



# Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Tony Newman November 2015

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## Latest News

Despite the challenging road ahead, and the continuation of extreme budget cuts from Government, our Cabinet remains committed to lobby for fairer funding for Croydon. As a result of the cuts, we are seeing high pressures on our services, and I recognise as the Leader that this is burdening our most vulnerable families. However, as an administration we have consistently campaigned to secure the best outcomes for Croydon residents, whilst recognising the importance of also making Croydon a better place for people to work and live.

Further progress was made, when this month we announced our accreditation as a London Living Wage employer. Even more good news for Croydon came when we joined forces with Martha Lane Fox and UK digital skills charity, Go ON UK. The first of its kind in London, the Go ON Croydon project will provide support to people taking their first steps online. We also saw the first ever Craft Beer Festival - Croydon Style. The event saw an astounding 1,200 people through the doors to the Braithwaite Hall over the course of the weekend, showing Croydon's commitment to its vibrant cultural scene.

## Delivering our Ambitions

The Cabinet meeting on 20 October deliberated an assortment of reports which, as always, aim to deliver the best outcomes for Croydon and its residents. We covered a range of papers which focussed particularly on our education, health and support structures for our residents. The College Green Cultural and Educational Quarter regeneration report focussed on our three key ambitions; growth, independence and liveability; making Croydon an attractive place in which to live, work and visit. The Cultural and Educational Quarter will contribute to, and benefit from, the regeneration and growth of the borough. We also heard from Croydon Safeguarding Children and Adult Boards which detailed the effectiveness of both boards, verified by the Independent Chairs, and provided us with the Strategic Objectives and key priorities for 2015/16.

It was with great pleasure that we announced our Youth Crime Prevention plan which looked at a number of key issues facing our young people, such as anti-social behaviour, domestic violence and child sexual exploitation – which also happens to be the focus of this year's Croydon Congress. The aim of the Congress is to raise awareness and develop actions to prevent it from happening to young people and intervene where it may already be happening. This report also focusses on prevention, enforcement and intervention, with the view that adopting a "think family" approach, we can build on the strengths of families and reduce risk factors.

In our efforts to continue to be Ambitious for Education, we saw a Cabinet Award of Contract to Chestnut Primary School to ensure that we meet the demand for new school places, achieve better outcomes for children and young people, and promote economic growth and prosperity.

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At Cabinet in November, we saw Croydon Opportunity & Fairness Commission describe a connected borough where no one is isolated; a vibrant, responsible and connected Croydon community; and support of residents towards better times. Guided by the concerns and aspirations of Croydon's residents and workers, the report is inclusive of over 3,000 local people, to date. Through continuous efforts to engage Croydon, the interim report sets out its ambition to welcome any and all contributions from local residents.

In light of recent and continuous cuts, the Council's commissioning strategy aims for effective outcome based commissioning and prudent financial transactions to contribute to all corporate priorities. The report clearly stated that the Council continues to develop more diverse service delivery models, and will ensure that contractual and partnership relationships are not only aligned to our corporate priorities but also represent value for money for residents and taxpayers, contributing to the growth agenda for Croydon, and will ensure local companies have a greater opportunity to bid for, and access, contracts with the Council.

This Cabinet continues to seek and create opportunities to save money, whilst still ensuring that Croydon residents are at the heart of our decisions. In ensuring that Croydon does not suffer from the serious financial hit from National Government, which is one of the reasons we have lobbied government to get a fair settlement for Croydon, and specifically on issues like the 4 million loss for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children, to see this funding restored. On this issue I will endeavour to keep all colleagues fully updated.



# Families, Health and Social Care Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Louisa Woodley December 2015

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## LATEST NEWS

### Launch of the Croydon Recovery Network

On 9 November 2015, Croydon welcomed the launch of the Croydon Recovery Network – delivered by Turning Point. Croydon Recovery Network went live on 1 October 2014, to support the health & wellbeing of those in the borough affected by drugs and alcohol.

The service has been in operation in the borough for the past 13 months and the launch provided a great opportunity to celebrate their year one achievements.

Brenda Scanlan, Director of the Integrated Commissioning Unit at Croydon Council opened the event and thanked Turning Point for improving outcomes for those using substances in Croydon over the past year.

Lord Victor Olufemi Adebawale CBE, Chief Executive of Turning Point spoke to all of the innovation and passion demonstrated by Turning Point in order to win the Croydon substance misuse service.

Workshops then ensued informing all of the key service areas and activities delivered by:

- Young People's Service
- Recovery Team
- Outreach Team
- Clinical Team
- Service User Involvement, Peer Mentors and Volunteers
- AirSports

Attendance of service users, speaking of their own personal recovery journeys fully demonstrated the positive impact that the Croydon Recovery Network has had on those accessing their services. There were a number of peer mentors and volunteers on hand at the launch, networking and discussing their experiences of the service.

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Wonderful West Indian food was prepared and served by the Turning Point staff to top off a great evening.

Contact Officer: Alan Hiscutt, Head of Integrated Commissioning Working Age Adults

## **Community Mental Health Services**

On 23 September I visited community mental health services based at Tamworth Road Resource Centre. Formerly a school, this centrally located building accommodates several services critical to supporting residents with mental health needs living in the community.

With a mixture of health and social care staff, the Integrated Adult Mental Health Service provides advice, assessment, care coordination and support planning for those people recovering their health and independence. I met representatives from crisis services, including the Home Treatment Team who provide intensive social, nursing and medical support to people in their own environments as an alternative to hospital admission.

I also spent time with those on the very front line of services. Approved Mental Health Professionals (AMHPs) are social workers with specialist training who are warranted by the Local Authority to undertake Mental Health Act assessments in the community.

This very skilled job involves multi-agency coordination of the police, London Ambulance Service, doctors and even locksmiths to ensure that people in crisis are seen, assessed and where necessary receive treatment for their condition.

I was due to go out with the AMHPs to shadow a community Mental Health Act assessment. Unfortunately, on the day I attended, the assessment was cancelled due to a lack of available beds locally. This occasionally happens and a decision is made about whether it is better to wait a bit longer or press ahead and risk a bed being found outside of London in places as far away as Manchester.

I had previously visited inpatient facilities at the Bethlem Royal Hospital so it was great to see the skill and dedication of a diverse workforce doing all they could to promote independence and prevent the need for admission by providing high quality services in the community.

Contact Officer: Paul Richards, Head of Adult Social Care, Mental Health

## DELIVERING AMBITIONS

### DELIVERING the Mental Health Strategy 2014-19

#### Adult Mental Health

Croydon remains challenged with a growing population with expected increasing levels of deprivation, and serious mental illness projected to rise by 23% over the next 10 years.

To ensure there are robust services available that are able to deliver this challenge, Croydon ICU continues its transformation and redesign of Adult Mental Health services as a key part of delivering the Integrated Mental Health Strategy 2014-19, <http://www.croydonccg.nhs.uk/news-publications/publications/Pages/Strategies.aspx>

Over the summer months Croydon's main secondary care provider South London and Maudsley have been recruiting and training staff to deliver services in a much more community and recovery based way, through the Adult Mental Health Model, (AMH). The overall aim of the model is to ensure people are offered the "right treatment" at the "right time" and wherever possible in the community. These new and expanded services will enable people to access safe effective care to reduce the frequency and severity of relapses and support people on the road to recovery.

This will be achieved through:

- Ensuring that people are assessed quickly and signposted to the most appropriate service to meet their needs
- Providing increased support and advice to GPs
- Improved response to people in crisis out of hours
- Providing more effective treatments and improving our engagement with people who require community services.
- Increasing support to family and carers
- Reducing the number of people requiring inpatient treatment, (and for those who do have to be admitted to hospital), to reduce their length of stay
- Supporting people to move back to their GP to continue with their recovery

Common Mental Illness is expected to increase by 5% over the next 10 years. In Croydon 67,000 people have a mental health problem at any one time, with anxiety and depression the most common. Croydon's Integrated Commissioning Unit is developing the range of talking therapies available through the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) programme. In Croydon it is estimated that over 42,000 people would benefit from IAPT services, with services currently being delivered to over 8% of this population. Croydon is working towards the national target of 15%, through an expanded service model with new premises to be in place by mid-December, and is on target to meet the 15% rate by March 2016, with a service which can deliver this throughout 2016/17 and on an ongoing basis.

Contact Officer: Susan Grose, Head of Integrated Commissioning, Mental Health

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## Gateway Programme phase 2

Since the successful completion of phase 1 of the Gateway transformation programme in August 2015, work has been taking place to explore opportunities for closer working between the Gateway service and other services across adult social care, children's early help, care leavers and supporting people.

The ambition of Gateway phase 2 is to improve outcomes for customers by broadening the "gateway" whole family, holistic, early intervention and prevention focused approach across a range of customer journeys within adult social care, supported housing and children and families' early help and care leavers services. Specific opportunities identified so far include:

- Supported accommodation :
  - preventing overstaying in accommodation
  - reducing clients who repeatedly present with similar issues
- A new "Gateway" first point of contact for adult social care that facilitates access to community capacity and resources to reduce demand
- Identifying families with children at trigger points to reduce the risk of the child becoming looked after
- Closer working between Family Justice Court and Gateway to reduce incidents of domestic violence
- A wider holistic approach where financial abuse of vulnerable adults is alleged
- Reducing households accommodated under the no recourse to public funds where recourse is given subsequently
- Exploring the potential of establishing a single homelessness hub

In addition, it is expected that the finding from the Top 50 Families Review will identify further opportunities for service redesign and / or the development of a "Gateway" approach to improve outcomes for customers.

In preparation for the commencement of Gateway phase 2 in January 2015, a programme lead (Julie Brown) has been appointed by the Director of Gateway and Welfare.

Contact Officer Julie Brown, Programme Lead for Gateway

## WORKING WITH PARTNERS

### Visbuzz for Carers in Croydon

Unpaid carers in Croydon have been chosen as a group of Croydon residents to take part in a pilot using Visbuzz; a one-touch video calling device, to help tackle adult loneliness and isolation through digital inclusion to boost wider wellbeing and social interaction. Croydon Council are currently working with South Thames Crossroads Care and Croydon Neighbourhood Care Association to identify up to 25 carers to

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take part in this pilot. The carers will receive a Visbuzz tablet, which is designed to be simple to use for people who are uncomfortable with technology as all you have to do is tap the photo of the person you want to talk to. This can then connect with another Visbuzz tablet, laptop, computer or smartphone. The pilot will last for one year, which will form part of a wider project within the council that will be fully evaluated.

Contact Officer: Daniel Ampaw, Transformation and Service Improvement Officer



# Transport and Environment Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Kathy Bee November 2015

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## Latest News

### 2015/16 Winter Readiness

It is very difficult to predict what kind of winter we will be having so we have to be prepared for some severe weather. The Fleet for the 2015/16 season is in place and comprises of 9 gritting vehicles and one Telehandler loading shovel. Arrangements are also in place for purchasing salt and for weather forecasts to be received by the winter service duty officers. So far, 1500 tonnes of salt have been ordered with 750T delivered already taking the current total salt stock to 2943 Tonnes. On receipt of the further 750T we will have 3693T. Plans to reconstruct the salt barn at the end of the season have led us to be cautious with the ordering of salt however, the stock will be closely monitored and further orders made as and when necessary. Our 570 salt bins have been topped up. The Croydon duty officers have already had their winter service briefings and the winter duty service started 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015 and will run until the end of March 2016 (subject to extending it if necessary). Both LBC and Kier's (explain who Kier are) Winter service plans are in place.



### Parking Charges

There has been a review of parking charges across the borough. Currently there are over 40 different tariffs and many of these are historic and difficult to explain the reasoning behind them.

For this reason, we have taken the opportunity to review these to introduce a more consistent approach looking at a linear pricing model. With a fair approach across the whole borough some charges will go down and some will increase as we introduce a new simplified charging system. The new charges will be made public prior to Christmas 2015 and are due to be introduced from 1 February 2016.

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## Working Together

### Fiveways Consultation Update

Croydon Council has been working closely with TfL to develop proposals for easing congestion and improving conditions for walking and cycling where the A23 meets the A232 at Fiveways. Two alternative proposals were consulted on in February and March. The results have recently been published:

<https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/roads/fiveways-croydon>

TfL has been undertaking its technical assessment of the two proposals. Both TfL and the Council are nearing the point of selecting a preferred proposal. The plan is to consult on the detail of that proposal in the summer.



## Delivering our Ambitions

### 20mph Limit Proposals for North Croydon

We have now made the decision to proceed with the statutory consultation and so the Public Notice (marking start of the statutory consultation) is to be placed in the local Guardian on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015. The result of the Statutory consultation will be reported to the council's Traffic Management Advisory Committee meeting in February 2016 for the final decision. If public support continues, a decision to proceed with implementation will be highly likely in the New Year. The council will also start the 'opinion seeking' survey for Area 2 in the new year and so residents are reminded that regular updates will be available via [www.croydon.gov.uk/20mph](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/20mph).

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## Play Streets

Lots of people have been enjoying our first two pilot Play Streets in Love Lane and Limes Road. More than 50 people came out in Love Lane in October: while the children were playing, parents and other residents came out into the street to talk to their neighbours often for the first time. Adults and children got together to plant bulbs on a bit of land at the top of the road which will brighten up their Spring Play Streets. Following the success of these pilots residents will be holding monthly Play Streets in both roads for at least the next twelve months.

The scheme is growing: consultation has already started in two new roads for Play Streets to start in January and residents in a number of other roads are interested in getting a Play Street going in their road.

Residents have set up their own Croydon Play Streets Facebook page and are using this to share experiences and support and advise each other.



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# Children, Young People and Learning Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Alisa Flemming December 2015

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## Latest News

### School Place Planning

We are currently leading consultations on the proposed expansion of Woodcote Primary, Smitham Primary and St Nicholas School.

The statutory consultation period ends on 2 December and the final decision whether or not to expand the schools will be made at Cabinet in January. More details can be found on each individual school page at [www.croydon.gov.uk/education/schools-new/primary-schools](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/education/schools-new/primary-schools)

Contact Officer: Jenny Duxbury, Head of School Place Planning and Admissions

### School Admissions

The application deadline for secondary transfer 2016 school places was 31 October. The team is busy processing the applications and national offer day is 1 March. The application deadline for reception and junior admissions 2016 is 15 January 2016 and national offer day is 18 April.

Contact Officer: Jenny Duxbury, Head of School Place Planning and Admissions

## Delivering our Ambitions

### Croydon School of the Year Awards

I am delighted to hear of the success of four Croydon schools who, in their respective categories, have won this year's Croydon School of the Year Award.

Orchard Way Primary School has continued to improve on already high standards, with all children last year making at least expected progress in reading, writing and mathematics by the end of Year 6. Woodcote Primary School share the award this year in recognition of the very rapid improvements made over the last couple of years. At its most recent inspection the school was judged to be outstanding, improving significantly from "requires improvement" previously. In both of these schools the quality of leadership has been central to the success enjoyed both by the school and by the children who attend them.

Oasis Academy Coulsdon have shown similar drive to improving outcomes for children. In July 2015 Oasis Academy Coulsdon celebrated their best ever GCSE results, and has achieved recognition as the "most improved" amongst schools in

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London and Surrey, as a result of relentless drive from the leadership team and teaching staff.

Chaffinch Brook opened in September 2013. It is a specialist primary provision for pupils with autism and associated challenging behaviour. This is a particular vulnerable group of pupils, many of whom have either been permanently excluded or at risk of exclusion from mainstream schools. In a relatively short space of time the outstanding quality and impact of support offered to pupils and their families has been recognised and the school is held in high regard. The local reputation of the Chaffinch Brook has also been enhanced by the development of an outreach offer to support successful inclusion of primary pupils with autism in mainstream schools.

I would like to congratulate the leaders, governors, staff and pupils at all these schools.

Contact Officer: David Butler, Head of School Standards and Commissioning

## **Top 50 Most Expensive Families Review**

Working across services in the People department, this intensive review will consider the top 50 families in terms of combined cost across a range of services - adult social care, children's social care and early help, children with disabilities and SEN, housing and welfare and debt.

The aim of the review is to identify opportunities for both immediate action and longer-term systemic change and service redesign to reduce costs and improve outcomes for these families. The review will:

- Consider all services involved, ensuring support is consolidated
- Review all direct costs incurred
- Look differently, including across sectors, to challenge thinking to address issues
- Focus on residents well-being at centre of options, whilst seeking to reduce cost and increase independence

The review will produce a report that sets out: the approach taken, high level findings including estimated financial savings or cost avoidance (in-year and next year), considerations that have helped identify potential solutions, key actions being taken forward and high-level delivery timescales across the short, medium and long terms, together with five case studies that illustrate outcomes of findings

Contact Officer: Julie Brown, Programme Lead Gateway



# Children, Young People and Learning Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Alisa Flemming December 2015

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## Working with Partners

### Croydon LIFT

Croydon is partnering the NSPCC in a pioneering method of assessing and intervening for families with children under the age of 5 years being taken into care in the borough. The method was developed in the USA, and implemented in Glasgow by the NSPCC working in partnership with the local authority, but differences in the legal systems meant that there were difficulties to be overcome in using this approach in England.

A study of eight years' worth of data from the USA showed that more children were freed for adoption earlier than had previously been possible and of those children returning to their birth family there was a reduction in harm to the child and their siblings. To deliver similar results in Croydon the new London Infant and Family Team (LIFT) has just been established in the borough.

LIFT is a four-way partnership between the NSPCC, the council, South London and Maudsley NHS Trust, and the family court. The partnership was awarded just over £1m by the Department for Education's Innovation Fund to get started. Put simply, the LIFT approach is to decide whether a child can be safely returned to a parent as a judgement about whether that parent accepts responsibility for earlier mistreatment and shows real signs that they can change their behaviour and build a strong and positive relationship. As it is the first time this approach will have been tried in the English social care legal system, the results of the three-year pilot will be evaluated and assessed by an independent team from King's College London to see if the benefits replicated across the UK.

Contact Officer: Paul Chadwick, Head of Looked After Children



# Economy and Jobs Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Toni Letts November 2015

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## Latest News

### Establishing the Purley BID

In late 2014, Purley Business Association (PBA) polled around 60% of businesses in Purley through visits, meetings and surveys. The result of the poll implied that improvement was needed in the area, leading the PBA to establish a Business Improvement District (BID) proposition to identify more clearly several key areas for improvement. PBA has been developing the BID proposition over the past 18 months, with the support of both public and private bodies such as Croydon Council, business and property owners & developers. Five visions have emerged for how businesses would invest the money generated from a BID levy if this became available in parking and accessibility, business engagement, cleaner and greener, image and marketing, and safer streets.

PBA is seeking to establish a BID for the town; a BID is a geographical area in which the local businesses will vote to invest collectively an additional levy to improve the business environment.

The majority of the Purley BID area is within CR8 postcode, however, not all are included and a few other businesses in the surrounding area are included to ensure that the businesses are fairly represented by the BID.

It would be funded by a 2% levy on the rateable value of all business premises with a rateable value that meets or exceeds £8,000, including empty properties (a 1% levy for rateable value greater than £1,000,000). This will bring an estimated levy of £130,000 p.a.; it will last for duration of 5 years, starting from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016.

PBA has requested Croydon Council administer the ballot in accordance with the BID (England) regulations 2014. The outcome of the ballot will be announced on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2015. For the BID to be successful, it must win on two counts, a majority in number and a majority in the proportion of rateable value of those voting.

### Croydon Business Excellence Awards

Croydon celebrated its business success stories and the town's transformation at a glittering awards ceremony and charity ball.

A standing ovation greeted overall Business of the Year winner Kevin Zuchowski-Morrison of RISE gallery as he accepted his award in recognition of the role the

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# Economy and Jobs Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Toni Letts November 2015

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business has played in changing perceptions of the town which is in the midst of a £5.25billion regeneration programme.

The gallery, which was set up last year, also won the category for Best New Business and Kevin said: "It's a real honour to be recognised for the contribution that we've put into Croydon."

The mood of celebration was summed up by Malcolm John, owner of Brasserie Vacherin, as he collected his award for Best Food and Hospitality Business.

"Croydon is where my passion is as someone who lives in Croydon," he said. "This is a great reward and I want to thank Croydon – we will always champion Croydon. There is only one winner and that winner is Croydon."

Event host James Whale, the renowned broadcaster, told guests: "The winner tonight is Croydon. Croydon is sometimes maligned by people who don't know Croydon but people here know that it is one of the up and coming places, one of the places where people will beg to live in in the future."

His comments were backed up by Councillor Toni Letts, Croydon Council's cabinet member for the economy and jobs, who said: "Everyone here is a winner and is helping to build Croydon as a modern European city."

"Croydon is only ever as good as its businesses are successful and in this room tonight, table after table of people are business successes."

## Delivering our Ambitions

### Thornton Heath Business Support

£260,150 is being spent on delivering a package of business support to help grow and promote retail activity and businesses on Brigstock Road and the High street from Thornton Heath Library to the Whitehorse Lane Roundabout. This stretch is the main retail high street for Thornton Heath district centre and includes the train station and leisure centre, it is estimated that there are about 150 businesses operating in the area.

Supported by the New Home Bonus Fund, the programme aims to create more jobs, work placements and apprenticeships; supporting existing business and start-ups; developing a business partnership; and improve the vitality of the general trading environment.

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# **Economy and Jobs Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Toni Letts November 2015**

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## **Retail Research, Business Survey and Delivery**

In order to gauge the opinions of the business community and shape the delivery of appropriate support services, Croydon Council commissioned a specialist retail consultant, Retail Revival, to conduct a retail research and business survey. This took place between May and July 2015. Retail Revival engaged with all the c.150 businesses in the area, including in-depth one to one consultation with half of them; and this was combined with further information from a shoppers' survey, mystery shopping and Experian Town Centre Future's Report on footfall and associated town centre data.

The findings identified that nearly half of the participating businesses have been trading for over ten years; some businesses thought they may recruit new members of staff in the next 12 months, wished to expand and/or were looking to develop new products and services. In addition, the public and business perception was that footfall is good; it is a busy high street in the day time, especially on Saturdays and football match days; with good transport links and the convenience of shopping locally. However, Thornton Heath has a multicultural and changing demographic which makes it difficult for the businesses to predict shopping behaviour; there is a need to improve trading and customer service standards; and to widen the product offering on the high street.

The recommendations from the retail research and business survey findings have been used to shape the business support projects and interventions going forward.





# Communities Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Mark Watson December 2015

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## Walkabout

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November a walkabout took place in Thornton Heath starting from the Thornton Heath Library right to the high street. Some of the places that were visited included Age UK, Trumble Gardens, Sakthy Ghanapathy Temple, Job CentrePlus, and Salvation Army.

The walkabout provides Cllr Mark Watson and the Croydon Police Borough Commander, Andy Tarrant, the opportunity to visit different areas and give people of the borough the chance to share their concerns and to learn how the council and police may be able to help them.

There were very few issues raised during this walk about. It was enlighten for the Cabinet member and the Borough Commander to hear directly from people the progress made in Thornton Heath and how people felt much safer living in the area.





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## Black History celebrated in Croydon

Croydon celebrates black history all year by highlighting events and activities for all the community to enjoy. Croydon Black History Month comprises a borough-wide programme of events with contributions from the local community as well as Council services. The theme for this year was “Women in Leadership”.

The Borough's launch event was held in the Community Space at Bernard Weatherill House. Guest speakers included The Worshipful Mayor of Croydon Councillor Patricia Hay-Justice, Bianca Miller - 2014 BBC TV series 'Apprentice' finalist and Councillor Hamida Ali, Cabinet Member Finance and Treasury. There were also performers from Empowering Community choir on the day.

The event was attended by over 150 residents and received very positive feedback.





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## Faith Events

A series of community events will be taking place to mark key dates in the faith calendar. Celebrating major faith events together helps us to understand each other's customs and traditions and develop a culture of mutual respect.

The events are being organised by the council in partnership with Faiths Together in Croydon and are open to all.

Diwali event took place on Wednesday 18 November 2015 at the Community Space in Bernard Weatherill House from 6pm – 7.30pm. This event was well attended with over 130 residents in attendance.

The next event scheduled to take place is Christmas celebration which will be held in the Community Space in Bernard Weatherill House on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December from 6pm.





## **Council staff donates food to Croydon families**

Last Christmas Council staff reached their target of donating more than 12,000 items of food to help support Croydon families.

These were collected in trolleys which were left on each floor of Bernard Weatherill House, Public Realm Office, Strand House, Davis House and Jeanette Wallace House for staff to leave donations.

The items were given to the Croydon Food Network, which put together more than 80 boxes of the donated food.

Together with the food parcels and support from individual food banks, this meant more than 400 Croydon families benefitted.

The council's facilities management provider Interserve and the Unicef group from Croydon College helped push the number of items donated to more than 12,000.

This year the food donation initiative will run again. We hope to support 480 people, with this year's Christmas Food Donation Scheme.

The initiative will run from 7 December to 18 December.

## **Celebrating Age and Silver Sunday 2015** **1<sup>st</sup> October – 8<sup>th</sup> October**

The Council and its partners took part in national campaigns aimed at celebrating older people in our borough. The main objectives of "Celebrating Age and Silver Sunday" week are:

- To enable a series of community-based and led events throughout the UK that reach out to older people and offer a day of fun for older people, their families and friends and contribute to combatting loneliness
- Participate in national celebration of the achievements and contributions that older people make to our society and to the economy. Through this we hope to start to deal with negative attitudes and outdated stereotypes.



# Communities

## Cabinet Member Bulletin

### Councillor Mark Watson

#### December 2015

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- To celebrate the contribution older people have made to our society and thank them - they made us who we are.
- Raise awareness of the challenges and opportunities faced by older people in an aging society.

The “Celebrating Age and Silver Sunday Programme” consisted of around 120 events and activities that were held across the Borough. These included:

- Social events for older people such as tea and luncheon parties, games afternoons, reading groups, talks and seminars.
- Information technology such as IT taster sessions, computer classes, Techy tea parties and ancestry family history online sessions.
- Physical activities to promote healthy living such as yoga, pilates, aqua aerobics, 50+ Zumba, cycling sessions and swimming.
- Intergenerational activities for older and younger people such as book buddies, wiggle and jiggle, crafts, rhyme and story time.
- Information and advice around health, hobbies and activities.

Some of the highlights included:

- **Tea with Music at Fairfield Halls with performances from Oasis Academy Coulsdon** - the event was aimed at the more vulnerable and isolated older residents in the Borough. Around 120 residents from care homes and sheltered attended the event.
- **Age UK and Croydon Council Techy Tea Party** - This tablet computer taster aimed at encouraging Croydon residents to gain confidence in going
- **Age UK and Croydon Council – Celebrating Older People’s Day Event**
- **Croydon BME Forum – “I have things to do and places to be”** - Discussion on overcoming isolation and loneliness
- **Croydon Commitment and Barclays Digital Eagles Tech & Tea Party –**



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## International Trans Day of Remembrance

- Kate O'Donnell with her award-winning performance of Big Girls Blouse, a Trans focused show being delivered on Trans Remembrance Day 20th Nov, evening show. Friday 20 November, 8.00pm to 9.15pm at the Stanley Halls, South Norwood Hill, SE25.
- Finale for Big Girls Blouse show - Stand by your Trans - Croydon Council Staff /allies lunchtime rehearsal at the Braithewaite Hall Friday 20 Nov 1.00pm.
- Monday 16<sup>th</sup>- Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Nov – A display for the Day of Remembrance on the first floor at Central Library



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- Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November- Ceremony in Community Space – Bernard Weatherill House. In this simple ceremony, a candle is lit in memory of each victim, as their name, date and place of their death are read out.

There is a two-minute silence, and music, poetry and other items.

- Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November – Some local churches will display a case of white lilies in respect for those who have lost their lives

## Croydon Congress

Croydon Congress is the twice-yearly gathering of the Local Strategic Partnership. It is designed to bring together the key stakeholders and service users in the borough.

November's Congress event will be focusing on Child Sexual Exploitation and aims to change attitudes and behaviours of people and organisations in the borough and to better equip the community to take an active role with the issue.

The keynote speaker will be Laura Butterworth, Programme and Project Manager at the Safer London Foundation. Delegates will also hear from a panel of Child Sexual Exploitation local and national experts and will take part in table discussions.

Discussions and pledges made on the day will feed into a report that will go to Cabinet and recommendations will be considered and implemented by the Local Strategic Partnership.

## Disability awareness week

The council and its partners will hold a range of activities and events to mark Disability awareness week from Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> Dec to Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> Dec.



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

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## Latest News

### Arts Council England

A visit from the Director of the Arts Council is planned in early December to showcase Croydon's vision for culture as a driver for regeneration and the opportunities being developed in Croydon and to discuss joint initiatives and funding opportunities. I hope that this will lead to a strong, positive relationship with the Arts Council. It is, of course, also vital that organisations in the borough put in regular funding bids to the Arts council in order that we can up the number of successful awards overall.

### Library attendance

Visits to our libraries continue to rise - by 12.74% (178,568 visits) in October and we saw a 15.66% increase in the number of new members. Library activities attendance for October 2015 was 41% up on Oct 2014. I am delighted that part of this success was a rise in Under 5s attendance; 5,076 under 5s attended events across our libraries in October 2015.

### Park Hill - 'stag do' ends with move to new home



Normal service at Park Hill recreation ground was put on hold at the beginning of October when a red deer stag took residence, sparking a week of investigation into where he came from, and where he might go. The stag was ushered into the park after being spotted wandering along the adjacent railway lines. The fear he might have become aggressive prompted the decision to close the park, both to contain the stag and ensure his, and the public's, safety. There followed a week's negotiation and seeking of professional advice as officers looked into the best way to proceed, and to find the stag a secure new home. And, while those behind-the-scenes talks on his welfare were going on, staff ensured the stag remained undisturbed and had a supply of food and water. On the morning of Sunday 4 October, after 10 days in the park, the stag was tranquilised, loaded onto a trailer, and then, when he'd recovered

**AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON**





# Culture, Leisure and Sport

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consciousness, transported to his new home. He has now happily settled into his safe new surroundings, running with other deer on a private estate in one of the Home Counties.

### Delivering our Ambition

#### Summer Reading Challenge

Croydon libraries once again joined in the Arts Council England/The Reading Agencies - Summer Reading Challenge

- The number of children who read 1+ books this year increased 3364 (2014 = 3248)
- Broad Green achieved the highest completion ratio of 76%
- 467 children became library members in order to take part in the SRC
- 183 Young volunteers assisted with the challenge, working a total of 4710 hours in total
- 78 children's events (not regular events) were held during the summer
- 1350 children attended SRC events
- 4 children received prizes from the prize draw
- Arts Award was linked to the SRC and 6 children achieved an Arts Award Discover

Well done to all those involved

#### Croydon Music and Arts

Croydon Music and Arts, Fairfield Halls and Croydon Council Youth Arts have been awarded funding from A New Direction, the Arts Council England Bridge Organisation, to form a local Cultural Education Partnership. Through advocacy to peers, schools, the council, third sector organisations and the business community across the Croydon, we aim to put Croydon's youth voice at the fore-front of decision-making as Croydon undergoes a dramatic period of regeneration.

They will support the council's vision of making the borough a cultural destination as Croydon is transformed into a place that can accommodate the needs of the growing population, through building creative opportunities for the younger generation and reinforcing a sense of pride in Croydon.



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

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## Delivering in the Cultural Quarter

### Arts Quarter

The area around St Georges Walk is fast becoming Croydon's go to arts quarter and I hope over the coming months that we will see it develop even further. It comprises of over 100 murals which are spread over the following three streets in Central Croydon. St Georges walk, Park Street and Katherine Street. These murals will be changed every three months to keep the area interesting and vibrant.



### Fairfield Halls – the Season of Delivery

Progressing to the next stage of developing the wider Cultural and Education scheme is an exciting step that this town has had to wait 10 years for. I have said since becoming Cabinet Member that this needs to be the 'Season of Delivery' and I am pleased to say that getting on with the scheme will safeguard the Fairfield Halls as a regionally significant arts and cultural complex for the next 50 years.

### Rise Gallery

The Rise gallery is a great commercial showcase for art and includes several local artists in their offer. They are currently showing work by a great mix of artists from Damien Hirst and Banksy/ to prominent local and emerging artists. Their upcoming exhibition starts on the 20<sup>th</sup> November with an exciting collection of work by Juliette Clovis.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1635749853349634/>

### David Lean Cinema

With at least two screenings each week, the recent sale of the 10,000th ticket demonstrates that the David Lean Cinema has been operating at near-capacity since re-opening. Offering tickets at just £7.50 per film, many of them screened soon after release it seems the demand may be based on price as well as the programme of films chosen. I was pleased to meet with the Save the David Lean Cinema

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Campaign and discuss their plans for the future. I am very impressed with how this organisation has developed and how they operate including now employing staff.

Apsara Arts recently delivered a programme of critically acclaimed Bollywood films, all connected to London.

## Hyper – Hyper

I am equally excited that a new gallery Hyper – Hyper is opening in St Georges Walk in November. Phil Worsfold the Director of the new gallery says ‘Our gallery will be displaying and selling contemporary art by both established and emerging artists. We are excited and proud to be adding to the cultural change that is happening in the area.’

## Museum of Croydon

The Exhibition Gallery and Research Room in the Museum of Croydon recently closed for a two week period for a major refurbishment, re-opened to the public on Tuesday 10 November. The first exhibition in our newly configured space, designed to improve sightlines from the Clocktower court area, is ‘Croydon Recreated’, which uses three groups of material within the Museum of Croydon’s collections to explore what Croydon was like at the beginning of the 20th century. At the same time a new online collections catalogue has been launched. This will improve access to and exploit the learning potential of our archives and local studies collections. We are also working to improve the organisation of our map and photographic collections, making it easier to search across these collections by area.

## Croydon Libraries – Ambitious for Children

We are currently in negotiation with the Library Team, Tech City and the Healthy Living Hub to develop a range of interactive opportunities and fun activities that nurtures both creative and STEM/tech skills. Allowing the children’s library to facilitate a new range of popular family activities in a contemporary context. Even more crucially, the experience also lays the foundation for the analytical mind-set which will underpin long term learning and eventually even employability. This will be funded partly by S106 monies and by the Library service.

## Working with Partners

Local people remain at the heart of Croydon’s Ambition, supporting and delivering activities in performance, sports, drama, music, leisure and the arts, as well as less traditional forms of cultural expression. Providing opportunities for people to have fun meet each other and learn in the central part of Croydon and in our district centres and giving opportunities to showcase our borough’s talent.

**AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON**



# Culture, Leisure and Sport

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I will continue to encourage others to deliver, participate and to offer new opportunities across a wide range of cultural, sport and leisure activities by helping to open doors so they can push through and provide the vibrant and meaningful range of opportunities that match our ambitious aspirations.

#### Sharing Stories

The library development team has been successful in an Arts Council grant application for Croydon. The grant is for £35,700 to work in partnership with Stories in the Street, CALAT, Museum of Croydon, the Hive and community groups in Broad Green; New Addington and the central library. Croydon is encouraging the community to share stories but also to train some storytellers in the community offering them an accredited qualification

#### Club Soda

I am delighted that two of our supported associate artist organisations have written bids that include elements of delivery for Club Soda members. **Drunken Chorus's** successful bid to the Arts Councils Awards for All. The company will work with Club Soda performers across a period of 20 weeks to create 2 live performances that will both take place in pubs in Shoreditch, East London. We hope to present one of these performances at Fairfield Halls as well, in spring 2016. **TURF** also applied to Arts Council for a Grant for the Arts. If successful, they will deliver 10 sessions with Club Soda artists leading to the creation of new work and an exhibition. Thanks for your support.

#### Tinder Foundation

A successful bid to the Tinder Foundation has provided our libraries with £7500 to support unemployed people to improve their digital skills using 'Learn My Way' a UK Online program and will support 50 adults in our borough. The funding will enable the purchase of 10 tablets making the project accessible via outreach locations with Wi-Fi. The tablets will then be used for further projects including using them for LEGO Education. The Tinder Foundation project will be delivered by Digital Champion volunteers.

## Delivering our Ambitions

**A new college and transformed Fairfield Halls, turning the town into a world-class cultural and educational destination**



At Cabinet on 20 October, plans were revealed to turn Croydon College, Fairfield Halls and the surrounding College Green area into a leading cultural and educational destination.

Plans include a new start-of-the-art college, bringing new facilities for all of Croydon College's faculties including for the renowned school of art, on the Barclay Road Annexe site.

Complementing this, the neighbouring Fairfield Halls will be transformed into a modern concert and events venue, designed to become the focal point for Croydon's creative and cultural scene. The venue's 1,800 seat Concert Hall will retain its acoustic integrity, but will be fully refurbished to include new seating and modernised backstage and servicing areas. The rest of the 1962 building will be refurbished to contain flexible performance and arts spaces.

A new mezzanine-level restaurant is also planned, alongside bar and seating areas on the ground floor leading to outside areas on the transformed College Green public square.

To allow this transformation to take place, Fairfield Halls will be closed for two years from Summer 2016, reopening to the public in summer 2018.

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The wider plans for College Green will see the construction of hundreds of new homes of a mix of tenures and new shops and restaurants. New pedestrian paths and squares will be created, linking the area to East Croydon station, the town centre, Surrey Street and the wider borough.

The project team includes Rick Mather Architects, a practice known for its work on the Royal Festival Hall in central London and the Lyric Theatre in Hammersmith, and consultant Mott MacDonald.

### **Boxpark update**

The Ruskin Square site, by East Croydon train station, has stood derelict for more than 30 years and, is a gateway location and effective 'billboard' for passengers travelling through East Croydon. The current owners Croydon Gateway Limited Partnership (CGLP) have held the site for over 13 years, and whilst productive discussions with them has resulted in a great deal of positive activity over the past year and schemes progressing in the north of the site, it is anticipated that this southern end of the site will remain vacant in the medium term.

Boxpark propose to develop a temporary pop-up mall on approximately 0.45 hectares on the southern tip of the Ruskin Square development site using reused shipping containers. This will be arranged over two floors, with a performance space at the centre and a canopy over the entire unit enabling events to take place throughout the year. It will have entrances from East Croydon station concourse, George Street, Dingwall Road and connect to the Ruskin Square site to the north. Following the demolition of the Tourist Information Centre and "Entertainment Exchange" units (scheduled for December 2015) the pavement of George Street will be widened to allow for the busy footfall from the station.

An application for full planning permission for the scheme was submitted in September and approved at Planning Committee on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2015, 7 weeks later. Permission was granted for a temporary period of 5.5 years (to allow for 5 years of trading) and subject to a number of other conditions including the size of units, control of noise and cleaning of the site. Site preparation is scheduled to commence in late 2015 with the site due to open in summer 2016. Boxpark Ltd is a pop up mall Development Company set up in 2011 by Roger Wade, the founder of the successful Boxfresh fashion label. It launched its first project in Shoreditch in 2011 with 60 units arranged on a piece of vacant land due for redevelopment but with no pending activity adjacent to railway lines.

Boxpark have announced that terms have now been agreed with businesses to let 75% of the units in the scheme, with 10% of the units to be let to Croydon-based operators.

An application for advertisement consent is currently under consideration.

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### **Play for all - Concorde House 30<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

Last week (Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October) during a fun packed half term morning, young residents at Concorde House had the opportunity to burn off lots of energy and get creative with their very own miniature play day.

The Housing Needs funded pilot was a roaring success and will enable the council to plan a series of activities targeting families in emergency temporary accommodation.

Shortly before 11am the six story building quickly emptied of children as they came outside to enjoy the activities. The session started busily and rose in number to more than fifty children. For the parents and family members that came out to support the event there was music, conversation and a chance to get together.

Coordinated by Play Place Innov8 CIC, with a team of Croydon staff, including family support officer, sustainable communities team, youth and community outreach officers, children enjoyed activities as diverse as arts and crafts, a bouncy castle, ball games, and board games.

A child said; "This is the best thing that has happened since I have lived here, I used to go to youth club on my [council] estate where I lived and since I've moved here there has been nothing to do. When are you coming back?"

A parent said; "the accommodation is nice and clean however but there is nowhere to do anything. Most of the rooms have kids living in them and having some activities in the holidays like this is a brilliant idea. Please do more."

If you would like to get involved and help develop a fun programme at Concorde House or to find out more, contact Danny Bryan, youth involvement officer, (Sustainable Community Youth) on 020 8726 6100 ext. 63188 or email [daniel.bryan@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:daniel.bryan@croydon.gov.uk)

## **Latest News - Regeneration**

### **Croydon Local Plan – consultation is live**

In my September bulletin I announced that the council has prepared two key draft Local Plan documents for consultation which focus on making Croydon a great place to live. Two documents which place particular emphasis on making sure neighbourhoods flourish and support existing and future communities in daily life. By identifying "neighbourhood centres", it provides the opportunity to go beyond recognising centres solely for their retail function but for the wider role they play in supporting local communities and improving your neighbourhood and improving the places where you live. It is about changing the appearance of areas the moment you walk out of your front door.

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## November 2015

The documents are The Croydon Local Plan: Strategic Policies – Partial Review or CLP1.1 and Croydon Local Plan - Detailed Policies and Proposals (Preferred and Alternative Options) or CLP2.

The drafts of CLP1.1 and CLP2 are the basis for consultation and whilst highlighting the preferred option in all cases (for both policies and proposals), it could be subject to change as a result of the outcomes of public and stakeholder engagement. Consultation on the two documents is to take place from 06 November – 18 December 2015.

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE CROYDON LOCAL PLAN  
STRATEGIC POLICIES PARTIAL REVIEW  
DETAILED POLICIES & PROPOSALS**

Croydon Council has produced the partial review of Croydon Local Plan: Strategic Policies (Preferred and Alternative options) and Croydon Local Plan: Detailed Policies and Proposals (Preferred and Alternative options). The current consultation runs over a period of 6 weeks from 6 November - 18 December 2015.

**WE WELCOME YOUR COMMENTS**

The Council is seeking the views of residents, businesses and developers on the Preferred and Alternative Options of Croydon Local Plan: Strategic Policies - Partial Review and the Croydon Local Plan: Detailed Policies and Proposals. It is the main opportunity to contribute to and shape the plan for the borough up to 2036 so if you have any comments on the plans it is important to make them now.

A Local Plan must be prepared for the borough, setting out planning policies for Croydon for the next 20 years. These policies will be used to determine planning applications up to 2036. The Council has produced the Croydon Local Plan: Strategic Policies - Partial Review (Preferred and Alternative Options) and the Croydon Local Plan: Detailed Policies and Proposals (Preferred and Alternative Options) as part of the process of making a new Local Plan for Croydon.

**KEY DIAGRAM OF THE BOROUGH**

**CROYDON LOCAL PLAN: STRATEGIC POLICIES - PARTIAL REVIEW (PREFERRED AND ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS)**

The Croydon Local Plan: Strategic Policies - Partial Review has been produced to provide an up-to-date development plan based on new evidence on the need for homes, gypsy and traveller sites and employment. Local Heritage Areas will replace Local Areas of Special Character. The further Alterations to the London Plan has increased the borough's minimum housing target from 1,330 homes a year to 1,435 homes a year.

The borough's population is projected to increase by 30,000 people by 2031. This is due to residents getting older, living longer and young families moving to the borough to raise their children. If there was enough land in the borough this would mean that nearly 43,000 new homes would be built. As a third of the borough is protected green space, the Council can only plan for 31,750 new homes up to 2036.

Affordable housing is needed to deliver mixed and sustainable communities. The Plan sets a strategic target of 40% affordable homes. A minimum requirement of 50% on site affordable homes will be viable for the majority of developments of ten or more units. This will be regularly reviewed to reflect changes in the housing market.

**CROYDON LOCAL PLAN: DETAILED POLICIES AND PROPOSALS (PREFERRED AND ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS)**

The Croydon Local Plan: Detailed Policies and Proposals provides the policy to guide planning applications. It also contains site allocations for land uses to meet the borough's needs up to 2036. This includes new homes, gypsy and traveller sites, employment space, schools and healthcare facilities.

There is a need for 49 new gypsy and traveller pitches in Croydon up to 2036. Due to constraints such as Green Belts, the Local Plan can only provide 39 new pitches. 8 primary and 8 secondary schools are allocated to meet the forecasted need for school places.

The borough is made up of a series of varied and distinctive neighbourhoods and areas, which are referred to as 'Places'. In the Plan The Borough Character Appraisal has identified and analysed the characteristics of the 16 Places of Croydon and informs the Places section of the Croydon Local Plan. The 16 Places are explained in more detail on individual display boards.

**KEY QUESTIONS**

**WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?**

Consultation Nov - Dec 2015 → Proposed Submission Drafts - Summer 2016 → Submission to the Secretary of State - Winter 2016 → Independent examination by a Planning Inspector - Spring / Summer 2017 → Adoption of Croydon Local Plan: Strategic Policies Partial Review and Croydon Local Plan Detailed Policies & Proposals - Winter 2017

We are seeking comments on the six questions below in particular. Other comments are also welcome.

1. Do you think that the preferred approach is deliverable?
2. Do you think the preferred options enable sustainable development?
3. Do you think that the preferred option for each site is deliverable?
4. Are you aware of any other sites within the borough that should be considered as a proposed allocation because they are either bigger than 0.25 hectares, would provide ten or more homes or would meet a development need identified by the Croydon Local Plan: Strategic Policies?
5. Are the amendments to the borough's employment areas around Gloucester Road and the designation of an office retention area near East Croydon station sustainable and reasonable?
6. In addition to South End are there any other locations in the Borough that you think should be designated as a Restaurant Quarter?

**HOW TO SUBMIT A REPRESENTATION:**

- letter to Spatial Planning, Bernard Weatherill House, 6th Floor, Zone B, 8 Mint Walk, Croydon CR0 1EA
- email: [info@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:info@croydon.gov.uk)
- representation form provided at this consultation event by 18 December 2015

**CROYDON**  
[www.croydon.gov.uk](http://www.croydon.gov.uk)

This consultation is your opportunity to contribute to and shape the Croydon Local Plan up to 2036. Any representations on the Croydon Local Plan (Preferred and Alternative Options) received during the consultation period will inform the Proposed Submission draft which will be published in Summer 2016.

Full details of the documents and consultation representation forms can be found at [www.croydon.gov.uk/localplanone](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/localplanone) and [www.croydon.gov.uk/localplantwo](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/localplantwo)

The documents are also available to view at the borough's libraries and Access Croydon where comments can be made as well, using a representation form which is also available at these locations.



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Any comments or representation forms should be submitted by no later 18 December 2015 and should be sent to [LDF@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:LDF@croydon.gov.uk) or Spatial Planning Service, Bernard Weatherill House, 6th Floor Zone B, Mint Walk, Croydon, CR0 1EA.

You are also welcome to attend the drop-in consultation events covering the 16 Places of Croydon (details below).

Tuesday 17 November 3.30pm to 8pm- Addington Community Centre, Central Parade, New Addington, CR0 0JB (Addington)

Wednesday 25 November 4.30pm to 8pm- St. John's Community Hall, Upper Selsdon Road, Selsdon, CR2 8DD (Sanderstead, Selsdon and Shirley)

Saturday 28 November 10am to 2pm- Community Space, Bernard Weatherill House, Mint Walk, CR0 1EA (on all of Croydon)

Wednesday 2 December 3.30pm to 8pm- Christ Church Methodist Church Hall, 114 Lower Addiscombe Road, Addiscombe, CR0 6AD (Croydon Opportunity Area, Broad Green & Selhurst, Waddon, South Croydon and Addiscombe)

Tuesday 8 December 3.30pm to 8pm- Purley Baptist Church, Banstead Road, Purley, CR8 3EA (Purley, Coulsdon, Kenley & Old Coulsdon)

Wednesday 9 December 4pm to 8pm- South Norwood Methodist Church, Suffolk Road, South Norwood SE25 6EG (Thornton Heath, South Norwood, Woodside, Norbury, Crystal Palace & Upper Norwood)

[Click here to read our press release about the Local Plan consultation.](#)

Following this consultation there will be one further stage of consultation, followed submission to the Secretary of State, an Examination in Public into the soundness of the CLP1.1 and CLP2, and subject to approval, adoption of the new Local Plan in 2017.

The Proposed Submission drafts of CLP1.1 and CLP2 (the final drafts) will be presented to Cabinet in summer 2016 and will be prepared following consideration of each comment made during the forthcoming consultation. Subject to a successful Examination by the Planning Inspectorate, adoption will follow in 2017.

The local plan is a significant piece of work for the borough that sets out how we will deliver the growth of Croydon's metropolitan centre, district centres and the suburbs. This is a 20-year plan that sees the council delivering for Croydon's children by ensuring our suburbs don't freeze in time and that our district centres thrive.

# Cllr Alison Butler - Homes and Regeneration

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### **Thornton Heath Regeneration**

Croydon Council is determined to create high streets that serve as the heart of our local communities. Thornton Heath is one of our priorities, with £2.7m being invested in a 1km stretch of high street, from Thornton Heath library to the Whitehorse Lane roundabout over the next three years. We aim to support grow and promote businesses and retail activity and improve the spaces and buildings along the high street to provide a better town centre environment.

Around £2.5 million of the fund is to be spent on improvements to create an attractive, high quality public realm and help Thornton Heath become a better place to visit, to live in and to do business in. Consultation and design work is now ongoing and works are due to start in spring 2017 and due for completion 2018.

We also plan enhancements to around 30 building facades, to help uplift the environment of the High Street and Brigstock Road and enhance the area's image. We want to focus on those improvements that will have maximum impact on the appearance of the High Street. Work will be to selected uppers and /or lowers of buildings and involve building painting, new shop fronts, new windows, new shutters and awnings, new and improved signage and flank wall art.

Part of the fund is to be spent on delivering a package of business support to

- support existing business and start-ups
- develop a business partnership
- improve the vitality of the general trading environment
- create more jobs, work placements, and apprenticeships;

We have already engaged with the public about key issues and opportunities. Over the next few months we will be talking in more detail to the community and to local businesses about the details of the project.

If you want to speak to an officer, please contact Adam Platts, Regeneration Manager at Croydon Council on 0208 726 6000 ext. 88011 or [adam.platts@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:adam.platts@croydon.gov.uk)

### **Update from Croydon Saffron Central**

3 months after the Croydon Community potted around 20,000 Crocus Sativus Corms in the old Taberner House site; the Saffron Harvest is now over.

Around 11,000 blooms were counted by 78 harvesters meaning there are 33,000 Saffron stigmas ready to add a twist of colour & flavour to dishes around town.

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The stigmas were extracted just below where the 3 strands connect; this is known as Pushal Saffron. Hundreds of grams have been dried at 60C in the oven & are stored in an airtight jar.

"When you put the Saffron on the scales after harvesting it's quite exiting, but by the time its dried it's around 10% of its original weight!!" said Ally McKinlay, Croydon Saffron Centrals creator who's been on a steep learning curve since he had the idea for the pop up Saffron Farm in July.

"We had hoped for more blooms but the reality is that many corms don't bloom in their first year. I've read 40-60% so I guess we should be pleased with 55%. All being well they will come good next year when the Crocus Valley is re-established".

The next major task is to clear the site. The plan is to share the corms equally amongst the 24 wards of Croydon. "There will be around 800 plants per ward. We are prioritising with Community Gardens & Friends of Park groups. There are trays of 20 & 36 and then a random selection of the pots donated by the community".

"This is the point where responsibly for the Crocus Farms becomes managed locally. Ensuring the plants are in the right soil with protection from nature is essential or the corms will not bloom again."

As with every stage of the project, volunteers are needed to help remove & give away plants & deconstruct the site.

Ideally those looking to take plants into the community will collect them by Queens Gardens.

The Big clear out will take place 5th & 6th December 2015

Please contact [Ally\\_Mac22@Hotmail.com](mailto:Ally_Mac22@Hotmail.com) if interested.

### **South End**

A £3m project that has transformed South End into a welcoming and attractive restaurant quarter is to be celebrated at a launch event next week. The works have seen extensive public realm enhancements and frontage improvements to 47 buildings along South End and Selsdon Road. This includes removal of street clutter, widening of pavements, improved landscaping and 10 improved pedestrian crossings. There is also new street furniture and lighting, new cycle parking, and enhanced car parking layout. The project was funded with over £1m Mayor of London's Regeneration Fund and the remainder by the council and Transport for London. To commemorate the completion of the works a launch event is being held with members of the delivery team including the council, GLA, and TfL along with local residents and businesses who benefitted from the improvements. In total, more than

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£50million is being invested in Croydon through the council's Connected Croydon programme, a jointly funded project managed by the council, with support from Transport for London and an £18m contribution from the Mayor of London.

### **St Michael's and All Angels Architectural Lighting**

New architectural lighting has been installed on a historic West Croydon church as part of a project to improve the area and create a safer brighter environment. The new lighting at St Michael and All Angels Church, a grade 1 listed building, was formally switched on by the Bishop of Fulham on Thursday, 12 November. The lighting highlights the stained glass windows and bell tower features and brings more ambient light to the surrounding public space. The Connected Croydon project is funded by the Mayor's Regeneration Fund, which has delivered £3m improvements in West Croydon to the public realm and transport interchange around Station Road, North End, West Croydon Station, Poplar Walk and St Michaels Road.

### **The Streets programme hits South Norwood!**

A series of FREE music events and performances took place on **Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 November** at venues across South Norwood district centre.

Croydon is one of seven London boroughs benefiting from this city-wide project to bring music and performances to high streets to animate spaces and unusual venues. Events in South Norwood took place in a range of venues from PHD Hairdressing on the High Street, Yeha Noha Café on Station Road and at Stanley Halls. Local residents flocked to see the free music events and took advantage of the great food and drinks offer at Yeha Noha and the Stanley Halls as well as viewing the SE Art Trail - A collaboration of creativity, showing at Stanley Halls

Despite the very cold weather, The Streets coincided with the launch of a new **Farmers Market** that took place on Station Road on Saturday 21 November, with a range of products.

## Homes

### **Landlord Licensing Scheme**

The early bird discounted fee application period ended on 30 September, this was very successful with over 23,000 applications being received from almost 11,000 landlords. The scheme was fully implemented on 1 October. We have allowed some further applications to be made at the discounted rate since then as we accept that, given the very high demand

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## **November 2015**

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towards the end of September, several landlords could not complete their applications in time. We have now received 24770 applications.

The applications are being processed and we anticipate provisional licences being issued towards the end of November or early December. The enforcement team, which will deal with the technical side of the process, are prioritising inspections to properties owned by landlords who we have concerns about to ensure that properties with a higher likelihood of problems are inspected first. Likewise, landlords who we have concerns about who have not yet applied will be prioritised for reminder letters, inspections to check that their properties are still rented and ultimately, for legal action if they continue to fail to submit an application.



# Clean Green Croydon Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Stuart Collins November 2015

## Latest News

### Clean & Green statistics

The number of confirmed fly-tip incidents was reduced by 10.5% from the previous month with the proportion cleared within 48 hours back to near target level at 76%.

The overall number of fly-tip reports was also down with 71% of these made electronically.

A push on Duty of Care visits saw the number increased to 206 this month to an on year record of 883. These visits are a vital part of ensuring traders have the correct trade waste licences and are not abusing the new dual bins issued in Thornton Heath, Norbury, South Norwood, Woodside and Upper Norwood district centres. We will continue to review these areas and work with residents and traders to get them to join us in taking pride in their areas.

## Delivering our Ambitions

### Thornton Heath Operation

A three-day operation was carried out in Thornton Heath involving Neighbourhood Safety Officers, Environmental Enforcement Officers, ASB enforcement officers, Veolia operatives and managers to go through waste and identify residents and shops that are putting out their waste illegally and then following up with enforcement notices and FPNs.

The operation was very successful and the Council issued 17 on the spot FPNs. Evidence was retrieved for follow up visits for enforcement action for 36 locations. 72 Duty of Care visits were carried out, and 16 Section 34 Notices were served. Advice letters and educational leaflets on waste disposal were also distributed. These operations were highly commended and the outcomes are positive, so we will aim to carry out similar operations in the near future to sustain the significant difference we are making in our communities.

### Enforcement/ Prosecutions

The Council attended court Wednesday 18th November and a total of 17 cases were heard (one of which is a combined case of 2 individuals from the same household). Our current 45 prosecutions is a record total for this Council, with those above to add along with 143 FPN's issued this month; thanks go to our Enforcement Team for their hard work.

## Working Together

There were four **community clear-ups** which took place at Clifton Road (Selhurst alleyway), Haling Passage South Croydon, Bridle Road Woodland, and Pollards Hill alleyway (between Wharfedale Gardens and Pollards Hill South). With a further clean up around Love Lane scheduled, this Council is showing that working our street champions we can make a real difference. Thank you to all the public who showed they take pride in their communities.



# Finance and Treasury Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Simon Hall Deputy: Councillor Hamida Ali December 2015

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## 2015/2016 Council Finances

The current in-year position continues to indicate an overspend given the immense pressure on services, as detailed previously, and the impact of government actions in-year. Whilst the situation is improving, we have recognised that there is still a way to go, which is why we have taken further actions and are accelerating previously agreed decisions. Clearly, this has involved many tough decisions. The details will be presented to Cabinet on 14 December.

This administration is implementing and looking at implementing radically different ways of delivering services and serving residents, including a Digital & Enabling programme, the Gateway Service and the Think Family programmes, to name but three. We are also committed in taking action to ensure that we improve value for money and focus spend on the frontline.

## Autumn Financial Statement, Spending Review and Government Actions

The Government has continued its onslaught on local government generally and Croydon specifically.

Even before the 25 November announcements, in the last few months, we have seen:

- Unilateral cut to Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children funding – in excess of £4m (in addition to failure to fund No Recourse to Public Funds of c. £5m).
- In-year cut in Public Health Grant –c.£1.3m.
- In-year cut to CALAT funding – c. £0.8m.
- Announcement on benefit cap reduction, affecting some 1,000 families in the borough
- Welfare changes which will affect thousands of families , notably working families on low income
- Continued failure to fund major population growth and demographic change
- Continued failure to correct imbalance on Local Housing Allowance rates
- Continued failure to fund other public services in the borough (notably Health) properly, leading to pressures on council services.
- Legislation on affordable housing that have huge implications.

The Autumn Financial Statement and details of the Spending Review were published on 25 November. As ever, the real implications of these will only become clear over time, as so much is buried/ hidden.

What is already clear:

- Local Government is seeing a 56% reduction in its funding from Central Government over the next four years
- Welfare reform that will impact thousands of working families are still taking place but being phased.
- No change, at this stage, in the totally inequitable funding formula, leading to the prospect of continuing massive underfunding of Croydon's population and needs.
- No concrete enactment of the growth promise committed to previously
- Huge implications of the changes regarding housing and housing benefit.

This administration has been lobbying at all levels and will continue to do so.

The administration will continue to enact its ambitious plans for Croydon, notwithstanding this onslaught from Central Government.

## **2016/2017 Council Budget**

Good progress is being made in formulating the budget for the next financial year and, in accordance with our stated approach, looking at the medium term as well as the specific year.

It is clear that there will be tough choices to be made. These tough choices and where we spend the Council's resources will reflect the ambitions.

At the Scrutiny & Overview Committee on 15 December, we will be presenting budget options and priorities.

## **London Living Wage**

The Council has achieved accredited London Living Wage status. This is a huge achievement in its own right. Not only will we be building on that, through commissioning, procurement and dialogue with existing suppliers, but we are now moving to trying to make this a London Living Wage borough.

## **Contract management and Commissioning**

With examples such as the insourcing of parts of SEN Transport and the breaking down into appropriate lots of facilities management (which includes some insourcing), we are showing the benefits to residents and to the Council's finances of taking the approach we do to commissioning and procurement.

Our contract management is being overhauled and, more than ever, we are holding our suppliers to full account. Our willingness to have the tough negotiations and invoke, where necessary, contractual levers, is delivering and, as our contract management arrangements are strengthened, we will see further benefits.



## Voluntary Severance

In November, the Council launched a Council-wide voluntary severance scheme.

This gives all eligible staff the opportunity to consider whether they wish to leave the Council. The process has started and staff have until 4 January to put themselves forward. These requests will then be considered. We have been clear, as an administration, that when considering the requests, directors must consider all the service implications, be sure that remaining staff will not have an excessive burden and be confident that this will not lead to re-recruitment or agency staff being brought in. As part of this, we have said that the usual departure date would be 29 February 2016, but it could be a later date (up to 31 March 2017), where it was agreed that this could make sense in terms of the individual's wishes and the needs of the business.

There are many local authorities who have recently offered such a scheme, are offering one at the moment or are likely to do so in the near future.