard last year scrutinising both the income and neighbourhood warden services. Their reports produced over 40 recommendations for service improvements, the majority of which have now been implemented.



Transport and Environment Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Kathy Bee January 2015

Latest News

Flooding Update

The flood alleviation measures in Purley and Kenley are progressing well and most of the proposed works have now been completed. The Council is working jointly with Surrey County Council, Tandridge District Council, Environment Agency, Thames Water and Sutton & East Surrey Water to identify potentially affordable and viable solutions that could help to minimise the impact of flooding in the longer term and protect key assets and the most vulnerable. We have commissioned Atkins, who are one of the world's leading design, engineering and project management consultancies, to undertake the study and they commenced work in October 2014, they are currently in the information gathering phase.

Repair & Renew Grant Scheme – to date the Council has received 36 applications from residents and businesses for funding to implement flood resilience measures to protect their properties and has recently approved the first set of works to proceed on 3 businesses and 1 residential property. These works would be carried out and completed by the end of January 2015. As the grant is only for measures over and above that claimed from the insurers, more residents and businesses are being urged to obtain their insurers report and apply.

Cycling Update

We are working with TfL and Sustrans to deliver the Croydon to Waterloo cycle 'Quietway'. TfL recently wrote to us offering funding and other resources to deliver a further three Quietways to connect central Croydon with Greenwich, Crystal Palace and Worcester Park (Sutton). We welcomed the offer, making some suggested improvements to the proposed routes.

We are due to start in February widening and improving the existing off road cycle path shared with pedestrians at the top of Gravel Hill. Work is almost complete on a new 1.3km off road section of cycleway along Lodge Lane, from Kent Gate Way to King Henrys Drive. This will provide an almost continuous traffic free link from King Henrys Drive to Featherbed Lane in the west and to the borough boundary with Bromley in the east.

Delivering our Ambitions

20 mph Areas

The Council has set up a working group to further develop the proposed area wide 20mph speed limits across the borough. This working group, which held its second meeting on Wednesday 17th December, has discussed a number of issues including, the proposed size of the areas to be treated each year, the exempt roads within these areas, the monitoring of the existing traffic speeds, and how local people's views will be surveyed. Further working

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Transport and Environment

Cabinet Member Bulletin

Councillor Kathy Bee

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groups are due to take place over the next few months, with a detailed report on the proposal to be presented to Cabinet in March for approval.

Play Streets Update

The Council is currently supporting residents in 9 roads who have expressed an interest in having a Play Street. Play Streets are resident led initiatives and so it is for them, following consultation with their neighbours, to decide whether to go ahead with the application for a Play Street and when to hold it.

The Council have prepared a guide for residents which explains what they need to do to arrange a Play Street as well as useful documents that they can adapt for use in their own road. This is on the Council website at:

<http://www.croydon.gov.uk/healthsocial/families/ccfpartnership/playstreets>

The indication from residents is that they are proposing to start their Play Streets from Spring 2015. Where the Council agrees a road closures it will initially be for three sessions. This will allow organisers and those residents that have reservations the opportunity to try out a Play Street and identify problems before a longer term arrangement is put in place.

Working Together

Annual TFL Bus Meeting

We held a new style engagement meeting with TfL (the very first in London) to discuss longer term and more strategic bus network matters. We focused on the expected growth in Croydon and how the bus network might expand to support it, agreeing to meet early in the New Year to begin working in more detail. We took the opportunity to highlight the need for more direct bus connections to Croydon University Hospital.

New Addington Bus Review

TfL has undertaken a detailed review of bus services in the New Addington area and has just consulted on proposed improvements. TfL distributed leaflets explaining the proposals to rationalise the services. It also hosted 3 drop-in sessions to discuss the proposals with residents which Councillors also attended. We have welcomed the proposals but suggested how they might be improved further. Discussions between TfL and Croydon Council will continue prior to a TfL announcement expected in spring 2015.

Responses to the Old Oak Common and Bakerloo Line extension consultations

TfL recently consulted a proposed station at Old Oak Common (which would provide interchange between HS2/Cross Rail and the West London Line) and a proposed extension of the Bakerloo Line. We welcomed the Old Oak Common Station proposal as it would provide an alternative route from Croydon to access HS2, removing the need to go through

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central London to Euston. It would also provide other improved links including to Heathrow. We gave our support to 'Option A' which provides the potential for train services from Croydon using the West London Line to directly connect into the proposed station.

We similarly welcomed the Bakerloo Line proposals. The proposed interchange at New Cross Gate between the Bakerloo Line and mainline line and London Overground services would give improved connectivity and journey choices to the people of Croydon. The proposed Bakerloo Line station at Elmers End and interchange with Tramlink, would provide further connectivity benefits. Noting the consultation was also intended to gauge support for a possible extension to Bromley Town Centre, we made the point that the obvious alternative is the Croydon town centre.

Our response to Network Rail's Sussex Route consultation

Network Rail has recently consulted on its 'Sussex Route Study'. The study proposes improvements at East Croydon Station in the form of two additional platforms and extending the passenger concourse. We welcome the proposals but suggest they should be more ambitious and look to deliver 21st century rail stations at both East and West Croydon. The proposals also include straightening the tracks through East Croydon and grade separating the lines to Victoria and London Bridge Windmill Bridge Junction (north of East Croydon). Both proposals are welcomed for the improved journey speed, capacity and reliability that would be achieved for services between East Croydon and London Bridge and Victoria. Our response to the consultation makes clear that if Norwood Junction Station has not already been made accessible, then works to make the station accessible should be part of the implementation of the study.

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Children, Families and Learning Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Alisa Flemming January 2015

Latest News

Giving children the best start in life in Croydon

We know that the early years are the most influential time in the development of a child, when their brain grows the fastest and when love and security are crucial. The council and its partners believe that it is vital that all young children get the best start



in life and propose to bring together key services including health visiting, children's centres, early years and voluntary sector into a single service model.

Thanks to just under £1.5m from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), we are able to start planning the details of an integrated service for under-fives and their families, called Croydon Best Start.

The Best Start service, which is being developed with the help of local parents, will provide:

- a comprehensive map of local support groups and services for parents
- more investment in community resources so that parents can help themselves and each other
- a more joined up approach so that families can access the services they need when they need them, and as early as possible
- a collaboration to drive up teaching standards in pre-school nurseries and childcare
- more support to ensure strong attachment and bonding of babies and young children with their parents
- a network of advisers to work with families at risk of domestic violence
- relationship advice and support for parents
- more opportunities for parents to access training and employment

The proposals were approved at a meeting of Croydon's cabinet on 15th December, and the council and partners will now be working up the detailed proposals.

Contact officer: Dwynwen Stepien, Head of Early Intervention and Family Support – dwynwen.stepien@croydon.gov.uk



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Schools Mutual

At the Shadow Board meeting on December 12th 2014 it was decided by all three partners: Council, headteachers and staff that the schools mutual will be called The Octavo Partnership. Octavo is representative of the eight services that are transferring to the mutual. It will be known as Octavo. We are very pleased with the progress so far, we are close to finalising the members agreement following which we can move from shadow status to actual status. We have a launch date for schools on February 12th 2015, and we will also be attending the school's annual conference in March 2015. We continue to work towards 1st April for the start of business.



Contact Officer: Sylvia McNamara, CEO Octavo
(designate) sylvia.mcnamara@croydon.gov.uk

South London SEN Commissioning Programme

The South London SEN Commissioning Programme was launched by Croydon in September 2013 to collaborate with neighbouring boroughs on the commissioning of good quality special educational needs placements in the non-maintained/independent sector.

The Programme now covers most of South London and constitutes a partnership between 10 South London Boroughs. With a collective spend of nearly £70 million across 200 independent and non-maintained schools and colleges, it is the largest SEN focused sub-regional group in the country. Already the programme has achieved tangible benefits for the participating boroughs. These include savings of circa £700k and improved systems in place to ensure that commissioners in each of the boroughs are making informed and intelligent commissioning decisions.

In November 2014, the programme was successful in securing Transformation Challenge Award funding of £710k from the Department for Communities and Local Government. This funding will enable the programme to make the partnership stronger and explore integrated commissioning options across the 10 boroughs. It is anticipated that with integrated commissioning, the boroughs will be able to achieve substantial savings as well as the best outcomes for our children and young people with special educational needs.



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As well as receiving funding, the programme has also been shortlisted in the *Commissioning Pioneer* category for the coveted Local Government Association 2015 Awards.

Contact Officer: Linda Wright, Head of Service Inclusion and SEN linda.wright@croydon.gov.uk

Delivering our Ambitions

Child Sexual Exploitation co-ordinator

The Council has agreed an additional post to co-ordinate services for children who go missing and may be at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation. The post holder will have a key role across the partnership and to work with voluntary agencies to ensure that we are as fully aware as possible about those children at greatest risk in Croydon. A post such as this has been recommended by Ofsted in their recent thematic inspection. The establishment of this post is a further indication of the Council's determination to ensure the safety of some of our most vulnerable young people.

Contact Officer: Gavin Swann, Head of Service Children's QA and Safeguarding gavin.swann@croydon.gov.uk

More schools improve from requiring improvement to good

In the summer of 2012 64% of Croydon's schools were judged by OfSTED to be good or outstanding. Focused and intensive work by the school improvement team, involving both challenge and support for school leadership teams and class teachers, has resulted in this percentage now standing at 82% in the autumn term of 2014. Particularly notable in this improvement is that of the schools previously judged to be requiring improvements 100% have converted to a judgement of good at their next inspection, which is a significantly higher rate than seen nationally.

Contact Officer: David Butler, Head of School Standards and commissioning david.butler@croydon.gov.uk



Culture, Leisure and Sport Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Timothy Godfrey January 2015

Latest News

London New Year's Day Parade

Croydon once again joined in the *London New Year's Day Parade*.



We entered the London borough competition and the theme this year was *London on the Move* – our entry was titled 'We are Croydon: Going places!' There were between forty and fifty people representing Croydon, including a twenty piece band of young drummers from local organisation Sangeetha of the UK. All the wearable costumes were designed

and built by students at the BRIT School. Choreography is thanks to local dance practitioner Malti Patel.

Congratulations to Enfield for coming first .Croydon came eighth earning £2,000 for our mayoral charity. Very well done all those who got involved

Traditional Family Boxing Day Walk

The traditional family Boxing Day walk got a hi-tech upgrade in two of the borough's largest parks after the launch of a digital nature trail. New interactive nature trails were launched at Happy Valley and Farthing Downs parks, where walkers can QR code with their smartphones or tablets to get information about nearby wildlife and history. Visitors can learn about the burial mounds of Saxon chiefs, rare wildflowers and orchids, butterflies, birds and more. Using a QR (quick response) reader app, visitors can scan the distinctive codes which direct them to a web page with background information in text and pictures about what they can be seen around them. This brings the nature trail firmly into the twenty-first century, and, as owner of Happy Valley, the council would like to thank the City of London Corporation, which owns Farthing Downs, and the Friends of Farthing Downs for their work in helping to bring this project to life



Culture, Leisure and Sport Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Timothy Godfrey January 2015

Delivering our Ambitions

#ambitiousforculture

This round of the #ambitiousforculture survey finished on the 31/12/14 and was completed by 670 people. The analysis of the responses is currently underway and we plan to undertake even more targeted surveys to make sure young people, businesses and Croydon's community of performers and artists have their say in the cultural development of Croydon.

A big thanks to all who took the time to complete this survey.

Ambition Festival

The centre of Croydon will burst into life next July as a major new festival, Ambition, takes over the town for four days of music, comedy, theatre, spoken word, dance and art. The festival, running from 23 to 26 July, will be funded by the council but is to be largely curated and programmed by a diverse range of promoters and arts groups. The festival is welcoming approaches from other music and arts organisations with ideas about how they could take over a stage or venue for a day – or even the whole weekend.

I have been campaigning for several years to see a major festival return to our borough after the success of the Croydon Summer Festival "World Party" and "Mela" which was regrettably cancelled by the last Political Administration of the Council as part of their policy to degrade the Cultural offering in our borough. I am really pleased to see the new Administration make this new festival happen, as our Cultural offer is vital to underpin the economic and social revival that the administration is seeking across our Borough.

Croydon is poised to take centre stage right now with more than £5bn expected to be invested in new offices, homes and retail space over the next few years. This festival celebrates that fact. It is a great way of getting people to change the way they think about the town.

I also hope we get a full cross-section of the arts scene represented by offering these curation opportunities. We'd really love to see proposals from people who can showcase the cultural diversity of the many nationalities which make London such a vibrant place to live.

www.AmbitionFest.com and on Twitter @AmbitionFest

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Working Together

Year of the Bus

The Croydon 'Year of the Bus Sculpture Trail' was launched by Transport for London (TfL) in early December and is the fourth and final trail to be unveiled in the capital. 58 sculptures are now on display across London until the New Year when they will be brought together for a final display before being auctioned to raise money for three charities: Kids Company, Transaid and the London Transport Museum.

17 new Routemaster bus sculptures have been painted and decorated by well-known artists – with six of the sculptures designed by artists living or working in Croydon. The colourful designs celebrate the identity, pride, transportation, history and future of the borough. The council has worked with TfL to pick 17 key locations around Croydon – as you walk along the trail, you will pass local features such as Wandle Park, Surrey Street Market, Croydon Central library and the town centre's shopping district.

<https://www.tfl.gov.uk/cdn/static/cms/documents/yotb-sculpturetrail-croydon.pdf>

Love Letters to Libraries

Love Letters to Libraries – Chris Riddell and Coulsdon Library: From places to go for kindly advice to havens of hush, libraries play a special role in cultural life. Book Week Scotland has launched a campaign to get readers to write love letters to their favourite temple of reading, where they will be displayed. Many high-profile authors have also joined the campaign, and their letters are published exclusively in the Guardian. Illustrator Chris Riddell chose Coulsdon Library as the recipient of his letter. Chris worked at the library as a Saturday Assistant between 1977-8 while he was a sixth former and just before he went to art school.

It has also inspired us to seek 'love letters' from our own customers and we have had some lovely feedback about the library, particularly from our younger customers, who love the library because 'it is interesting and has bright colours'; 'fun and a nice place to be'; 'the books are great and not boring'; 'a place to chill out with friends'; 'it's where I did my work experience'; 'we get to do art'; and 'it's easy to drop in and check emails'. A really positive exercise flowing from Chris's own passion for libraries has made a lot of people reflect on why they love Coulsdon Library too!



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<http://www.theguardian.com/books/booksblog/gallery/2014/nov/26/-sp-love-letters-to-libraries-chris-riddell>

Bereavement Services

Events

Know your Funeral Rights (rites) took place on 17th October at Croydon Crematorium. This seminar is designed to dispel some of the myths surrounding burial, cremation and arranging a funeral culminating in a tour of the crematory.

Christmas Memorial Service – One of our most popular annual events attracted well over 100 attendees. A collection was held on behalf of a local charity Woodside Bereavement Services with £150.00 being raised.

New Burial Land

The appeal in relation to our unsuccessful planning application to extend Greenlawns Memorial Park took place on 13th January 2015 at Tandridge District Council Offices. A considerable amount of preparatory work has been undertaken to ensure we are best placed to promote our case to the investigator. We hope to have a decision regarding the appeal by mid February.

A specification in relation to groundworks has been put out to tender enabling works to commence in the summer months should the above appeal be successful.

General

Head of Service, Kevin Pilkington achieved the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Managers Diploma in October 2014 following several years of study. This is the only nationally recognised, accredited qualification for cemetery and crematorium managers. Studies will continue as and when any additional modules are added and for continual professional development.

Web pages have been reviewed and amended in line with corporate requirements and are now far clearer and more user friendly.

Two areas of paving have been refurbished and replaced in the Crematoriums Garden of Remembrance resulting in a considerable improvement. These areas will now be considered for the introduction of new memorial schemes for cremated remains.

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Dialogue has begun with a local NHS Trust to assist with post mortems whilst the public mortuary undergoes a major refurbishment. Should everything be agreed in time it is hoped that works will commence in the Spring of 2015 and be completed by the Autumn

We are very proud to announce that Kimberley Morris has been identified as New Employee of the Year in the Croydon Council Awards. This award is just recognition for Kimberley's hard work, determination and dedication in all aspects of her role since joining the service.

Ambitious for Parks and Open Spaces

Seminar

In late February or Early March, we will be holding an open consultation meeting for friends groups and those residents who are as Ambitious for their Parks and Open Spaces as we are to listen to residents and help us formulate a plan for our Parks and Open Spaces over the next 10 years. The format will be very similar to the successful Arts and Culture workshop that we held in July last year.

Ashburton Park and Great Hall

It is great news to report that the Friends of Ashburton Park have been formally set up with a strong executive committee of local people.

The new friends group will be working closely with the Council as we progress plans to breath new life into the Park and Great Hall.

It is a pleasure to be supporting local residents and local councillors who are working in partnership, having saved the Great Hall from privatisation and separation from the lovely Park.

www.facebook.com/AshburtonPark



Safety and Justice Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Mark Watson January 2015

Latest News

I am pleased to report that the police, supported by the Council and other partners carried out a large gang and drugs crackdown in West Croydon & Broad Green. This was started by Police in Croydon carrying out a series of dawn raids on 10 December as part of an operation led by the Met's Trident Gang Crime Command to tackle gang crime, drug dealing and anti-social behaviour in and around the West Croydon area. A total of fifteen warrants in coordinated raids across Croydon, Lambeth, Sutton, Lewisham and Bromley resulted in a total of 14 arrests for a range of drug offences, including Conspiracy to Supply drugs. Those targeted today are all believed to be either gang members, involved in gangs or involved in the supply of drugs in and around the West Croydon and London Road area of Croydon. The raids come on the back of several months of ongoing work by police, in partnership with Croydon Council to tackle drug dealing, gang crime and antisocial behaviour in the West Croydon, London Road and Broad Green areas. These raids were followed up by a concentrated presence of police and council officers in London Road providing reassurance and engaging with local residents and shop keepers.

Running alongside this has been the Met Police firearm surrender initiative which has 116 weapons recovered and over a thousand rounds of ammunition handed in at police stations across South London, including 12 weapons handed in at Croydon police station.

Croydon police have launched a joint-initiative with Croydon Council, calling for help from local businesses to help identify potential victims of child sexual exploitation. More of which can be found on this link.

http://content.met.police.uk/News/Operation-Makesafe--raising-awareness-of-child-sexual-exploitation/1400027914629/1257246745756?scope_id=1257246763788

On a more local level, a BMW a property-owning benefit cheat who drove around in a new top of the range BMW and sent her children to private school has been jailed after being convicted of fraud.

And Angella Brown, of Silverleigh Road, Thornton Heath, was found guilty of nine offences taking place from 1999 to 2009, where she pocketed £43,000 in benefits and income support she wasn't entitled to.

A scrap metal dealer from Croydon has been jailed after he accepted stolen crematorium plaques and other stolen items at his scrap yard. This was a particularly nasty offence causing much distress to those who had lost someone.



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Working Together

I am pleased to announce that the Council has taken a further stand against DA when Croydon's anti domestic violence champions marked international White Ribbon Day by making a pledge that domestic violence and sexual abuse in Croydon will not be tolerated. White Ribbon Day is held annually on November 25, to coincide with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

<http://news.croydon.gov.uk/council-takes-further-stand-against-dv>

Officers from the Croham Safer Neighbourhoods Team joined forces with the council, local community and businesses to clean up a fly-tipped area that is affecting a centre for autistic people. It is such examples where the community takes back ownership of their areas that will make a difference.

It is important that we take steps to ensure that the night time economy in Croydon is safe as well as prosperous. Businesses have backed our safe night out campaign where the new Wise UP! Campaign, spearheaded by Croydon BID, aims to provide timely advice and guidance to pub-goers and night-clubbers, so that anyone planning a night out in Croydon can feel confident it will be safe and trouble-free.

<http://croydonbid.com/news/wise>

To go along with that I am pleased to say that thirty-one Croydon licensees have been recognised in a nationally-acclaimed awards scheme, aimed at reducing alcohol-fuelled crime and promoting responsible drinking. Croydon's Best Bar None scheme recognises businesses that put the safety and well-being of customers and employees first, by rewarding the efforts of those who run responsibly managed premises.

<http://croydonbid.com/news/licensees-raise-toast-success>

Dealing with anti-social behaviour that can so blight our lives is important. On 2 December 2014, Justin Sewell, who had been playing his music so loud as to cause nuisance to his neighbours, was fined £420 plus costs at Croydon Magistrate's Courts. The court also made a forfeiture order to dispose of his seized equipment. His neighbours, one of whom is an NHS nurse, can now enjoy some peace and quiet in their home. Between 14 April and 7 April 2014, the pollution team received 27 complaints from 6 local residents about noise from his flat, and a statutory abatement notice was served.

Equality Annual Report

The Council has produced its equality annual report for 2014-15. A fundamental tenet of our pledge to be ambitious for Croydon is to achieve the highest standards

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of excellence in equalities practice, working closely with our partners in the public, business and voluntary sectors. The annual report sets out some significant steps the Council and has taken over the past year to embed equality throughout the organisation. It also includes some examples of good practice that we have developed to ensure that our services are fair, inclusive and accessible to our residents.

Croydon Congress

Croydon Congress was held in November 2014 and brought together over 120 leaders and stakeholders from the borough including businesses and voluntary and statutory organisations. Congress focused on the issues of opportunity and fairness in the borough. The keynote speaker was Matthew Taylor, Chief Executive of the Royal Society of the Arts. Interactive sessions helped to draw out attendees' perceptions of opportunity and fairness in Croydon and will help inform the activities of the Croydon Opportunity and Fairness Commission.

Multifaith events

Multifaith events, in partnership with Faiths Together in Croydon, were held to celebrate Diwali in November and Christmas in December. Around 100 attendees attended each event. These were both part of a series of community events to celebrate key dates in the faith calendar. At the Diwali event we heard from representatives from the Hindu Council and the Sikh community and had a contribution from local children. At the Christmas event we heard from the Bishop of Croydon about the symbolism behind the nativity story and had contributions from a local primary school and a local flautist. Representatives from the Council, including the Deputy Mayor, also attended a special Hanukkah service at Croydon Synagogue in December.

Holocaust Memorial Day

An event to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day will be taking place on 27th January 2015. Our keynote speaker for the event is Lord Alf Dubs, who came to England as a child on the Kindertransport. A number of local schools will be performing at the event and the traditional candle lighting ceremony and the signing of the Book of Remembrance will be taking place. In addition, the Rabbi of Croydon Synagogue will be speaking at an event at Shirley Library and Croydon libraries will be putting up displays.

London Rd Community Engagement Exercise, 25th Nov 2014

As part of a wider programme of community engagement, the Borough Commander Andy Tarrant myself, deputy Cllr Hamida Ali and council officers visited Croydon Mosque, the Shah Jalal Mosque in Handcroft Road, spoke to numerous shop keepers on a walkabout and also hosted a public meeting at Croydon Voluntary Action (CVA) on London Road.



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Over the course of the afternoon and evening engagement we met with over 100 residents and also traders who all took the opportunity for some frank and open Q&A. We look forward to continue working together with residents to address any concerns as part of ongoing engagement in different locations across the borough.

Launch: 2015 Croydon Community Civic Awards

The Mayor of Croydon Councillor Manju Shahul-Hameed launched the 2015 Croydon Community Civic Awards on Thursday 8 January.

Since the Awards scheme began in 2012, over 450 nominations have been made. This is far more than any other scheme of this kind in London. There have been 28 winners in the various categories and over 50 other finalists.

To nominate for the 2015 Civic awards visit the council's web site <http://www.croydon.gov.uk/community/civic-awards/> and complete the online form.

Or you can also nominate by completing a hard copy form. Copies of the forms are in Croydon libraries.

New Stronger Communities Partnership

November saw the first meeting of the Stronger Communities Partnership Board. A wide range of attendees from across the public and voluntary sectors were invited to share their thoughts on the issues, challenges and opportunities for Croydon. The next meeting of the Board will take place in late February and will focus on the possible actions that the group can undertake. If you would like to find out more or attend future Board meetings, please contact Simon Bashford, Community Partnership Manager (simon.bashford@croydon.gov.uk).

Active Communities Fund - Micro Grants

The first round of the Active Communities Fund will be closing as this bulletin is published. I look forward to publishing in my next bulletin details of the first successful projects awarded small grants (up to £5,000) and micro grants (up to £1,000) from the fund.

The Micro Grants programme is now an open fund with no specific deadlines. I will be meeting with officers every two months to review the micro grants applications which I hope will grow in number as the programme gets more well known and reaches groups which might not have thought themselves big enough to apply for support from the Council.

The programme offers one off grants of up to £1,000 targeting small, Croydon based groups which simply feel they have a good idea for activities address one or more of the programme's priority areas. These are;

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- Developing active communities by creating innovative ways of promoting a sense of belonging and cultural activities;
- Giving young people the opportunity to reach their full potential and the confidence to express themselves;
- Helping people care for one another's health and wellbeing, particularly in the priority areas set out in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013-18;
- Developing innovative ways to tackle food and fuel poverty, and support greater access to good quality welfare benefits and other advice;
- Developing a community response to combating domestic abuse and sexual violence.

More details can be found at www.croydon.gov.uk/thirdsector and follow the funding links to the Active Communities Fund.

Further information: Echez Ubaka, Voluntary Sector Officer
at echez.ubaka@croydon.gov.uk 020 8726 6000 x 63096