



CROYDON COUNCIL MEETING: MONDAY 25 JANUARY 2016
PUBLIC QUESTION TIME
WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Welcome to a meeting of Croydon Council. Attached are the questions from the public and the replies which will be taken at this meeting.

WE WOULD ASK THAT YOU COLLECT THE PRINTED QUESTIONS/RESPONSES AND THEN MOVE INTO ROOM F4 ON THE FIRST FLOOR, RATHER THAN GO STRAIGHT TO THE PUBLIC GALLERY. A MEMBER OF STAFF WILL REGISTER YOUR NAME WHEN YOU ARRIVE IN THE ROOM SHOULD YOU WISH TO ASK A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION AND THEN ASK YOU TO PROCEED TO THE PUBLIC GALLERY.

Public Question time is usually towards the beginning on the meeting and the process for this item is as follows:

- ◆ The questions will be taken in the order in which they were received by the Council;
- ◆ The question and the reply will be taken as read;
- ◆ The person who asked the question, if present, will then be invited to ask a supplementary question, (if they wish) to clarify a point related to the reply they have been given in the written answer. The **length and detail of such a question should be brief** and at the discretion of the Mayor, allowing for the time available and the number of other questions which need to be dealt with;
- ◆ Public question time is limited strictly to **15 minutes** - if all the questions and answers have not been reached at the end of that time, the other replies will be taken as read and there will be no further opportunity for asking supplementary questions at that meeting; and
- ◆ Questions will not be carried over to the following meeting, but it is of course in order for questioners to ask another question on the same or another topic before the next meeting.

After the public question time you are very welcome to stay for the rest of the meeting

Question Number	Question to Cabinet Member	Question From	Subject
PQ001	Flemming	Miss Randle	Education provision re College Green
PQ002	Godfrey	Miss Gilbert	Fairfield Halls
PQ003	Collins	Ms Onions	Recycling & Green waste
PQ004	Letts	Mr Collier	Victors Centre
PQ005	Hall	Mr Cartwright	Electoral register
PQ006	Butler	Mrs Lumb	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL

PQ007	Butler	Miss Sturgeon	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL
PQ008	Butler	Mr Greenfield	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL
PQ009	Butler	Mrs Bartlett	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL
PQ010	Butler	Mr Bartlett	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL
PQ011	Butler	Mr Hewish	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL
PQ012	Butler	Mr Cox	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL
PQ013	Butler	Mr Buckler	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL
PQ014	Butler	Miss Wardle	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL
PQ015	Butler	Mrs Bowman	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL
PQ016	Butler	Miss Joyce	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL
PQ017	Butler	Mr Bennett	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL
PQ018	Butler	Mrs Tenten	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL
PQ019	Butler	Mr Nogal	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL
PQ020	Butler	Mr Andrews	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL
PQ021	Butler	Mr Locke	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL
PQ022	Butler	Miss Tapping	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL
PQ023	Butler	Mrs Mohabir	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL
PQ024	Butler	Mr Bocarro	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL
PQ025	Butler	Miss Joyce	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL
PQ026	Butler	Mr Booroff	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL
PQ027	Butler	Mrs Abbott	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL
PQ028	Butler	Mr Holmes	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL
PQ029	Butler	Dr Banjo	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL
PQ030	Butler	Ms Fletcher	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL
PQ031	Butler	Mr Robinson	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL
PQ032	Butler	Mrs Reynolds	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL
PQ033	Butler	Mr Reynolds	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL
PQ034	Butler	Mr Paterson	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL
PQ035	Watson	Mr Weaving	Rodent infestation
PQ036	Butler	Mr Mohabir	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL
PQ037	Godfrey	Mr Khan	Football Matches
PQ038	Butler	Mr Murphy	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL
PQ039	Butler	Mrs Cawley	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL
PQ040	Butler	Mr Cawley	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL
PQ041	Butler	Mr James	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL
PQ042	Butler	Mr Patel	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL
PQ043	Butler	Mrs Patel	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL
PQ044	Butler	Mr Thomas	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL
PQ045	Hall	Mr Scott	Questions
PQ046	Butler	Mr Burke	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL
PQ047	Butler	Mrs Wells	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL
PQ048	Godfrey	Miss Pollard	Fairfield Halls
PQ049	Butler	Mr Arbisman	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL

PQ050	Butler	Mr Tenten	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL
PQ051	Butler	Mrs Whalley	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL
PQ052	Letts	Miss Garner	Tiger Tiger site
PQ053	Butler	Mrs West	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL
PQ054	Butler	Mr Johnson	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL
PQ055	Newman	Mr Samuel	Financial Crisis
PQ056	Butler	Miss Costello	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL
PQ057	Hall	Mr T Downes	Number of electors
PQ058	Newman	Mr S Downes	Members disciplinary
PQ059	Newman	Ms Glinska	Members attendance
PQ060	Butler	Mr Docherty	Shirley Oaks Village MPOL

The attached replies are subject to oral amendment by the Cabinet Member or Committee Chair.

From Miss Diane Randle

Councillor Alisa Flemming

Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning

Question No.

PQ001-16

What is the Council's long term ambition for Croydon College, Higher Education and University provision in Croydon and can this vision be accommodated on College Green? Has a needs and opportunity assessment been carried out? What other locations have been considered?

Reply

The overall aim of the development is to bring forward a transformative change in the quality of the environment in this part of the town centre to create a new Cultural and Educational Quarter for Croydon. It is in this context that the Council is working closely with Croydon College on the development of a new College facility within the College Green area which meet their aims.

The evolving Further Education environment means that Colleges have to be positioned to react positively to changes in government initiatives such as investing in FE and Skills, apprenticeships, skills for sustainable growth and working with employers to provide training opportunities and responding to movements in curriculum popularity and content. One important aspect of this is the ability to provide high quality accommodation to reflect the learning environments of the twenty first century and commercial training environments. The College also provides higher education and access to university provision through its exciting and growing partnership with the University of Sussex.

The College currently operates from the Fairfield building which contains c36,000 sqm of internal space. Around 26,000 sqm of this space has been refurbished over the last 15 years but 10,000 sqm still remains to be refurbished with a potential cost of around £20m. In addition to this, the space is no longer configured appropriately for modern further and higher education delivery with too many small rooms and outdated services provision.

The College regularly reviews its estates strategy in the light of current and future curriculum needs and the requirements for increases in cost efficiency as a result of reductions in further education funding. The planning application presents an exciting opportunity, supported by the College, to provide purpose built accommodation to the east of Fairfield Halls that is specifically designed to meet their current requirements and future objectives while remaining within the Fairfield and East Croydon area.

From Miss Karen Gilbert

Councillor Timothy Godfrey

Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport

Question No.

PQ002-16

What plans does the council have to re-open Fairfield Halls after the closure, and what budget will be set aside for restaffing and providing incentives to promoters to return their events to the venue?

Reply

The refurbishment of the Fairfield Halls is one of the most exciting projects that this town has undertaken in recent years. I am delighted that we are making this project happen after many years of empty promises and many years of deteriorating fabric of the Fairfield Halls building.

I am confident that the project will save the Fairfield for the people of Croydon for the next 50 years.

The Council is in conversation with Fairfield (Croydon) Limited regarding a transition plan for the operation of the Halls. The modernisation of the building will help to improve the future commerciality of the operation and ensure the future sustainability of the building.

The Council is also working with Fairfield (Croydon) Ltd and other partners on a programme of activity over the 2 year closure period to ensure there is continuity in cultural programming and offer in the borough as well as an integrated programme for relaunch. This includes building on the successful Ambition music festival which was held in July 2015. We are confident that with the right offer and programme and beyond over the next 2 years, we can re-open the venue to attract both existing and new audiences.

From Miss Grace Onions

Councillor Stuart Collins

Cabinet Member for Clean, Green Croydon

Question No.

PQ003-16

Can the Council please confirm how it intends to guarantee that recycling is given priority as a means of waste disposal in the future and that recycling rates continue to increase, particularly in light of changes to the collection of green waste and the possibility of recyclable waste being incinerated?

Reply

Croydon Council are committed to providing a comprehensive recycling service for residents within the Borough. The aim is to encourage waste minimisation in line with the UK waste hierarchy which encourages waste reduction and reuse.

Following the councils proposal to residents to introduce a chargeable service for 2016/17 we have received a significant number of expressions of interest which has enabled us to agree and move forward with a chargeable service, in addition to offering a chargeable service residents are also being encouraged to compost at home and or take their garden waste to the recycling centres is available and more tonnage being recycled through these outlets is expected. It is envisaged that as the popularity of these approaches to our green garden waste service increases the tonnage will also increase through the various outlets.

Options currently being implemented to further improve our services and to assist with increasing recycling rates have resulted in initiatives to introduce dual bins in a number of areas such as South Norwood and Thornton Heath High Street, Portland Road, Norbury High Street and on the London Road these bins are to assist flats above shops to recycle more. Together with the introduction of resident engagement teams particularly targeting poor performance areas and giving recycling talks and presentations to educational establishments within the Borough.

With the introduction of the Village Approach work is now being undertaken to embed this approach further under a phase 2. As part of this the Council and Veolia are setting out a plan which will include engagement and education with local communities, forums and the local press with a view to focusing on improving attitudes regarding less waste to landfill and more to recycling.

This is a UK wide challenge with recycling rates levelling out or falling, Croydon will work with other Boroughs and organisations on joint initiatives and education to do all we can to encourage recycling.

From Mr Peter Collier

Councillor Toni Letts

Cabinet Member for Economy and Jobs

Question No.

PQ004-16

Can I be advised please when a new Visitor Centre, going to be replaced either by this Council or by private enterprise? If so can I be advised if a replacement site has been chosen, and when is the estimated time of its opening.

Reply

The previous visitor centre was run by Croydon Town Centre BID and closed as part of Ruskin Square scheme developments.

Croydon Town Centre BID evaluated the visitor centre during the closure process as part of a wider review of options for delivering high quality services to visitors to Croydon in the future. The evaluation concluded that a mobile visitor support service, run in partnership with the Council's Streets, Safety and Communication teams, provided a more comprehensive approach going forward.

The resulting Ambassadors programme, supported by The Welcome People was launched in September 2015. Ambassadors provide high visibility and a distinctive welcome and Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) for visitors, employees and residents to the Town Centre. They are on the street five days per week (Tuesday to Saturday), nine hours per day and circulate around North End and The Platform during the day to support visitors around the Town Centre. In the mornings they are based at information stands at major areas of East and West Croydon Station and circulate the new Legible London visitor map. They also provide added value by carrying "Safer Croydon" radios with a real-time feed to the "eyes and ears" programme enhancing visitors' safety. Further information stands at different locations are to be developed overtime to provide greater visibility in the future.

Croydon Town Centre BID also relaunched www.checkoutcroydon.com in October 2015. The new website is designed to provide news and information on what's on, where to go, offers and discounts and how to get to Croydon. The BID will continue to review feedback on visitors' requirements in the town centre and evaluate options to enhance the high quality visitor services to Croydon in the future.

From Mr John Cartwright

Councillor Simon Hall

Cabinet Member for Finance and Treasury

Question No.

PQ005-16

What is the electorate of each ward in Croydon in December 2015?

Reply

A fully revised version of the electoral register was published on 1 December, following on from the first full canvass under the system of Individual Electoral Registration. The table below lists the local government electorate for each ward at date of publication:

Ward	Electorate
Addiscombe	11190
Ashburton	10484
Bensham Manor	10537
Broad Green	12066
Coulsdon East	9359
Coulsdon West	10138
Croham	10805
Fairfield	11932
Fieldway	7086
Heathfield	9770
Kenley	10744
New Addington	7155
Norbury	10863
Purley	10654
Sanderstead	9769
Selhurst	11342
Selsdon and Ballards	9245
Shirley	10573
South Norwood	11128
Thornton Heath	10522
Upper Norwood	10921
Waddon	11370
West Thornton	11005
Woodside	10775
Electorate Total	249,433

From Mrs Carolyn Lumb

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration & Planning

Question No.

PQ006-16

Having one road that goes through the village where parking is an ongoing issue, how do you see residents coping with an extra 751 houses with a potential 700 extra cars in such a limited space?

Reply

Whilst I understand the concerns raised, Croydon has significant housing pressures to provide enough new homes both for existing local communities, and those moving into the borough. That is why Croydon Council has supported substantial developments across the borough. As a Council we have a responsibility to ensure the supply of new homes is fairly distributed across the borough. The criteria for designation of Metropolitan Open Land is set by the Conservative Mayor of London in his London Plan. Croydon Council is required by both the government and the Mayor of London to agree a Local Plan that adheres to the National Planning Framework and the Mayor of London's London Plan.

A key purpose of the Local Plan is to ensure all land is correctly designated across the borough. In terms of site allocations, the willingness of the landowner to make a site available for development is an important factor when concluding whether to allocate land. It should be noted that any proposals that follow designations in the Local Plan will be subject to someone bringing them forward and to planning permission.

This question has already been raised in representations received as part of the consultation on the Croydon Local Plan: Strategic Policies - Partial Review and Croydon Local Plan: Detailed Policies and Proposals (Preferred and Alternative Options) which are being logged, summarised, considered and responded to by the Spatial Planning Service. This will enable respondents to track their representations. The conclusion of this work will result in a consultation log, which will set out responses to representations and, where considered necessary, set out where a change is proposed to the Proposed Submission Croydon Local Plan: Strategic Policies - Partial Review and / or Croydon Local Plan: Detailed Policies and Proposals. To respond to this question at this stage would prejudice the process outlined above and not enable all the representations received to be considered as a whole in an efficient and comprehensive manner.

The Proposed Submission Croydon Local Plan: Strategic Policies - Partial Review

and Croydon Local Plan: Detailed Policies and Proposals is anticipated to be considered by Cabinet in July 2016. The Croydon Local Plan: Strategic Policies - Partial Review and Croydon Local Plan: Detailed Policies and Proposals (Preferred and Alternative Options) consultation log will be considered alongside these Local Plans. No decision has currently been reached.

The Croydon Local Plan: Detailed Policies and Proposals (Preferred and Alternative Options) indicated five sites around Shirley Oaks could accommodate between 304 and 751 units. These figures are driven by the London Plan density matrix and high level urban design review. As the plan moves to Proposed Submission stage, for those sites that are pursued, more detailed work will be carried out to understand the deliverability of the sites.

From Miss Gemma Sturgeon

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration & Planning

Question No.

PQ007-16

Why does the draft local plan recommend the removal of Metropolitan Open Land status for many of the green spaces so much enjoyed by residents of Shirley Oaks Village?

Reply

Thank you for your question. Whilst I understand the concerns raised, Croydon has significant housing pressures to provide enough new homes both for existing local communities, and those moving into the borough. That is why Croydon Council has supported substantial developments right across the borough. The criteria for designation of Metropolitan Open Land are set by the Conservative Mayor of London in his London Plan. Croydon Council is required by both the government and the Mayor of London to agree a Local Plan that adheres to the National Planning Framework and the Mayor of London's London Plan.

The Croydon Local Plan consulted on the de-designation of MOL around Shirley Oaks. The area of MOL to the south of Shirley Oaks Hospital and surrounding the Shirley Oaks development was proposed for de-designation as it does not meet any of the criteria for designation as MOL (set out in Policy 7.17 of the Mayor's London Plan) because:

1. It does not contribute to the green physical structure of London by being clearly distinguishable from the built up area because it is separated from the wider open area of Ashburton Playing Fields, South Norwood Country Park and Beckenham Cemetery by Shirley Oaks Hospital.
2. It does not include open air facilities which serve either the whole or significant parts of London; and
3. It does not contain features or landscapes of either national or metropolitan value.

A key purpose of the Local Plan is to ensure all land is correctly designated across the borough. In terms of site allocations, the willingness of the landowner to make a site available for development is an important factor when concluding whether to allocate land. It should be noted that proposals that follow designations in the Local Plan will be subject to planning applications.

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From Mr Edward Greenfield

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration & Planning

Question No.

PQ008-16

Who decided MOL, that I own, could be built on? I have not agreed to the sale of the land. Has an offer been made by the Council?

Reply

Thank you for your question. Whilst I understand the concerns raised, Croydon has significant housing pressures to provide enough new homes both for existing local communities, and those moving into the borough. That is why Croydon Council has supported substantial developments right across the borough. The criteria for designation of Metropolitan Open Land are set by the Conservative Mayor of London in his London Plan. Croydon Council is required by both the government and the Mayor of London to agree a Local Plan that adheres to the National Planning Framework and the Mayor of London's London Plan.

The Croydon Local Plan consulted on the de-designation of MOL around Shirley Oaks. The area of MOL to the south of Shirley Oaks Hospital and surrounding the Shirley Oaks development was proposed for de-designation as it does not meet any of the criteria for designation as MOL (set out in Policy 7.17 of the Mayor's London Plan) because:

1. It does not contribute to the green physical structure of London by being clearly distinguishable from the built up area because it is separated from the wider open area of Ashburton Playing Fields, South Norwood Country Park and Beckenham Cemetery by Shirley Oaks Hospital.
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A key purpose of the Local Plan is to ensure all land is correctly designated across the borough. In terms of site allocations, the willingness of the landowner to make a site available for development is an important factor when concluding whether to allocate land. It should be noted that proposals that follow designations in the Local Plan will be subject to planning applications.

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From Mrs Margaret Bartlett

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration & Planning

Question No.

PQ009-16

Does the Councillor believe it would be reasonable to allow up to 751 homes to be built on land that is currently protected by Metropolitan Open Land status in Shirley Oaks Village?

Reply

Thank you for your question. Whilst I understand the concerns raised, Croydon has significant housing pressures to provide enough new homes both for existing local communities, and those moving into the borough. That is why Croydon Council has supported substantial developments right across the borough. The criteria for designation of Metropolitan Open Land are set by the Conservative Mayor of London in his London Plan. Croydon Council is required by both the government and the Mayor of London to agree a Local Plan that adheres to the National Planning Framework and the Mayor of London's London Plan.

The Croydon Local Plan consulted on the de-designation of MOL around Shirley Oaks. The area of MOL to the south of Shirley Oaks Hospital and surrounding the Shirley Oaks development was proposed for de-designation as it does not meet any of the criteria for designation as MOL (set out in Policy 7.17 of the Mayor's London Plan) because:

1. It does not contribute to the green physical structure of London by being clearly distinguishable from the built up area because it is separated from the wider open area of Ashburton Playing Fields, South Norwood Country Park and Beckenham Cemetery by Shirley Oaks Hospital.
2. It does not include open air facilities which serve either the whole or significant parts of London; and
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From Mr David Bartlett

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration & Planning

Question No.

PQ010-16

Will the Cabinet member explain why MOL within Shirley Oaks village is now deemed not worthy of that status and who decided it wasn't?

Reply

The Croydon Local Plan consulted on the de-designation of MOL around Shirley Oaks.

The area of MOL to the south of Shirley Oaks Hospital and surrounding the Shirley Oaks development was proposed for de-designation as it does not meet any of the criteria for designation as MOL (set out in Policy 7.17 of the London Plan) because:

1. It does not contribute to the green physical structure of London by being clearly distinguishable from the built up area because it is separated from the wider open area of Ashburton Playing Fields, South Norwood Country Park and Beckenham Cemetery by Shirley Oaks Hospital.
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From Mr Michael Hewish

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration & Planning

Question No.

PQ011-16

Ref: 541, 542, 548. Why is the Council trying to rescind the Section 52 agreement of 4th Dec 1985 on the land at Shirley Oaks? This land was designated Amenity Open land for residents use. It is also Metropolitan Open Land.

Reply

Thank you for your question. Whilst I understand the concerns raised, Croydon has significant housing pressures to provide enough new homes both for existing local communities, and those moving into the borough. That is why Croydon Council has supported substantial developments right across the borough. The criteria for designation of Metropolitan Open Land are set by the Conservative Mayor of London in his London Plan. Croydon Council is required by both the government and the Mayor of London to agree a Local Plan that adheres to the National Planning Framework and the Mayor of London's London Plan.

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From Mr David Cox

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration & Planning

Question No.

PQ012-16

Since the green areas on Shirley oaks Village are also owned collectively by the homeowners who value their recreational, environmental, safety and property-value benefits and are unlikely to sell this land, is the development plan not totally unworkable, with removal of the Metropolitan Open Land status pointless if not illegal?

Reply

Thank you for your question. Whilst I understand the concerns raised, Croydon has significant housing pressures to provide enough new homes both for existing local communities, and those moving into the borough. That is why Croydon Council has supported substantial developments right across the borough. The criteria for designation of Metropolitan Open Land are set by the Conservative Mayor of London in his London Plan. Croydon Council is required by both the government and the Mayor of London to agree a Local Plan that adheres to the National Planning Framework and the Mayor of London's London Plan.

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From Mr Roger Buckler

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration & Planning

Question No.

PQ013-16

Our homes Woodmere Avenue Mere end back onto plan 548 a steep slope on Shirley oaks when it rains our gardens are flooded up to 4" (photos supplied if requested) The word (MERE) means stream. When rains it forms steams. To build on this Metropolitan land will flood our homes

Reply

In terms of flooding the current Environment Agency (EA) online maps indicate that Shirley Oaks and the surrounding area are not at risk of flooding. However further consultation will be undertaken with the EA to ascertain risk of flooding and any required mitigation measures if this site is taken forward on a proposed site allocation. In addition, the Council is taking account of the outcome of the recent consultation and the borough's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.

From Miss Sarah Wardle

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration & Planning

Question No.

PQ014-16

Why destroy MOL in Shirley Oaks and brownfields in Croydon untouched?

Reply

Thank you for your question. Whilst I understand the concerns raised, Croydon has significant housing pressures to provide enough new homes both for existing local communities, and those moving into the borough. That is why Croydon Council has supported substantial developments right across the borough. The criteria for designation of Metropolitan Open Land are set by the Conservative Mayor of London in his London Plan. Croydon Council is required by both the government and the Mayor of London to agree a Local Plan that adheres to the National Planning Framework and the Mayor of London's London Plan.

The Croydon Local Plan consulted on the de-designation of MOL around Shirley Oaks. The area of MOL to the south of Shirley Oaks Hospital and surrounding the Shirley Oaks development was proposed for de-designation as it does not meet any of the criteria for designation as MOL (set out in Policy 7.17 of the Mayor's London Plan) because:

1. It does not contribute to the green physical structure of London by being clearly distinguishable from the built up area because it is separated from the wider open area of Ashburton Playing Fields, South Norwood Country Park and Beckenham Cemetery by Shirley Oaks Hospital.
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In response to your specific question, the Council has considered all brown field sites across the Borough before going to consultation.

From Mrs Margit Bowman

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration & Planning

Question No.

PQ015-16

Why do you want to build on the green spaces in Shirley Oaks Village?

Reply

Thank you for your question. Whilst I understand the concerns raised, Croydon has significant housing pressures to provide enough new homes both for existing local communities, and those moving into the borough. That is why Croydon Council has supported substantial developments right across the borough. The criteria for designation of Metropolitan Open Land are set by the Conservative Mayor of London in his London Plan. Croydon Council is required by both the government and the Mayor of London to agree a Local Plan that adheres to the National Planning Framework and the Mayor of London's London Plan.

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From Miss Caroline Joyce

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration & Planning

Question No.

PQ016-16

Why are there proposals to decimate Shirley Oaks Village green areas to such a degree with over 700 houses to be built in our already over development area, when you could consider building on various brown field sites in Croydon.

Reply

Thank you for your question. Whilst I understand the concerns raised, Croydon has significant housing pressures to provide enough new homes both for existing local communities, and those moving into the borough. That is why Croydon Council has supported substantial developments right across the borough. The criteria for designation of Metropolitan Open Land are set by the Conservative Mayor of London in his London Plan. Croydon Council is required by both the government and the Mayor of London to agree a Local Plan that adheres to the National Planning Framework and the Mayor of London's London Plan.

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In response to your specific question, the Council has considered all brown field sites across the Borough before going to consultation.

From Mr David Bennett

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration & Planning

Question No.

PQ017-16

Why is the council proposing to build on metropolitan open land at Shirley Oaks when the land provides so much pleasure and enrichment to the lives of the Shirley residents and is a natural habitat to wildlife?

Reply

Thank you for your question. Whilst I understand the concerns raised, Croydon has significant housing pressures to provide enough new homes both for existing local communities, and those moving into the borough. That is why Croydon Council has supported substantial developments right across the borough. The criteria for designation of Metropolitan Open Land are set by the Conservative Mayor of London in his London Plan. Croydon Council is required by both the government and the Mayor of London to agree a Local Plan that adheres to the National Planning Framework and the Mayor of London's London Plan.

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From Mrs Pauline Tenten

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration & Planning

Question No.

PQ018-16

Has Croydon council got the funds to purchase the land on Shirley oaks, as this is owned by the householders? Also why do you want to de-designate the land which is Metropolitan Open land and Amenity Open Land section 52.

Reply

Thank you for your question. Whilst I understand the concerns raised, Croydon has significant housing pressures to provide enough new homes both for existing local communities, and those moving into the borough. That is why Croydon Council has supported substantial developments right across the borough. The criteria for designation of Metropolitan Open Land are set by the Conservative Mayor of London in his London Plan. Croydon Council is required by both the government and the Mayor of London to agree a Local Plan that adheres to the National Planning Framework and the Mayor of London's London Plan.

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In response to your specific question, the Council has no plans to purchase this land.

From Mr Tomasz Nogal

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration & Planning

Question No.

PQ019-16

Does the Councillor believe it would be reasonable to allow up to 751 homes to be built on land that is currently protected by Metropolitan Open Land status in Shirley Oaks Village?

Reply

Thank you for your question. Whilst I understand the concerns raised, Croydon has significant housing pressures to provide enough new homes both for existing local communities, and those moving into the borough. That is why Croydon Council has supported substantial developments right across the borough. The criteria for designation of Metropolitan Open Land are set by the Conservative Mayor of London in his London Plan. Croydon Council is required by both the government and the Mayor of London to agree a Local Plan that adheres to the National Planning Framework and the Mayor of London's London Plan.

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From Mr Adam Andrews

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration & Planning

Question No.

PQ020-16

I would like to know why metropolitan land is being reclassified and who made this decision?

Reply

Thank you for your question. Whilst I understand the concerns raised, Croydon has significant housing pressures to provide enough new homes both for existing local communities, and those moving into the borough. That is why Croydon Council has supported substantial developments right across the borough. The criteria for designation of Metropolitan Open Land are set by the Conservative Mayor of London in his London Plan. Croydon Council is required by both the government and the Mayor of London to agree a Local Plan that adheres to the National Planning Framework and the Mayor of London's London Plan.

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From Mr Ian Locke

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration & Planning

Question No.

PQ021-16

Why are you trying to remove all the green space at Shirley oaks by building more houses?

This is our garden running and recreation area and the lungs to the estate - why deplete the area that makes people happy and healthy

Reply

Thank you for your question. Whilst I understand the concerns raised, Croydon has significant housing pressures to provide enough new homes both for existing local communities, and those moving into the borough. That is why Croydon Council has supported substantial developments right across the borough. The criteria for designation of Metropolitan Open Land are set by the Conservative Mayor of London in his London Plan. Croydon Council is required by both the government and the Mayor of London to agree a Local Plan that adheres to the National Planning Framework and the Mayor of London's London Plan.

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From Miss Jen Tapping

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration & Planning

Question No.

PQ022-16

What is the financial expenditure to date on the Croydon Local Plan?

I ask this question as it was noted at the Consultation event that the planners did not know that the open amenity land within Shirley Oaks was owned by Shirley Oaks Management Ltd and therefore proposals are ill informed and wasteful of rate payers money.

Reply

Thank you for your question. Whilst I understand the concerns raised, Croydon has significant housing pressures to provide enough new homes both for existing local communities, and those moving into the borough. That is why Croydon Council has supported substantial developments right across the borough. The criteria for designation of Metropolitan Open Land are set by the Conservative Mayor of London in his London Plan. Croydon Council is required by both the government and the Mayor of London to agree a Local Plan that adheres to the National Planning Framework and the Mayor of London's London Plan.

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In response to your specific question, since April 2013 to December 2015, £125,081 has been spent on the Croydon Local Plan: Strategic Policies - Partial Review and Croydon Local Plan: Detailed Policies and Proposals.

From Mrs Patricia Mohabir

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration & Planning

Question No.

PQ023-16

Who decided to designate MOL sites for building homes and travellers sites, opposed to utilising Brown field sites throughout the borough? Where do they live?

Reply

Thank you for your question. Whilst I understand the concerns raised, Croydon has significant housing pressures to provide enough new homes both for existing local communities, and those moving into the borough. That is why Croydon Council has supported substantial developments right across the borough. The criteria for designation of Metropolitan Open Land are set by the Conservative Mayor of London in his London Plan. Croydon Council is required by both the government and the Mayor of London to agree a Local Plan that adheres to the National Planning Framework and the Mayor of London's London Plan.

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In response to your specific question, the Council has considered all brown field sites across the Borough before going to consultation.

From Mr Phillip Bocarro

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration & Planning

Question No.

PQ024-16

Will the Cabinet member explain why MOL within Shirley Oaks village is now deemed not worthy of that status and who decided it wasn't ?

Reply

Thank you for your question. Whilst I understand the concerns raised, Croydon has significant housing pressures to provide enough new homes both for existing local communities, and those moving into the borough. That is why Croydon Council has supported substantial developments right across the borough. The criteria for designation of Metropolitan Open Land are set by the Conservative Mayor of London in his London Plan. Croydon Council is required by both the government and the Mayor of London to agree a Local Plan that adheres to the National Planning Framework and the Mayor of London's London Plan.

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From Miss Jacqueline Joyce

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration & Planning

Question No.

PQ025-16

Why are the council proposing to build on land which has suffered Flooding in the past, and will Council tax payers have to foot the bill for potential law suits from homeowners if this happens if proposed plans go ahead?

Reply

The flood risk of all sites (either Local Plan or planning application) will be assessed as part of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. Each site will be subject to the Sequential Test approach which will ensure that development takes place on sites with the lowest risk of flooding. If a site which is at risk of flooding is required, the Exception Test will be applied. The Exception Test will ensure that the proposed development is appropriate for the risk of flooding. It will also ensure that the development provides wider sustainability benefits that outweigh the flood risk and that the development will be safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere.

From Mr John Booroff

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration & Planning

Question No.

PQ026-16

Why did the consultation proposals for the Croydon Local Plan for Shirley Oaks Village refer to the sites as 'land east of or west of ' etc. and not as 'Shirley Oaks Village'?

Reply

Allocations within the Croydon Local Plan: Detailed Policies and Proposals (Preferred and Alternative Options) were all titled to make allocation identification clear. This also aids the Spatial Planning Service's consideration of any representations received on particular allocations.

From Mrs Jan Abbott

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration & Planning

Question No.

PQ027-16

Why does the draft local plan recommend the removal of Metropolitan Open Land status for many of the green spaces so much enjoyed by residents of Shirley Oaks Village?

Reply

Thank you for your question. Whilst I understand the concerns raised, Croydon has significant housing pressures to provide enough new homes both for existing local communities, and those moving into the borough. That is why Croydon Council has supported substantial developments right across the borough. The criteria for designation of Metropolitan Open Land are set by the Conservative Mayor of London in his London Plan. Croydon Council is required by both the government and the Mayor of London to agree a Local Plan that adheres to the National Planning Framework and the Mayor of London's London Plan.

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From Mr Malcolm Holmes

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration & Planning

Question No.

PQ028-16

Will the Cabinet member explain why MOL within Shirley Oaks village is now deemed not worthy of that status and who decided it wasn't? Also the residents were contacted regarding the position of green waste by letter but not the planning proposal.

Reply

Thank you for your question. Whilst I understand the concerns raised, Croydon has significant housing pressures to provide enough new homes both for existing local communities, and those moving into the borough. That is why Croydon Council has supported substantial developments right across the borough. The criteria for designation of Metropolitan Open Land are set by the Conservative Mayor of London in his London Plan. Croydon Council is required by both the government and the Mayor of London to agree a Local Plan that adheres to the National Planning Framework and the Mayor of London's London Plan.

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To respond to your specific question, the consultation process is largely set out by the Government and the Council has both followed and exceeded their consultation requirements. The consultation process has included:

- Letter/email to all those on LDF (Local Plan) database
- Letter/email to Residents' Associations inviting them to the events
- On the Council's website and on the Local Plan webpages
- On the Council's Get Involved Platform
- On the Council's Streetlife and Twitter account
- Poster in each of the borough's libraries
- Local Member notification
- Site notices for all site allocations
- Press notice in the Croydon Guardian
- Through a press release

From Dr Frederick Banjo

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration & Planning

Question No.

PQ029-16

Please confirm number of responses received in response to the local plan consultation opposing the removal of MOL status from land in Shirley Oaks Village ?

Reply

The exact number of individual responses and to what they relate has not been established as the Spatial Planning Service are in the process of recording them onto the Consultation database, but it is estimated that approximately 7,000 responses have been received; however, some of these may be duplicates as some individuals have sent copies of letters by email as well as post.

From Ms Karen Fletcher

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration & Planning

Question No.

PQ030-16

Why are the council planning to allow housing to be built on a flood plain in Shirley Oaks Village when other parts of the country are struggling with floods?

Reply

In terms of flooding the current Environment Agency (EA) online maps indicate that Shirley Oaks and the surrounding area are not at risk of flooding. However further consultation will be undertaken with the EA to ascertain risk of flooding and any required mitigation measures if this site is taken forward on a proposed site allocation. In addition, the Council is taking account of the outcome of the recent consultation and the borough's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.

From Mr Peter Robinson

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration & Planning

Question No.

PQ031-16

Will the Cabinet member explain why the Metropolitan Open Land within Shirley Oaks Village is now deemed not worthy of that status, and who decided it wasn't?

Reply

Thank you for your question. Whilst I understand the concerns raised, Croydon has significant housing pressures to provide enough new homes both for existing local communities, and those moving into the borough. That is why Croydon Council has supported substantial developments right across the borough. The criteria for designation of Metropolitan Open Land are set by the Conservative Mayor of London in his London Plan. Croydon Council is required by both the government and the Mayor of London to agree a Local Plan that adheres to the National Planning Framework and the Mayor of London's London Plan.

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From Mrs Jean Reynolds

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration & Planning

Question No.

PQ032-16

Will the Cabinet member explain why MOL within Shirley Oaks village is now deemed not worthy of that status and who decided it wasn't? Why was no research done prior to ascertain that the green areas are owned by Shirley Oaks management Ltd and are also protected by Section 52?

Reply

Thank you for your question. Whilst I understand the concerns raised, Croydon has significant housing pressures to provide enough new homes both for existing local communities, and those moving into the borough. That is why Croydon Council has supported substantial developments right across the borough. The criteria for designation of Metropolitan Open Land are set by the Conservative Mayor of London in his London Plan. Croydon Council is required by both the government and the Mayor of London to agree a Local Plan that adheres to the National Planning Framework and the Mayor of London's London Plan.

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From Mr Derek Reynolds

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration & Planning

Question No.

PQ033-16

Will the cabinet member explain why the land to the east of Shirley Oaks Road (ref 541) has been de-designated from MOL despite the fact that area contains the only Synagogue in Croydon whose land status must surely be preserved?

Reply

Thank you for your question. Whilst I understand the concerns raised, Croydon has significant housing pressures to provide enough new homes both for existing local communities, and those moving into the borough. That is why Croydon Council has supported substantial developments right across the borough. The criteria for designation of Metropolitan Open Land are set by the Conservative Mayor of London in his London Plan. Croydon Council is required by both the government and the Mayor of London to agree a Local Plan that adheres to the National Planning Framework and the Mayor of London's London Plan.

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In response to your specific question, as the synagogue is recognised as an important community facility it would be respected as such under existing planning guidance.

From Mr Ian Paterson

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration & Planning

Question No.

PQ034-16

Councillor Alison Butler what is the logic behind why the MOL status within Shirley Oaks is to be removed? When 3 of the areas for proposed house building belong to the residents as shareholders and ref 548 is liable to flooding.

Reply

Thank you for your question. Whilst I understand the concerns raised, Croydon has significant housing pressures to provide enough new homes both for existing local communities, and those moving into the borough. That is why Croydon Council has supported substantial developments right across the borough. The criteria for designation of Metropolitan Open Land are set by the Conservative Mayor of London in his London Plan. Croydon Council is required by both the government and the Mayor of London to agree a Local Plan that adheres to the National Planning Framework and the Mayor of London's London Plan.

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From Mr Colin Weaving

Councillor Mark Watson

Cabinet Member for Communities, Safety & Justice.

Question No.

PQ035-16

Recently premises have been prosecuted for infestation. We can assume that they didn't place the problem in their business. So they must be council residents. What does the council intend to do about the rodent problem?

Reply

Food premises are inspected regularly to ensure the safety of customers and only those that are found to have significant issues which would affect the safe preparation, storage or sale of food are prosecuted. It is the premises' owner or manager's responsibility to ensure that their business complies with regulations relating to cleanliness, pest infestations, management practices and the condition of the premises itself and all equipment used in the food processing. Pests are attracted to premises if there is a ready food supply, therefore the premises must be kept scrupulously clean and ingredients stored correctly to avoid an infestation in the first place. A pest control contract should be in place so that any pests are dealt with immediately, before a full infestation takes hold, and the premises must be kept in good repair to prevent rodents gaining entry. It is deficiencies in these areas that could lead to prosecution. If officers find a pest infestation which has possibly arisen because of issues in neighbouring properties, the food premises are clean and the premises owner can show that they are taking steps to remedy the situation, the infestation in all properties, including residential ones, is dealt with appropriately and prosecution is unlikely.

Regarding rodents in general, it is the property owner or occupier's responsibility to ensure that their premises are free from rats or mice but officers do have enforcement powers if there is an infestation which is affecting other properties and no action is being taken by the responsible person.

From Mr Annal Mohabir

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration and Planning

Question No.

PQ036-16

What is the rationale for isolating these de-restrictions of MOL and proposed developments almost entirely in the Shirley area?

Reply

Thank you for your question. Whilst I understand the concerns raised, Croydon has significant housing pressures to provide enough new homes both for existing local communities, and those moving into the borough. That is why Croydon Council has supported substantial developments right across the borough. The criteria for designation of Metropolitan Open Land are set by the Conservative Mayor of London in his London Plan. Croydon Council is required by both the government and the Mayor of London to agree a Local Plan that adheres to the National Planning Framework and the Mayor of London's London Plan.

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From Mr Shasha Khan

Councillor Timothy Godfrey

Cabinet Member for culture, Leisure and Sport

Question No.

PQ037-16

If the Football Supporters Federation started a 'Keep league matches on Saturday afternoons' campaign in support of children who can't get to watch football games on Monday nights, and of course other groups, would this council back such a campaign?

Reply

The Council is supportive of making football and other sports accessible and affordable to all supporters particularly for young people.

As a result of the commercial issues that professional football has including those from TV to meet their broadcasting requirements the trend has been to have some weekday matches particularly on a Monday.

Saturday afternoons is the traditional time for football matches as it enables supporters to attend with friends, as family groups and as part of the Football Community.

Costs of attending matches is also a key issue for supporters and the Council welcomes initiatives by football clubs including its home Club Crystal Palace FC to reduce ticket prices and increase access to groups including young people

The Council is also supportive of local clubs such as Croydon FC and Croydon Athletic FC and would support initiatives to increase attendances by local football followers.

From Mr Graham Murphy

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration and Planning

Question No.

PQ038-16

Shirley Oaks village is a heavy clay area and the greens, some surrounding gardens and Shirley Oaks hospital are prone to flooding. What protection and guarantee would Croydon council and the government give to Shirley Oaks residents against even more flooding should the planning go ahead?

Reply

In terms of flooding the current Environment Agency (EA) online maps indicate that Shirley Oaks and the surrounding area are not at risk of flooding. However further consultation will be undertaken with the EA to ascertain risk of flooding and any required mitigation measures if this site is taken forward on a proposed site allocation. In addition, the Council is taking account of the outcome of the recent consultation and the borough's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.

From Mrs Karen Cawley

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration and Planning

Question No.

PQ039-16

Does the Councillor believe it would be reasonable to allow up to 751 homes to be built on land that is currently protected by Metropolitan Open Land status in Shirley Oaks Village?

Reply

Thank you for your question. Whilst I understand the concerns raised, Croydon has significant housing pressures to provide enough new homes both for existing local communities, and those moving into the borough. That is why Croydon Council has supported substantial developments right across the borough. The criteria for designation of Metropolitan Open Land are set by the Conservative Mayor of London in his London Plan. Croydon Council is required by both the government and the Mayor of London to agree a Local Plan that adheres to the National Planning Framework and the Mayor of London's London Plan.

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From Mr Barry Cawley

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration and Planning

Question No.

PQ040-16

Will the Cabinet member explain why MOL within Shirley Oaks village is now deemed not worthy of that status and who decided it wasn't?

Reply

Thank you for your question. Whilst I understand the concerns raised, Croydon has significant housing pressures to provide enough new homes both for existing local communities, and those moving into the borough. That is why Croydon Council has supported substantial developments right across the borough. The criteria for designation of Metropolitan Open Land are set by the Conservative Mayor of London in his London Plan. Croydon Council is required by both the government and the Mayor of London to agree a Local Plan that adheres to the National Planning Framework and the Mayor of London's London Plan.

The Croydon Local Plan consulted on the de-designation of MOL around Shirley Oaks. The area of MOL to the south of Shirley Oaks Hospital and surrounding the Shirley Oaks development was proposed for de-designation as it does not meet any of the criteria for designation as MOL (set out in Policy 7.17 of the Mayor's London Plan) because:

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From Mr Alasdair James

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration and Planning

Question No.

PQ041-16

Will the Cabinet member explain the environmental and sustainability considerations in seeking to de-designate the land around Shirley Oaks Village from Metropolitan Open Land and how many responses have been received in relation to this proposal? Can they give an indication of the likelihood of the proposal going ahead?

Reply

Thank you for your question. Whilst I understand the concerns raised, Croydon has significant housing pressures to provide enough new homes both for existing local communities, and those moving into the borough. That is why Croydon Council has supported substantial developments right across the borough. The criteria for designation of Metropolitan Open Land are set by the Conservative Mayor of London in his London Plan. Croydon Council is required by both the government and the Mayor of London to agree a Local Plan that adheres to the National Planning Framework and the Mayor of London's London Plan.

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In response to your specific question, the exact number of individual responses and what they relate to has not been established as the spatial planning service is in the process of recording them.

From Mr N Patel

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration and Planning

Question No.

PQ042-16

Are you aware that the land mentioned in the proposal around Shirley oaks village :- reference no's 541,542 ,548 is owned by Shirley oaks management Ltd ?
As such this land should remain as MOL or designated as Local Green Space

Reply

Thank you for your question. Whilst I understand the concerns raised, Croydon has significant housing pressures to provide enough new homes both for existing local communities, and those moving into the borough. That is why Croydon Council has supported substantial developments right across the borough. The criteria for designation of Metropolitan Open Land are set by the Conservative Mayor of London in his London Plan. Croydon Council is required by both the government and the Mayor of London to agree a Local Plan that adheres to the National Planning Framework and the Mayor of London's London Plan.

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From Mrs G Patel

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration and Planning

Question No.

PQ043-16

Will the Cabinet member explain why MOL within Shirley Oaks village is now deemed not worthy of that status and who decided it wasn't? It should be therefore be re-designated as Local green space for use of local residents.

Reply

Thank you for your question. Whilst I understand the concerns raised, Croydon has significant housing pressures to provide enough new homes both for existing local communities, and those moving into the borough. That is why Croydon Council has supported substantial developments right across the borough. The criteria for designation of Metropolitan Open Land are set by the Conservative Mayor of London in his London Plan. Croydon Council is required by both the government and the Mayor of London to agree a Local Plan that adheres to the National Planning Framework and the Mayor of London's London Plan.

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From Mr Mark Thomas

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration and Planning

Question No.

PQ044-16

Would the Cabinet Member explain why Metropolitan Open Land in Shirley Oaks village has been singled out for loss of that status and who decided this should be the case?

Reply

Thank you for your question. Whilst I understand the concerns raised, Croydon has significant housing pressures to provide enough new homes both for existing local communities, and those moving into the borough. That is why Croydon Council has supported substantial developments right across the borough. The criteria for designation of Metropolitan Open Land are set by the Conservative Mayor of London in his London Plan. Croydon Council is required by both the government and the Mayor of London to agree a Local Plan that adheres to the National Planning Framework and the Mayor of London's London Plan.

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From Mr David Scott

Councillor Simon Hall

Cabinet Member for Finance and Treasury

Question No.

PQ045-16

I have a very simple question

When writing to various council officials asking them to substantiate a claim they may have made or asking them for an answer I get absolutely no response. Why?

Are they above justifying themselves?

Reply

This administration is committed to serving to residents and responding to residents and this Council does this, day in, day out.

If there are specific instances of non-response, Mr Scott should feel free to provide me with details.

From Mr Jason Burke

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration and Planning

Question No.

PQ046-16

Will the Cabinet member explain why it would be reasonable to allow the building of up to 751 homes on land that is currently protected by Metropolitan Open Land status in Shirley Oaks Village?

Reply

Thank you for your question. Whilst I understand the concerns raised, Croydon has significant housing pressures to provide enough new homes both for existing local communities, and those moving into the borough. That is why Croydon Council has supported substantial developments right across the borough. The criteria for designation of Metropolitan Open Land are set by the Conservative Mayor of London in his London Plan. Croydon Council is required by both the government and the Mayor of London to agree a Local Plan that adheres to the National Planning Framework and the Mayor of London's London Plan.

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From Mrs Christine Wells

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration and Planning

Question No.

PQ047-16

Does the Council understand the detrimental effects the building of 750 new homes in Shirley Oaks Village would have aesthetically, environmentally and socially on local residents?

Reply

Thank you for your question. Whilst I understand the concerns raised, Croydon has significant housing pressures to provide enough new homes both for existing local communities, and those moving into the borough. That is why Croydon Council has supported substantial developments right across the borough. The criteria for designation of Metropolitan Open Land are set by the Conservative Mayor of London in his London Plan. Croydon Council is required by both the government and the Mayor of London to agree a Local Plan that adheres to the National Planning Framework and the Mayor of London's London Plan.

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From Miss Amy Pollard

Councillor Timothy Godfrey

Cabinet Member for Culture, Sport & Leisure

Question No.

PQ048-16

Has the Council estimated how much revenue will be lost from ticket sales over the two or more year period that they are closing Fairfield Halls?

Reply

I am delighted that this Council is guaranteeing the future of the Fairfield Halls for the next 50 years.

Any substantial refurbishment of a large building will obviously have a significant cost in lost revenue. This is why undertaking the refurbishment in as small a time window as possible is important as it enables the Fairfield to benefit from the refurbishment as soon as possible. It also has the added incentive of being better value for Croydon Council Tax Payers who can be assured that as much money as possible will be spent on the refurbishment and not on operating subsidy and increased costs by undertaking the refurbishment over many years.

The Council is and will continue dialogue with Fairfield (Croydon) Ltd on the transition plan for the operation of the Halls. The Council is also working with Fairfield (Croydon) Ltd and other partners on a programme of activity over the 2 year closure period to ensure there is continuity in cultural programming and offer in the borough. This includes building on the successful Ambition music festival which was held in July 2015. While the Halls currently operate at a net cost to the council, we are confident that with the right offer and programme over the next 2 years, we can re-open the venue to attract both existing and new audiences and be financially sustainable into the future.

From Mr Alexander Arbisman

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration & Planning

Question No.

PQ049-16

Regarding Local Plan Proposals; 541, 542 and 548 in Shirley Oaks: Were the authors aware, BEFORE PUBLISHING the suggested Plans that those particular sites are ultimately jointly owned by the 488 Village Freeholders and that Covenants including a SECTION 52 are in place that stop any developments on those lands?

Reply

Thank you for your question. Whilst I understand the concerns raised, Croydon has significant housing pressures to provide enough new homes both for existing local communities, and those moving into the borough. That is why Croydon Council has supported substantial developments right across the borough. The criteria for designation of Metropolitan Open Land are set by the Conservative Mayor of London in his London Plan. Croydon Council is required by both the government and the Mayor of London to agree a Local Plan that adheres to the National Planning Framework and the Mayor of London's London Plan.

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From Mr John Tenten

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration & Planning

Question No.

PQ050-16

What was the criteria the council used when selecting the land for redeveloping, weren't environmental issues such as high water tables considered?

Reply

Thank you for your question. Whilst I understand the concerns raised, Croydon has significant housing pressures to provide enough new homes both for existing local communities, and those moving into the borough. That is why Croydon Council has supported substantial developments right across the borough. The criteria for designation of Metropolitan Open Land are set by the Conservative Mayor of London in his London Plan. Croydon Council is required by both the government and the Mayor of London to agree a Local Plan that adheres to the National Planning Framework and the Mayor of London's London Plan.

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In terms of flooding the current Environment Agency (EA) online maps indicate that Shirley Oaks and the surrounding area are not at risk of flooding. However further consultation will be undertaken with the EA to ascertain risk of flooding and any required mitigation measures if this site is taken forward on a proposed site allocation. In addition, the Council is taking account of the outcome of the recent consultation and the borough's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.

From Mrs Pauline Whalley

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration & Planning

Question No.

PQ051-16

Could Councillor Alison Butler please explain why the MOL status of open space in Shirley Oaks village is recommended for removal in the draft local plan?

Reply

Whilst I understand the concerns raised, Croydon has significant housing pressures to provide enough new homes both for existing local communities, and those moving into the borough. That is why Croydon Council has supported substantial developments across the borough. As a Council we have a responsibility to ensure the supply of new homes is fairly distributed across the borough. The criteria for designation of Metropolitan Open Land is set by the Conservative Mayor of London in his London Plan. Croydon Council is required by both the government and the Mayor of London to agree a Local Plan that adheres to the National Planning Framework and the Mayor of London's London Plan.

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Partial Review and Croydon Local Plan: Detailed Policies and Proposals (Preferred and Alternative Options) consultation log will be considered alongside these Local Plans. No decision has currently been reached.

As you are aware, the Croydon Local Plan consulted on the de-designation of MOL around Shirley Oaks.

The area of MOL to the south of Shirley Oaks Hospital and surrounding the Shirley Oaks development was proposed for de-designation as it does not meet any of the criteria for designation as MOL (set out in Policy 7.17 of the London Plan) because:

1. It does not contribute to the green physical structure of London by being clearly distinguishable from the built up area because it is separated from the wider open area of Ashburton Playing Fields, South Norwood Country Park and Beckenham Cemetery by Shirley Oaks Hospital.
2. It does not include open air facilities which serve either the whole or significant parts of London; and
3. It does not contain features or landscapes of either national or metropolitan value.

From Miss Olivia Garner

Councillor Toni Letts

Cabinet Member for Economy & jobs

Question No.

PQ052-16

What does the Council expect will take the place of the large Tiger Tiger club since it announced its closure considering the steady rate of decline in Croydon's nightlife in recent years?

Reply

The Council has had no information from the building owners as to prospective occupiers of the premises formerly occupied by Tiger Tiger, however as and when a new occupier comes forward council officers will work with them regarding any licensing, planning or economic development issues that may need to be addressed.

Whilst a number of nightclubs have indeed closed in recent years the Council welcomes the new 'evening economy' that has emerged and is set to grow in the years ahead as various developments come forward. This will make the town centre a more appealing proposition for a wider range of groups from across the borough and beyond.

From Mrs Margaret West

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration and Planning

Question No.

PQ053-16

How much research has gone into selecting the land to build on in Shirley Oaks Village (if any). At the planning meeting I was told that they did not know the land was owned by the residents of the Village (true or false). How much thought has gone into traffic control.

Reply

Thank you for your question. Whilst I understand the concerns raised, Croydon has significant housing pressures to provide enough new homes both for existing local communities, and those moving into the borough. That is why Croydon Council has supported substantial developments right across the borough. The criteria for designation of Metropolitan Open Land are set by the Conservative Mayor of London in his London Plan. Croydon Council is required by both the government and the Mayor of London to agree a Local Plan that adheres to the National Planning Framework and the Mayor of London's London Plan.

The Croydon Local Plan consulted on the de-designation of MOL around Shirley Oaks. The area of MOL to the south of Shirley Oaks Hospital and surrounding the Shirley Oaks development was proposed for de-designation as it does not meet any of the criteria for designation as MOL (set out in Policy 7.17 of the Mayor's London Plan) because:

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A key purpose of the Local Plan is to ensure all land is correctly designated across the borough. In terms of site allocations, the willingness of the landowner to make a site available for development is an important factor when concluding whether to allocate land. It should be noted that proposals that follow designations in the Local Plan will be subject to planning applications.

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From Mr C Johnson

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration and Planning

Question No.

PQ054-16

The council has received legal opinion which establishes that the open land on and around the Shirley Oaks Village Estate meets the criteria for Metropolitan Open Land. Will it concede that it would improper to attempt to de-designate this land and now remove it from its ongoing consultation?

Reply

Thank you for your question. Whilst I understand the concerns raised, Croydon has significant housing pressures to provide enough new homes both for existing local communities, and those moving into the borough. That is why Croydon Council has supported substantial developments right across the borough. The criteria for designation of Metropolitan Open Land are set by the Conservative Mayor of London in his London Plan. Croydon Council is required by both the government and the Mayor of London to agree a Local Plan that adheres to the National Planning Framework and the Mayor of London's London Plan.

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From Mr Mark Samuel

Councillor Tony Newman

Leader of the Council

Question No.

PQ055-16

What is the leader doing to get the people and businesses of Croydon through the ongoing financial crisis and enable our Council's ability to provide statutory services? Increase council tax or reduce councillors' allowance?

Reply

I thank Mr Samuel for his question.

The cuts imposed by the present Conservative Government have indeed made it extremely difficult for local authorities to fund provision of a range of services that are lifelines for many people.

Here in Croydon this Labour Administration has ensured continued delivery of vital services for local people through prudent financial management and embracing the use of digital technology to deliver improved services with less staff.

We are delighted that our approach has enabled us to keep Council Tax frozen along with member's allowances.

I would add that being a business friendly Administration we work very closely with businesses of all sizes to ensure that Croydon is a great place for business and I am very pleased that since the last Council meeting Body Shop have announced a commitment to locating their headquarters in Croydon.

From Miss Heidi Costello

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration and Planning

Question No.

PQ056-16

Does the Councillor believe it would be reasonable to allow up to 751 homes to be built on land that is currently protected by Metropolitan Open Land status in Shirley Oaks Village?

Reply

Thank you for your question. Whilst I understand the concerns raised, Croydon has significant housing pressures to provide enough new homes both for existing local communities, and those moving into the borough. That is why Croydon Council has supported substantial developments right across the borough. The criteria for designation of Metropolitan Open Land are set by the Conservative Mayor of London in his London Plan. Croydon Council is required by both the government and the Mayor of London to agree a Local Plan that adheres to the National Planning Framework and the Mayor of London's London Plan.

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From Mr Tom Downes

Councillor Simon Hall

Cabinet Member for Finance and Treasury

Question No.

PQ057-16

Please detail the number of electors registered for local council elections in each ward as of

- a) November 2015
- b) December 2015

Reply

By law we have to publish a revised register on 1 December in each year. As part of the process we have a duty to conduct an electoral registration canvass to ensure all eligible electors are included in the register. Prior to publication and as directed in law we do not publish a monthly notice of alteration to the register for the months of October and November and therefore do not have the electorate figures as requested for November. However please see the attached table for the published local government electorate as at 1 December 2015 and the figures for the September 2015 register (the last register prior to the completion of the new register).

Ward	September 2015 Electorate	December 2015 Electorate
Addiscombe	10747	11190
Ashburton	10638	10484
Bensham Manor	10179	10537
Broad Green	11636	12066
Coulsdon East	9467	9359
Coulsdon West	10307	10138
Croham	10685	10805
Fairfield	11304	11932
Fieldway	7061	7086
Heathfield	9932	9770
Kenley	10732	10744
New Addington	7302	7155
Norbury	10625	10863
Purley	10608	10654
Sanderstead	9823	9769
Selhurst	10896	11342
Selsdon and Ballards	9328	9245
Shirley	10682	10573
South Norwood	10870	11128
Thornton Heath	10252	10522
Upper Norwood	10761	10921
Waddon	11169	11370
West Thornton	10918	11005
Woodside	10709	10775
Electorate Total	246631	249,433

From Mr Steven Downes

Councillor Tony Newman

Leader of the Council

Question No.

PQ058-16

At the last full meeting of the council, two councillors were observed, for almost 10 minutes, watching live football on a tablet device during a debate.

What disciplinary action has been taken by the council or their party group?

Reply

I thank Mr Downes for his question.

I can confirm that both Councillors involved in the incident to which he refers have apologised publically and have also apologised personally to Madam Mayor, who has graciously accepted their apology.

From Ms Susan Glinska

Councillor Tony Newman

Leader of the Council

Question No.

PQ059-16

Please provide the attendance record for each councillor at council and council committee and sub-committee meetings (where they are members of those committees), since the last local election in May 2014. Please explain why Croydon Council, unlike many other local authorities, does not publish this information on its website.

Reply

I thank Ms Glinska for her question and agree that this information should be available on the website. I have asked officers to put this in action.

In the meantime, as there are seventy pages of information, I have asked that this be sent to you direct in addition to being published on the Council's website.

From Mr Peter Docherty

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration and Planning

Question No.

PQ060-16

Why does the draft local plan recommend the removal of Metropolitan Open Land status for many of the green spaces so much enjoyed by residents of Shirley Oaks Village?

Reply

Thank you for your question. Whilst I understand the concerns raised, Croydon has significant housing pressures to provide enough new homes both for existing local communities, and those moving into the borough. That is why Croydon Council has supported substantial developments right across the borough. The criteria for designation of Metropolitan Open Land are set by the Conservative Mayor of London in his London Plan. Croydon Council is required by both the government and the Mayor of London to agree a Local Plan that adheres to the National Planning Framework and the Mayor of London's London Plan.

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