

Latest News – Regeneration

Mayor of London visit



It was good to welcome the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan to his first visit to the borough since becoming the Mayor. Sadiq praised the council's leading role in the exciting regeneration going on in Croydon

From the Fairfield Halls revamp to the growing TMRW tech hub and the forthcoming Boxpark restaurant and bar complex, the tour on 1 September was a chance for Mayor Khan to see first-hand how several of the town centre's major projects are regenerating the borough.

Mr Khan said he saw Croydon's future as a centre for regeneration, culture, and technology, and said he was impressed with the council's leadership on driving forward growth across the whole borough.

The itinerary took in an overview of Croydon Council's multi-million-pound plans for a new cultural quarter with a revamped Fairfield Halls, new Croydon College campus buildings and

market-rate and affordable housing, plus an advance look at the Boxpark site before it opens later this year next to East Croydon station.

The tour ended with a visit to TMRW, the tech hub and café based in council-owned office building Davis House that was launched in May to encourage even more entrepreneurs to join over 1,000 technology start-ups already based in the borough.

Mr Khan said Croydon had a great team and that he was excited about the plans for Boxpark, TMRW and Fairfield Halls and working with businesses, Croydon College and start-ups.

He said: "I think Croydon is a hub for tech, for culture, for development, and it is one of the hidden gems of our great city, and I'm looking forward to Croydon flourishing and thriving."

I took the opportunity to discuss with both Sadiq and James Murray, the Deputy Mayor for Housing, Croydon's plans to deliver affordable housing and how we can work together to help tackle Croydon's housing need.

Local Plan consultation

The Croydon Local Plan: Strategic Policies – Partial Review (Proposed Submission) and the Croydon Local Plan: Detailed Policies and Proposals (Proposed Submission) have been published and are available for comment between **5 September and 17 October 2016**.

The Croydon Local Plan directs and sets the vision for future development and growth of the borough and it includes planning policy on housing, economy, community facilities, infrastructure, environment, character, heritage and securing good design.

The Proposed Submission Plan is the final version of the plan that the local authority considers is ready to submit for examination by an independent planning inspector appointed by the Secretary of State. Before the plan can be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for examination, the plan and supporting documents must be published by the local planning authority for representations. This provides a formal opportunity for the local community and other interested parties to consider the Proposed Submission version of the Plan. Resident and stakeholder opinions are important so the Plan can take into account the views of the community and all duly made representations will be considered by the independent Planning Inspector at examination.

The Croydon Local Plan documents are available to view at the borough's libraries, Bernard Weatherill House (Access Croydon) and on the Council's website:

www.croydon.gov.uk/localplanone and www.croydon.gov.uk/localplantwo. Details on how to make a representation can be found in the Croydon Local Plan documents, via the web links referred to and representations should be received no later than **17 October 2016**. Any queries regarding the Local Plan should be directed to ldf@croydon.gov.uk

Clr Alison Butler - Homes and Regeneration

Oct 2016

Ashburton Old Library

The council is now progressing with its work to regenerate the old library building within Ashburton Park. We want to see this well-loved and historic building rejuvenated and brought back into public use, to support the creation of a cultural and community hub in the park.



So far we've started essential repairs to make the building water tight and started to clear the building of hazardous material. Following a period of consultation we are now preparing a formal planning application to take to planning committee in the autumn. This application includes plans to invest an estimated £1m into the building, fully restoring it so we are ready to offer the space to businesses and the community next year. As such we are now looking for businesses, voluntary and community groups to manage and make the best use of the building, to bring it back to life for local people and users of the park. For more details and for access to the tender documentation please go to: www.croydon.gov.uk/opportunity. All tender submissions must be received by midday 11 November 2016.

Portland Road, South Norwood Free-Rent Pop Up Shops

As part of the council's wider investment plans to reinvigorate shops and businesses around South Norwood. Croydon Council is offering free shop space in Portland Road, to entrepreneurs, artists or local community groups with good ideas for a new enterprise.

CLlr Alison Butler - Homes and Regeneration

Oct 2016

A competition was opened in August 2016 where over 50 entries were submitted in response to the rent-free refurbished shop, a key part of the council's overall investment to regenerate and boost business in the area around South Norwood High Street.

Three new businesses have won the council-run competition and will be located at the shops at 10, 14 and 16 Portland Road, chosen from a shortlist of 12 by a panel including councillors Paul Scott and Mark Watson.

The successful bids focused on art, gallery and fashion, and once work is completed renovating the shops the budding entrepreneurs will benefit not only from free rent, but also business support from the council's economic regeneration team.

The scheme has been developed in partnership with the owner of the three shops. Refurbishment and fit out works are due to start in October and the units will be completed in time for the new businesses to start trading by the beginning of December.

New community and leisure centre for New Addington

Plans to bring a £17m community and leisure centre and new housing to New Addington were given the go ahead by Croydon's planning committee on Thursday 18 August.

The committee gave unanimous support to the plans, which will radically transform the western side of Central Parade, with work due to start in the New Year.

The new multi-level site will provide community spaces, state-of-the-art sports facilities and eight new family homes.

The plans underline the council's commitment to provide new leisure and community facilities for the people of New Addington. The centre will offer flexible spaces that appeal to, and can be used and enjoyed by, all sectors of the community and the plans will also provide some much needed homes.

The community centre will feature two multi-purpose halls, a café, meeting rooms, offices and dressing rooms, and there is the option of licence applications for booked events. A demountable stage will be available for community shows and the annual pantomime.

The new leisure centre will have a 25-metre, six-lane main swimming pool, including a learning pool and spectator seating. Other facilities will include a café, fitness suite, sport hall, crèche and studios. The council's Connected Croydon street improvement project, completed on Friday 26 August, will also bring £1m of upgrades to Central Parade.

Taberner House

Award-winning residential developer HUB has been appointed to regenerate Croydon's Taberner House site.

Specialising in building homes for families and young professionals in the capital, the London-based company will aim to create a 500-unit development, and is also tasked with giving The Queen's Gardens a new lease of life.

The scheme will include a mix of housing for sale and rent, including at least 30% affordable, which will sit above 13,000 sq.ft. of employment and commercial space at the Park Lane site, in central Croydon. Recently scooping a Resi award for small developer of the year, HUB is renowned for delivering sustainable, low energy homes and for its commitment to engaging with local communities. They are set to work alongside Sterling Prize-winning architects AHMM to draw up new plans for the scheme, and, subject to planning approval, construction will start next year.

I am delighted to be welcoming HUB to Croydon. They come with an impressive reputation for great design, sustainability, and working with local communities. As well as bringing a fresh and exciting approach to residential building in the town centre, and providing much-needed quality homes that are within reach of local people, they'll be revitalising the Queen's Gardens and looking at ways the community can be involved in this precious green space

Brick by Brick

As previously reported the council has established a development company, Brick by Brick. It aims to deliver high quality new residential-led development on a range of sites across the borough. It is a private, independent company. The Council is the sole shareholder, meaning all development profit is returned to the Council and recycled to fund Council activities.

The programme is already underway and a variety of award-winning architecture practices are working up planning applications to be submitted from October onwards. Current proposals deliver more than 1000 new homes across the borough by 2019. In many cases, the developments will be complemented by new, fit-for-purpose community facilities.

The programme for community engagement is now well underway and a large number of local residents living near proposed sites for new homes will have been notified of upcoming events. These sessions are being arranged by Newman Francis, a community engagement specialist, on behalf of Brick by Brick. The sessions will allow local residents, businesses and stakeholders to engage with proposals for the site and help to shape the future development.

One of the greatest challenges for Croydon, along with the rest of London, is the provision of new, affordable homes. The borough's population is rising and it is clear that 'business as

CLr Alison Butler - Homes and Regeneration

Oct 2016

usual' is not an option. The aim of Brick by Brick is to ensure that people in Croydon have access to high quality housing and that the full value of development growth is kept in the borough - whether it is in the form of additional affordable housing, physical improvements in local areas or dividend return to the Council to fund Council services.

The Brick by Brick programme runs alongside the Council's plans for developments at College Green and the Taberner House site which together have the potential to deliver around 2000 new housing units. The council also has plans for significant investment in cultural, community and leisure facilities across the borough including a £30m investment in Fairfield Halls and a new leisure centre at New Addington.

This initiative shows our commitment to building and improving homes across the borough. Brick by Brick is an innovative way of ensuring that our housing supply meets our housing need, and it will help us to make better places to live for our residents.

Latest News - Homes

Fall in temporary accommodation (TA)

| | Jan | Feb | March | April | May | June | July | Aug |
|------------------------------------|------|------|-------|-------|------|------|------|------|
| Numbers in temporary accommodation | 3137 | 3156 | 2918 | 2862 | 2943 | 2729 | 2621 | 2609 |

From January this year we have seen a 17% reduction in our overall numbers. The number of households in TA as of end of August is 2609 – a continued reduction on end of March position and on same month last year. From January of this year we have seen an overall 17% reduction of households in temporary accommodation

The main reason for reduction is conversion of own stock from events we have held this for long standing households with clear rent account in council owned TA and we are now down to 803 in Council TA stock so it has reduced by over 500 since October last year.

We still have a large number of households in emergency accommodation and it is part of our strategy to reduce this number significantly and move to a cost neutral temporary accommodation portfolio.

Clean-up days

Over the past 6 months local residents from our estates in different areas have worked together with their local Neighbourhood inspector and other council officers to improve places that have been fly-tipped with rubbish or overgrown with weeds or are just 'unloved'.

CLr Alison Butler - Homes and Regeneration

Oct 2016

On these days residents have cleared areas and turned them into spaces that they are proud of. They have got the support of local groups like the cadets, girl guides, Church groups as well as Veolia and local Councillors. The Inspector will facilitate what local people want. "It's all about local people reclaiming areas and turning them into places they want." Says Liam Joyce, Neighbourhood Inspector who worked with residents at Chertsey Crescent and Shrublands.

At Chertsey Crescent and Tollers Lane flowerbeds were created:



While on Shrublands fly-tips and weeds were removed and people were consulted on how they thought areas constantly fly-tipped could be improved. This led to murals being painted on walls.

On the Whitehorse Road estate a fly-tipped alleyway was cleared.

"These are great ways to get the community together and take ownership of an area again. Areas have been transformed" says Adam Curtis, Tenancy and neighbourhood services.



CLr Alison Butler - Homes and Regeneration

Oct 2016

If you wish to clean up an area where you live please contact your Neighbourhood inspector.



Campaign to End Street Homelessness – CR Zero 2020

Despite the availability of homelessness support services in Croydon, chronic rough sleeping is a rising problem in our borough. Sadly, Croydon has one of the highest numbers of people sleeping rough on our streets, in the country. In 21st century Croydon we believe that no one should be sleeping on the streets and it's time to find new ways to help our rough sleepers, so we can end chronic street homelessness for good.

The European End Street Homelessness Campaign is being developed by Building and Social Housing Foundation (BSHF) and FEANTSA - the European federation of national organisations working with homeless. It is a pan European movement of cities, working together to permanently house Europe's most vulnerable people and end chronic street homelessness by 2020. The campaign supports cities across Europe in a growing movement that aims to gain public support and mobilise action to end street homelessness.

Croydon is one of the two Local Authority areas in London that are early adopters of the campaign in the UK. There are several local organisations working in partnership on the CR Zero 2020 campaign including Crisis, Evolve Housing + Support, Expert Link, Homeless Link and Thames Reach. The campaign is strongly endorsed by the Council.

Clr Alison Butler - Homes and Regeneration

Oct 2016

I would particularly like to thank Evolve for all their work on the campaign, but I was also impressed by how many volunteers turned out to assist with the project, particularly young people.

It was an experience to join volunteers and workers in connections week speaking to street homeless in Croydon. Actually being out at night and talking to those affected was both challenging and

The project engaged with 64 people on the streets, 42 of whom agreed to complete a survey. The information gathered is really powerful, and is a wakeup call for us all to do something about it.

Of the 42 people:

- 21 haven't been in stable accommodation for anywhere between 6 months and 5 years
- 4 haven't been in stable accommodation for over five years
- 9 people had made it off the streets at least once in the last 6 months, only to end up back on them again
- 5 have had to use A&E five or more times in the last 6 months
- 22 people have been attacked while sleeping rough
- 2 of the women surveyed are pregnant, one of whom was one of the 22 people who were attacked

Going forward it is agreed that this issue can only be tackled by all sectors and the community working together.





Finance and Treasury

Cabinet Member Bulletin

Councillor Simon Hall

October 2016

Executive Director of Resources

I am delighted that Richard Simpson has been appointed as Executive Director of the Resources Department in September 2016. He has already delivered much for Croydon in his previous roles in Croydon Council and will be able to do even more in this new role.

Financial Strategy

In November 2015, the Chancellor announced a four year settlement for local government. This means that, over the next three years, we face a £32m. grant loss. There has been no correction of the unfair funding formula which is being exacerbated by population growth and demographic changes. Overall, this grant cut, taken together with other factors, such as inflation and demand growth, means that we will need to find some £45m. of savings over the next three years. This is a huge pressure on the Council.

As part of meeting our obligations under that four year settlement, Cabinet on 10 October is asked to agree an Efficiency Strategy. This has the following key elements:

- Getting the most out of our assets
- Better commissioning and contract management
- Managing Demand
- Prevention and early intervention
- Integration of health and social care
- Delivering growth
- Commercial approach
- Digital

In each area, we have already delivered considerable successes and have clear plans for how we will deliver over the next three years. This is focused at balancing the books, whilst delivering improved outcomes and services for the residents of Croydon, and delivering our Ambitions for Croydon. This includes borrowing with a purpose, such as funding house-building principally through Brick By Brick, investment in schools places, a new Fairfield Halls, a £17m. new community and leisure centre in New Addington.

It is important to note that there are considerable risks, notably linked to Government policy, such as welfare reform, settlements for schools funding and unaccompanied asylum seeker and housing legislation.

Quarter 1 Financial Performance

In September, I reported the forecast for 2016/17. This is done in a very prudent way. This forecast shows a forecast of a £0.7m. overspend, which is the best performance at this stage of the year, for at least seven years. This is despite the very considerable pressures in demand-led services in the People Department. This emphasizes why we are focusing on prevention and early intervention and innovating. Work being done expanding the Gateway service, Think Family and the introduction of a Link Worker team are examples of this. In addition, work on income and debt collection is already showing positive results even at this early stage.

Asset Strategy

Considerable progress has been made on making the most of our assets. This has included:

- Bringing tenants into Bernard Weatherill House
- Transferring staff from Janette Wallace House to Bernard Weatherill House, enabling the disposal of Janette Wallace House, which will generate a capital receipt as well as giving rise to savings in facilities management
- Agreeing the disposal of sites to Brick by Brick, which will provide some 1,000 new homes, as well as enabling future capital receipts, interest income, etc.
- Using the Revolving Investment Fund to generate interest income and help ensure that key projects are able to proceed.

Commissioning and Contract Management

The council uses third parties to deliver a number of our services. We have successfully introduced the 'Make or Buy' framework, to ensure that we have services delivered by the right parties (i.e. split between in-house, partnerships and third party and introduced enhanced contract management focus, including the professionalisation of contract management, notably on the major contracts and the separation between operational management and contract management.

In order to strengthen this, a corporate contract review will be starting this month, the focus of this will be to test the Council's contract management framework and proposed developments for driving a more commercial approach to contract management by reviewing contract performance and cost for all tier 1 contracts (contracts with a value of over £1m per annum).

Local Government Boundary Review

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has now made its recommendation for the size of the Council and has endorsed the Council's proposal of a 70 seat council, which was on the premise that there would be much greater devolution to communities and their councillors. The process now moves to warding proposals, with a deadline of 5 December for submissions. More information can be found on the Commission's website <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/greater-london/croydon>.



Culture, Leisure and Sport Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Timothy Godfrey October 2016

Latest News

Central Library

I am delighted that the central children's library will be improved and an exciting and bold new layout has been planned by the Council in partnership with CroydonTech City, Rise Gallery and Carillion. The area will have new shelving, furniture including more flexible seating and a wall art project in partnership with the Rise Gallery. I am particularly pleased that we are able to add a whole range of new books to the existing stock, new IT equipment, a large flat screen for training and fun and a new large desk hub for young people to participate in a programme of training supported by Croydon Tech City volunteers.

The key aims of this new offer are to encourage more children and young people from across the borough to join and use the library; to provide a space that creates a 'learning can be fun' environment and supports improving children's reading skills and their safe use of technology.

The work will be completed by the end of the year and a range of events are being planned to celebrate this much needed improvement.

Croydon Talks Parks



As part of the 'Ambitious for Parks' Cabinet paper submitted in March 2016, a borough-wide multi-channel big conversation with residents, community groups and stakeholders was launched in September. Entitled 'Croydon Talks Parks' this engagement is focused on discussions around five key themes: improved health and wellbeing, community stewardship, sustainable delivery models, environmental sustainability/ biodiversity and an exciting cultural offer.

In total there have been 785 responses to the Croydon Talks Parks survey to date. The online survey will close on the 31st October and results collated and shared later on in the year. Responses are more concentrated in the north and central areas of the borough however the Community Engagement Team are doing face-to-face interviews to ensure equitable distribution of responses. A snapshot of responses is shown below:



Culture, Leisure and Sport Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Timothy Godfrey October 2016

| Top issues for each theme – these responses reflect the most prominent issues in our analysis to date | |
|---|--|
| <p>Get active in our parks</p> | <p>In response to the question, “what would encourage you to become more active in your park(s)?”</p> <p>Outdoor gyms: This refers to requests for additional outdoor gym equipment which is a common response.</p> <p><i>“I would like to use the outdoor gym in my local park but don't know how to...I would like to be able to meet up with a local group, the same way walkers can join the health walks.”</i></p> <p><i>“More outdoor gym equipment, but they must be maintained properly.”</i></p> <p>Maintenance: This refers to the management and maintenance of parks.</p> <p><i>“I'd use Thornton heath rec ground more if there was less litter and the footpaths were better maintained- I'd feel more confident walking my dog if there wasn't as much broken glass around.”</i></p> |
| <p>Nature</p> | <p>In response to the question, “how would you encourage more people to enjoy the nature that’s on their doorstep?”</p> <p>An overwhelming number of respondents indicate that events and activities are the best way of making people enjoy the nature.</p> <p><i>“More organised activities that are advertised locally e.g. the bat walks.”</i></p> <p><i>“Events - wild life shows, dog shows, sports days, bat and wild life walks, insect hunt.....etc.”</i></p> <p>In response to the question, “what can we do now that might support nature and wildlife in our parks and green open spaces?”</p> <p>Many mention the importance of wildlife management. This refers to the need to manage wildlife by planting more, erecting wildlife boxes and appropriate weeding:</p> <p><i>“Inject funding into putting up birdboxes/ bird houses/ planting bushes to encourage wildlife to stay and thrive. Resources needed to encourage local residents/tenants to form a "friends of group in parks".</i></p> |



Culture, Leisure and Sport Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Timothy Godfrey October 2016

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <p>Making it pay</p> | <p>In response to the question: “What do you think of these ideas [hosting more events in our parks; looking at sponsorship opportunities; etc.]? Can you think of any other ways of generating income in our parks?”</p> <p>Respondents seem to be mostly open to the idea of having more events.</p> <p><i>“As Croydon regenerates it would be good to host events in parks close to the town centre, such as Wandle and Lloyd parks.”</i></p> <p>However, a significant number of respondents also seem to be wary of the suggestion.</p> <p><i>“Parks were never intended to generate income, and there would be little advantage to local businesses anyway.”</i></p> |
| <p>Getting involved</p> | <p>In response to question 11, “would you be interested in getting involved with organising, or helping to organise, community events and/or activities in parks?” some have said they are interested.</p> <p><i>“Already volunteer at a local community garden sometimes. Would also be interested in anything to do with nature and wildlife, and using the outdoor gyms.”</i></p> <p>Others say it is the council’s responsibility and therefore don’t feel they should get involved.</p> |

Two Parks Two Community Fundraised Playgrounds

Many congratulations to the community groups behind the huge effort to raise funds for new Children’s Playgrounds at South Norwood Lake & Grounds and Old Coulsdon Grange Park who have both been successful in raising the funds needed to deliver modern, exciting play areas in our parks.

Many thanks to Lakes Playground Action Group and Friends of Grange Park, Old Coulsdon for their vision and action in improving their local green space.

The Coulsdon Playground has now been opened and the South Norwood Playground will soon be under way.

I very much hope that they inspire residents across the borough to come together and support our Parks in similar ways.



Culture, Leisure and Sport Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Timothy Godfrey October 2016



Contact Lakes Playground
Action Group:

www.lpag.wordpress.com



Contact Friends of Grange Park,
Old Coulsdon:

www.friendsofgrangepark.com

Management update of Active lifestyles

Parks development and Sport & Physical Activity teams have come together under Active Lifestyles umbrella within District Centres and Regeneration. In the next six months, plans are to reshape both teams and integrate, whilst concurrently designing and launching 'Just Live Well' a health and wellbeing service.

Just Be/ Live Well

In November, 'Just Be Croydon' will launch; an exciting digital behaviour change website that will provide information, interventions and advice on all lifestyle services.

The platform (funded by public health) will be managed by District Centres and Regeneration. An online health check-up hosted within the website will be a single access point to MI Live Well, a holistic, integrated face-to-face lifestyle service, addressing smoking cessation, alcohol, weight management and physical activity (launching in April 2017).





Culture, Leisure and Sport Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Timothy Godfrey October 2016

Freesport

LB Croydon Sport & Physical Activity team in partnership with Croydon Harriers were successful in securing £1480 of FreeSport funding from GLA Mayor of London.

Free Summer Athletics #RioReturns sessions for 5 - 18 year olds were held over seven days at Croydon Sports Arena, with the aim of introducing athletics to a wide and new audience with the subsequent aim of boosting participation in the sport locally.

Attendances surpassed all expectations with 309 unique registrations attending an average of 4 hours; participating in all forms of athletics and having a fantastic time whilst doing so!



Norbury Park Pavilion- Croydon Amateur Boxing Club

The property team and Parks have been working for a couple of years with Croydon amateur boxing club to refurbish the former sports pavilion in Norbury Park. Section 106 funding was used to carry out structural alteration to the building and the club now have a full repairing lease for 25 years. They will provide 13 hours free hire to community groups and are encouraged to hire out the building for community use beyond those hours for a fee. The pavilion will also provide a store and toilet facilities for the proposed BMX track. The club opened their doors on Monday 12th September for classes.

For more information see www.croydonboxing.com or enquiries to info@croydonboxing.com

Grange Park, Old Coulsdon- Children's Play Area

The official opening of the new children's play area took place on 10th September. The Friends of Grange Park, Old Coulsdon, worked closely with Croydon Council to deliver this exciting new community asset.

For further information, please contact Hannah Price-Harries (Vice-Chair and Trustee): friendsofgrangepark@gmail.com





Culture, Leisure and Sport Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Timothy Godfrey October 2016

Delivering our Ambitions

The Museum

The Museum of Croydon's Research Room was closed for a two week period in September 2016 to enable staff and volunteers to undertake work on the local history collections as part of our preparations for Archives Service Accreditation by 2017. During the closure they re-organised the local history cuttings into 64 biographical and themed boxes, listed 3,000 reference books, consolidated and re-shelved our unique glass negative and slide collections and re-organised 150 boxes of archive material. All of this work will ensure these collections are better preserved and more accessible for local people.

The Museum of Croydon's autumn exhibitions programme includes 'The Croydon Art Society's Annual Exhibition' (Tuesday 11 - Saturday 29 October) and 'Petherick Family Album' (from Tuesday 8 November).

Club Soda

Following a grant award of £28,000 from Youth Music, Club Soda is working with over 150 young people over the next 12 months, delivering music based workshops in schools and colleges, as well as Matthews Yard in central Croydon. The project supports young people with learning disabilities to produce their own original music and perform it live at Club Soda's regular Soda Beat events.

Performance on meeting current business targets and looking forward to similar options

Both services are progressing well against performance targets for this financial year

Bereavement Service have achieved the challenging financial objectives for the year to date. Monthly targets are profiled to reflect the traditionally busy periods, particularly Jan – Mar so it is imperative that the progress made so far is maintained to the end of the financial year.

The service is slightly ahead on the targeted number of burials but slightly down on the number of cremations although it is anticipated that the figures will be close to target at the year end.

At the end of October a digital music system will be introduced to the crematorium chapels. Over recent years the style and profile of funeral services have changed with many more becoming non-religious greatly reducing the need for the services of regular Organists. The new service will enable access to a digital library of over 400,000 pieces of music for families to choose from and if a tune is not available it will be sourced and added to the library. This service improvement will result in an estimated £15k per annum saving.

AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON



Culture, Leisure and Sport Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Timothy Godfrey October 2016

The Registrars Service has also achieved the year to date financial target. The service is also on target to achieve the key performance indicators such as the number of wedding services conducted nationality checks etc. A new same day certificate service has been introduced where clients pay a premium to obtain copies of certificates. This has been well received and is contributing positively to the financial performance.

Bandon Hill Cemetery

Bando Hill Cemetery is jointly funded by Sutton and Croydon in the form of a joint committee with Sutton administering day to day operations. Following the recent retirement of the cemetery Superintendent we are reviewing the existing governance arrangements to check the ongoing viability or if the agreement needs to be amended.

Working Together

Thornton Heath library garden



A project with CALAT adults with learning difficulties or disabilities (ALDD) has been running in the underused garden of Thornton Heath library since early summer. Vegetables and flowers have been grown by a dedicated team of learners and the fruits of their labour can be seen from the children's library. The project has not only provided an opportunity for gardening skills but has brought some new users to the library service. The project will continue next year and interest has been shown by another ALDD group to join in. This works very well with our vision of widening community use of our library space.



Culture, Leisure and Sport Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Timothy Godfrey October 2016

Fairfield Halls

The hoardings are now up around Fairfield Halls and asbestos surveys being carried out inside the building. In early October, following a successful and useful period of soft market testing, we will be going out to formal procurement to secure an operator for Fairfield Halls, ensuring we have someone in place over a year before the venue is due to re-open.

Theatres Trust report

Leading experts brought together by the Theatres Trust have given their input to Croydon's £30m refit of the Fairfield Halls.

The council invited the Theatres Trust to bring together a team of experts to review the scheme through their Advisory Review process earlier in the year and they have now given advice on ways that the renovation scheme could be improved still further. Members of the Panel included current and former chief executives of Birmingham Symphony Hall, the Bristol Music Trust, and Birmingham Royal Ballet.

This was a timely and helpful review for us and we are grateful to the Theatres' Trust and the panel for giving of their time so generously.

Cultural Partnership funding

In October we are going live with a Cultural Partnership Fund designed to encourage Croydon based cultural organisations to make bids for funding to bring into the Borough. The fund is to provide matched partnership funding for organisations making bids for funding elsewhere. There will be a simple application process which will run on a monthly rolling basis.

Theatre in the Chamber

September saw the International Playwriting Festival organised by the Warehouse Theatre held in Croydon's Town Hall Chamber which was transformed into a small scale theatre space for the weekend. We hope this is the first of many 'theatre in the chamber' events. The Town Hall is a fantastic space and we have some great small scale theatre developing in Croydon.



Culture, Leisure and Sport Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Timothy Godfrey October 2016

A packed October

This October's autumn half-term will be packed full of events in Croydon in the lead-up to the big festival weekend at Boxpark.

There will be free and family-friendly celebrations of Diwali, classical music and Croydon's youth culture, as well as the next edition of Croydon's Crafty Beer Festival at the Clocktower and a 40th anniversary party for the birth of punk.

There's also the first of a series of new live music events designed specifically to promote the potential of the borough's night-time economy.

Special events currently scheduled include:

- **New Rose: 40 Years of Croydon Punk (22 October):** The space under the old Nestle tower (next to the iconic old Greyhound venue) will be turned into an outdoor exhibition featuring both new artwork and memorabilia from the period around 22 October 1976 when Croydon's The Damned released the first ever punk single, New Rose. As well as a free launch event between 4pm and 6pm there will be a gig at The Oval Tavern in the evening.
- **Diwali Mela (22 October):** North End will come alive between noon and 5pm as Croydon celebrates the ancient Hindu 'festival of lights'. A stage outside the Whitgift Centre will be the focal point for dancing and music, and you can expect some great Indian food and sweets as well.
- **London Mozart Players (23 October):** Croydon's own orchestra have found a new home at St John's church in Upper. Their first public performance is suitable for the whole family and runs from 3pm to 5pm. It's free, but booking is advised.
- **Croydon Youth Arts Collective (29 October):** The action returns to the Clocktower complex in Katharine Street as local young people host a free day of music, theatre, film, art exhibitions, talks, workshops and much more besides. Every space in the building will be brought to life, and there will be surprises around every corner.
- **Boxpark Opening Festival (29 – 30 October):** Boxpark Croydon opens with a bang. The cream of London's grime scene will be performing to celebrate the opening of this new 2,000 capacity performance space, which is packed with 40 restaurants, cafes and bars all crammed into shipping containers right next to East Croydon station. Tickets are on sale for Saturday, whilst Sunday (run by the NME) is free, although booking is still required to guarantee entry.

Introduction

This report gives an outline of the grass cutting activities performance by Quadron Services Limited during in the period June to August 2016. During this period the grass cutting activities in the borough were hampered, initial due to the inclement weather in June which initially prevented access to some areas, and the extreme grass growing conditions which resulted in increased grass



Culture, Leisure and Sport

Cabinet Member Bulletin

Councillor Timothy Godfrey

October 2016

length across the borough and out of specification until the grass could be brought back under control towards the end of August.

Resource Deployment

To address this issue during the period resources deployed on the contract were increased beyond those anticipated and originally planned for this time of year. This resulted in the following actions being taken by Quadron Services at their cost in order to remedy the situation.

- The deployment of staff in non-core hours over the periods including evenings and weekend working
- The increase in both full time and seasonal headcount
- The active involvement of supervisors in the grass cutting operation
- The deployment of static staff onto cutting routes
- The deployment of non-contract staff within the grass cutting operation
- The engagement of third party and subcontractor teams
- Support from local QSL contracts.

This focus on additional resources allowed other horticultural works streams to continue unheeded and avoid similar problems in other areas.

Position Recovery

During the deployment of the additional resources every effort was made to ensure the defined routes were followed by all teams and keep order and maintain progress, however key areas of concern raised by the monitoring team were also addressed on a bespoke basis. Cutting activities were supported by assistance from the Croydon Miscellaneous teams, local QSL contracts and approved sub-contractors. These were deployed using pedestrian and hand held equipment, ride-on mowers and a third party tractor team was also introduced to bring the grass under control.

Monitoring of the Contract

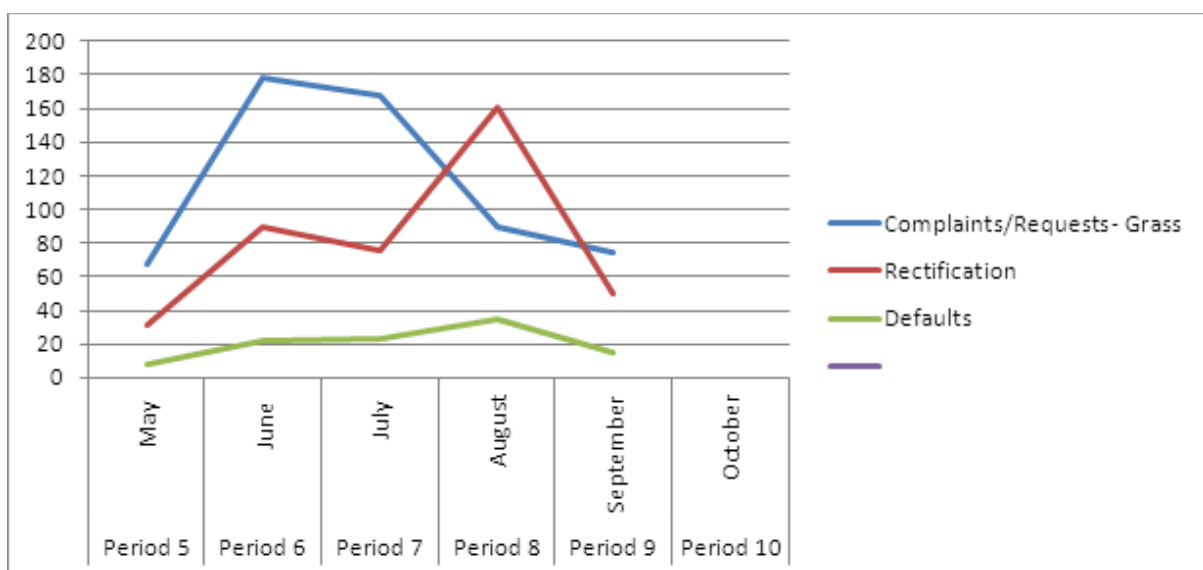
Close monitoring of the contract continued during this period and increased meetings with both the Croydon based Quadron Contract Team and Quadron's Managing Director and Senior Managers were held to seek assurances that resources would be maintained to address the issues and return to normal as quickly as possible. The Croydon monitoring team met daily with Quadron to oversee the implementation of the recovery plan and closely monitor the progress and deployment of resources to bring the standards of grass cutting back within standard on a ward by ward basis. Below is a chart which shows rectifications and defaults issued to the contractor and highlights the improvements made in bringing back the grass cutting to standard.



Culture, Leisure and Sport Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Timothy Godfrey October 2016

In addition to the above Quadron have also been issued with a 'Formal Service Failure' regarding the grass cutting which required them to bring the grass cutting back to standard and provide a resource plan to be submitted to the Council setting out how Quadron is going to meet the Specification requirements going forward.

Chart showing number of Complaints, Rectifications and Defaults Issued



Current Position

The contract continues to be monitored and grass cutting has returned to standard. While general monitoring of the contract and horticultural standards continue which includes routine inspections and the issuing of rectifications and defaults required, the grass will continue to receive specific attention and resources to ensure it is contained during the autumn growth period.



Safety and Justice

Cabinet Member Bulletin

Councillor Hamida Ali

June 2016

Latest News

Croydon Council welcomes appointment of new borough commander

Croydon Council has welcomed the announcement a new police borough commander has been appointed and will take over in December. Chief Superintendent Jeff Boothe will take up the role on 10 December 2016, when current borough commander Andy Tarrant retires. The 51-year-old, who has been the borough commander at Bexley since March 2015, lives in Croydon and joined the Metropolitan Police after 24 years' service with British Transport Police.

Mr Booth spent 12 years within CID whilst working at the British Transport Police and held a variety of roles including Deputy Senior Investigating Officer on the Hatfield Train Crash. He also has extensive Public Order and Events Experience from covering the Olympics, Queen's Diamond Jubilee and Notting Hill Carnival.

Black History celebrated in Croydon

Croydon celebrates black history all year by highlighting events and activities for all the community to enjoy. Black History Month comprises a borough-wide programme of events with contributions from the local community as well as Council services. There are opportunities for all the community to enjoy, including historical events through performance, music, storytelling and songs. Many events are free and the majority take place in Croydon. Details of events to be staged during October can be found at www.croydon.gov.uk/ccbh and hard copies are available at Croydon libraries.

In Croydon the event is branded as 'Croydon Celebrates Black History' (CCBH), and the theme for this year is "Our Young Achievers".

This year's launch event held on the 4th October organised by Croydon Council in partnership with the BME Forum and Croydon Black History Month Committee, included the following guest Wilfried Zaha (Crystal Palace Winger Footballer) and Michael 'Faith Child' Ayo (MOBO Award Winner, Best Gospel Act). There was also performance from Croydon Supplementary Education Project youths.

High Court backs council on street racing ban

On 30th September, a senior judge approved Croydon Council's High Court bid to ban road races and stunts on Imperial Way industrial estate, where a motorcyclist died in July. The council successfully applied for a three-year injunction to give police greater enforcement powers over the racing, known as the Croydon Cruise.

Regularly watched by large crowds, these illegal events involve speeding cars and motorbikes doing stunts including wheelies and doughnut turns.

AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON



Safety and Justice Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Hamida Ali June 2016

The council applied for the injunction following incidents that resulted in the death of motorcyclist Carl Simpson, and life-changing injuries to a 21-year-old pedestrian. The council's court application was supported by witness statements from several neighbouring business, which had reported the Croydon Cruises for being dangerous, encouraging antisocial behaviour, and affecting neighbouring businesses' trade. Waddon councillors and residents living close to the estate also added their concerns about noise and antisocial behaviour.

The ruling, by Deputy High Court Judge Karen Steyn QC, means that, from today, people who take part in the Croydon Cruise face an unlimited fine, two years in prison, or both. Granting the injunction, the judge said: "The claimant has made a case. Racing and stunt riding is dangerous for those actively involved in it, for those watching it, and those passing by. Car cruising also causes serious public disquiet."

The successful injunction comes as council contractors have installed traffic-calming road humps along three streets in the Imperial Way industrial estate to further discourage people from speeding there.

Delivering our Ambitions

The Community Fund

The Community Fund is a new transformative journey for Voluntary and Community Sector funding. Shaped and aligned with the Opportunity & Fairness Commission and Ambitious for Croydon has clear outcomes that are aligned with the recommendations made by the Opportunity and Fairness Commission as well as the Community Strategy and Corporate Plan. This supports the strengths voluntary and community sector in particular prevention, early intervention and community empowerment

The Community Fund is a three year outcome focused programme that builds on the assets of the voluntary and community sector, promoting enterprise, volunteering, and social value.

Over the next three years the Council is proposing to invest approx. £6.2 million to the Community Fund to deliver the outcomes that focus on early prevention and intervention.

The proposed Fund offers a good range of projects delivering across the five outcomes framework set out below:



Safety and Justice Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Hamida Ali June 2016

Outcomes

- Vibrant, responsible and connected communities
- A connected borough where no one is isolated
- Supporting residents towards better times
- Leaving no child behind
- Finding homes for all

Golden Threads

- Promoting volunteering
- Grass roots response
- Asset based methodology
- Partnership working
- Advancing equality

Foundations

- Quality and governance
- Financial resilience
- Peer to peer support

Organisations will be paying London Living Wage or working towards it over the life of the Fund. As part of the new way of working The Council will be working closely with organisations to explore opportunities to leverage external funding, share resources and assets, furthermore become financially resilient.

Working Together

New Burden Fund

New Burdens funding will be allocated to local authorities affected by Universal Credit Full Service in 2016/17. The New Burdens funding of £1.5 million was set aside for the 2015 Autumn Statement policy measure for removing the temporary accommodation management fee from April 2017 and the setting up of a new equivalent fund from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) at that point.

The New Burdens funding can be used flexibly by LAs helping them cope with temporary accommodation funding pressures until the DCLG fund comes into play in April 2017.

Survey will help shape new three-year anti-crime plan

The Safer Croydon Partnership is asking the public for help to shape Croydon's next Community Safety Strategy. Set to run from 2017-2020, the strategy sets out the top community safety priorities to be tackled over that period.

The Safer Croydon Partnership has therefore launched a six-week survey to help it understand what types of criminal or antisocial behaviour are people's biggest concerns



Safety and Justice Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Hamida Ali June 2016

across different parts of the borough. Results from the survey will be analysed in conjunction with data from the police and other agencies.

The SCP's short survey includes questions about such things as fly-tipping, domestic abuse, rogue traders, drunk and rowdy behaviour, street drinking and begging, and vehicle crime. It looks at the town centre and neighbourhoods across the borough.

It runs from Tuesday 20 September to Tuesday 1 November, and can be found at www.croydon.gov.uk/scpstrategy



Families, Health and Social Care Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Louisa Woodley October 2016

LATEST NEWS

We have now completed the transfer of our service from Cherry Orchard into alternative buildings to facilitate building work. The service has been moved to facilities at Addington Heights Day Centre in New Addington and Peter Sylvester Centre. Both of these have the necessary facilities to meet people's needs. Throughout the whole process the team listened to the needs of each individual client and kept them and their families up-to-date with information at each stage of the move. All this was done to a very high standard and with great dignity and respect to the clients.

We have also engaged advocacy and service user organisations to ensure people who use the centre understand what has been happening. We also kept Croydon Key partners such as Learning Disability Partnership Board and MenCap updated with the move.

This project will continue over the coming months, as we will be co-producing with clients, families, carers and all key stakeholders, a new model for learning disability day opportunity services.

Contact Officer Annette McPartland annette.mcpartland@croydon.gov.uk

Short listed for homelessness awards

I am delighted that the Croydon People's Gateway project is one of the three winning projects in this year's London Homelessness Awards and is in line to receive one of the three financial awards in October. The judges were very impressed with the commitment shown by the team working on this service. The awards ceremony takes place on 20 October at City Hall where the team will find out if they have come 1st, 2nd or 3rd. Congratulations on this achievement.

Helping customers in emergency accommodation

We held an all-day event Croydon College, working with residents in emergency accommodation in helping them find alternative accommodation in the private sector. Over 600 households were contacted with over 100 attending. We now have over 50 households engaged in finding their own accommodation and one household who is moving shortly.

Contact Officer Paul Aston: paul.aston@croydon.gov.uk

Community connect

Last week the council launched its community connect program, working with the family centre in Fieldway, New Addington. Community Connect extends Croydon's approach to tackling the impact of welfare reform into the community. It applies a multi-agency, solutions-focused approach and takes a holistic look at a family's or individual's needs and enables them to:

- Maximize their household income,
- Manage budgets and debt
- Access training or employment
- Explore sustainable housing options that enables them to either stay in their current home or to move somewhere that provides a home that is affordable over the long-term
- Become 'digitally included' and to access online services

Community Connect is a pilot project based on this approach that will be delivered by a local community organization. The service will also focus on preventing homelessness, income maximization, tackling social isolation and providing early access to adult service and children services.

Contact Officer: Julia Pitt Julia.pitt@croydon.gov.uk

Just Be / Just Live Well

In November, 'Just Be Croydon' will launch an exciting new digital behaviour change website that will provide information, interventions and advice on all lifestyle services.

The platform (funded by public health ring-fenced resource) will be managed by District Centres and Regeneration.

Just Be hosts an online health check-up which will provide a single access point to 'Just Live Well', our new holistic, integrated, evidence-based, face-to-face lifestyle service, delivered through a Council driven behaviour change team, and complimented by community led services in Primary Care including Pharmacists and GPs, Croydon Health Services and MIND.

To compliment this service, we are also in the process of establishing a boroughwide behaviour change alliance to embed positive messages to adopting healthier lifestyles within our communities.

Contact Officer: Rachel Flowers Rachel.flowers@croydon.gov.uk

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

Public Health England Conference- 12-14th September

I attended the Public Health England conference with Rachel Flowers, Director of Public Health and Ash Brown, Public Health Specialist. The conference was two days where over 1400 participants from a wide range of organisations came together to learn, network and share knowledge and experience.

The theme of this year's conference was 'Evidence into action'. The conference promoted and showcased the application and translation of science and research, to support effective local and national action to improve public health. I had the opportunity to meet with a range of senior leaders within the public health arena, including Chief Executive and Croydon resident, Duncan Selbie and listened to a range of sessions including around economic returns on public health interventions- with outcomes modelling linked to a West Midlands model, the lifetime health harm of air pollution and childhood obesity.

Contact Officer: Rachel Flowers Rachel.flowers@croydon.gov.uk

Croydon Health Protection Forum

The Croydon Health Protection Forum (HPF) supports the Director of Public Health in her statutory assurance role around appropriate local plans for Health Protection, including around communicable diseases, environmental hazards, immunisations and screening. The January 2016 meeting of the HPF focussed on Tb and was attended by all major local and regional partners. Key discussion items were the local Latent Tb screening programme commissioned by NHSE, the funding of treatment for drug-resistant cases of Tb in individuals without recourse to public funds and the integration of Tb screening into local patient pathways.

Following the identification of linked cases of infectious TB at John Ruskin College earlier this year screening for TB was offered to students and staff. In total of 316 students and staff were invited for screening.

No new cases of active TB disease were identified. However, five new cases of latent TB infection were detected, and these individuals are now receiving treatment. Latent Tb is a dormant form of Tuberculosis, which is asymptomatic and does not pose a risk to others. Latent Tb can become active later in life and should be treated to avoid complications.

Two linked cases in a staff member as well as a resident of Retreat Lodge were detected this summer. All staff and five out of six residents have been screened. More complex arrangements are being set up to screen the remaining unscreened resident. So far, two individuals have tested positive and have been referred for treatments.

Contact Officer: Dr Ellen Schwartz ellen.schwartz@croydon.gov.uk



Transport and Environment Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Stuart King September 2016

Latest News

Blackhorse Lane

Blackhorse lane has two bridges one owned by the council and the other owned by TfL trams, both bridges have had a weight restriction placed upon them for a number of years.

TfL's consultants have found that the condition of the steel beams has deteriorated to such an extent that TfL have requested that the bridge is **permanently closed** on safety grounds and the Council owned bridge will be also closed. The aim is to build both bridges in unison to encourage cost efficiencies and minimise disruption to the area.

Traffic management will be a road closure of Blackhorse Lane between Elmers Road and Teevan Road. Access will be maintained for residents fronting Blackhorse Lane via Dalmally Road. I am liaising with ward members to ensure residents are kept informed of developments.

Olympian Road Naming

Following British success in the Olympics and Paralympics we are pleased to have named a new street after Croydon's own first Olympic Medallist. The new street to be called 'Nihill Place' has been named in Honour of Paul Nihill MBE who competed in four separate Olympics and won Silver in the 50km race walk at the 1964 games in Tokyo. Mr Nihill grew up in Addiscombe just around the corner from the development which is off of Grant Road so it is fitting that a street so close to his old home will be named after him. A road naming ceremony took place which Mr Nihill attended on the day of the 50km walk race at the Rio Olympics.



AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON



Transport and Environment Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Stuart King September 2016

Vehicle Crossover Policy

A review that I set up of the crossover (“dropped kerb”) criteria now sees a relaxation allowing vehicles to park parallel to the property if they are able to cross the footway and enter and exit the driveway in a single movement as well as maintaining enough clearance to allow access and egress from the property in an emergency.

Other changes include some flexibility to the size of crossovers and in roads where the demand for parking is low, allowing applications for a second crossover (in and out crossover).

Delivering our Ambitions

20mph Launch

On Monday 5th September the area wide 20mph speed limit went live for the north-east area of Croydon. This innovative project aims to encourage motorists to reduce their speed and thereby improve road safety and encourage greater use of sustainable travel such as walking and cycling.

Formal consultation on the second area in this project was completed on Wednesday 24th August and a report is due to go to Traffic Management Advisory Committee in early October. If approved, I would hope that the works

can start on the introduction of this area in the New Year.



Community engagement on a third area covering Norbury, Broad Green, West Thornton and parts of Waddon will follow.



Transport and Environment

Cabinet Member Bulletin

Councillor Stuart King

September 2016

Air Quality

Town centre Logistics

We held our inaugural Town Centre Construction Logistics Forum on Tuesday 20th September - we had a number of project Directors from Whitgift development, Stanhope Plc, Developer for 1a Lansdowne Road and St George's House and representatives from TfL. There were a number of short presentations from Transport Travel Research on where we are and future meetings, the street works team talked about early engagement with them and organising utilities to work together and a brief was provided on the new regulations around non- road mobile machinery on sites and that they must comply with new air quality standards. It was a fantastic opportunity for various people to get together and find out what is going on in the town centre. These meetings will be held every two months and hopefully more businesses will engage in the future.

Low Emission Logistics

Croydon in conjunction with Lambeth, Southwark and Wandsworth are working to improve air quality by reducing the number of delivery vehicles travelling in to the borough. Modelling suggests vans and HGVs are responsible for around twenty percent of the borough's nitrogen dioxide concentrations which cause significantly adverse health effects for our residents, especially the very young, the elderly and those with pre-existing heart and lung illnesses.

A feasibility study on the options for having efficient delivery has been commissioned and a draft is due next month.

The aim of the study is to put forward viable solutions to rationalise deliveries and provide a number of financially viable and sustainable options to reduce costs, improve the public realm and create an attractive more sustainable area for doing business as well as reduce congestion and air pollution.

We will be working with local business and retailers to find out how their goods and services are delivered currently and in the future and what issues they expect to encounter.

For Croydon specifically we currently get stationery deliveries every day - we've spoken to Office Depot and they are changing this to two days per week – so this alone gives us a sixty percent reduction.

ICT consumables are delivered from Bristol by overnight service, daily – a change to a manual order to even just once per week would give us an eighty percent reduction from this. We have asked for this change to be made but as it's mid-contract this can't



Transport and Environment Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Stuart King September 2016

be done as yet, we will continue to work with procurement to get a commitment to change in the renewal.

The forty percent target is for the project as a whole over all boroughs, but as you can see from just two product lines the potential for reducing deliveries is significant.

One obstacle at the moment is the lack of engagement from local business in Croydon to meet up and talk about how we can make changes to their deliveries and to discuss the issue of a consolidation centre, although this would be considered in the second year of the project. We would welcome assistance from someone within the Council who already has some engagement so we can progress this part of the project. So far it has proved successful and a further two boroughs have signed up to the project for next year.

Air Quality Action Plan 2017 and onwards

The Pollution team will be hosting a meeting with various interested groups to discuss future projects to include in the Council's new air quality action plan. I am keen for Members to be participants in this process and will circulate further details in due course.

Download the free app | 020 8604 7000





Economy and Jobs Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Mark Watson October 2016

Latest News

Tours of Businesses across District Centres

During the summer I have begun a series of walk-arounds in some of our district centres, to hear about and see first-hand the issues that are most important to business operators in our district centre high streets. The visits are very much a listening exercise, giving me an opportunity to meet with a sample of local high street businesses to elicit local issues and find out about trading conditions. It is also an opportunity to receive an update on the initial progress of activities regarding support for local businesses, and plans to engender a sense of community and place through proposed activities.

This is in keeping with our promise of Growth for All, where the key priority for the Council is to ensure that Croydon residents benefit from economic growth in the borough, and to ensure they have the opportunities to develop new or to expand existing local businesses, as well as, skills and qualifications to build on this.

Initially we are focusing on six of our district centre High Streets and a number of initiatives have already begun in these areas. I have had the pleasure of visiting Purley, Coulsdon and Thornton Heath, and am now looking forward to visits to South Norwood, Addiscombe, New Addington Central Parade. Further visits to some of our other district centres will follow.

A broad range of issues have been raised along with some thoughtful and constructive suggestions regarding how they might be addressed and how to get more businesses involved. Some of these are common across all of the districts, others are specific to each location. I will keep you all updated on the outcomes of these conversations.

Thornton Heath Business Support

The District Centres and Regeneration team are working in partnership to deliver the vision for Thornton Heath:-

“As a vibrant and lively District Centre where residents and visitors alike are drawn to its retail opportunities, strengthening community pride and enhancing the local economy.

“This vision is supported by a high quality new public realm scheme and business support which contributes to a safer and more secure environment where people can work, meet and socialise.”

Thornton Heath secured New Homes Bonus Top slice funding of £260,150 for business support which alongside the public realm improvements of £2.5m will improve both the look and feel of



Economy and Jobs Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Mark Watson October 2016

Thornton Heath High Street and importantly support the resilience of local businesses and the user experience. The programme is being rolled out in tranches with the business support running through until Spring 2017 and the public realm and shop front improvements completing by early 2018.

Croydon Voluntary Action (CVA) has been successful in tendering in order to deliver a comprehensive package of support for businesses. CVA, which won the contract to manage this part of the programme, is a locally based charity that has been working with communities in Croydon based in Thornton Heath for over 100 years. CVA successfully undertook a similar business support and job-creation project in London Road West Croydon and has a track record of working with small businesses to help them establish themselves and grow. Their enterprise team are visiting all of the high street businesses to gather information on what the key areas are where training and support are required.

The programme, called BESTH – Business and Enterprise Support Thornton Heath, is now underway and has begun the process of matching business needs to specialist business advisors who can deliver a wide range of bespoke one to one support from book keeping, merchandising, stock control, to business planning, as well as training in customer service and food hygiene.

The remaining part of the project is supporting a range of additional activity directly delivered by the Council and which seeks to support the enabling engagement on vacant shops, support match day activation with CPFC for local fans and visiting supporters, and local employment and skills opportunities and development discussions with key stakeholders are being advanced.

Croydon Works

Croydon Works in the Croydon Council Job Brokerage Service delivered in partnership with Job Centre Plus and Croydon College, our aim is to work with residents who are furthest away from the job market by providing them with training, work experience and pathways in to employment to help them reach their career aspirations. For employers we are a vehicle to deliver on Section 106 and Social Value agreements as well as a free to use professional recruitment service for employers looking to fill jobs. Since the official launch in July 2016 we have been busy forging relationships with employers, training providers and referral partners. We have also delivered a number of recruitment drives including:

Mulley's Apprenticeship Recruitment (September 2016):

- 25 residents supported
- 14 residents interviewed
- 9 work experience placements in progress
- 6 apprenticeship starts



Economy and Jobs Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Mark Watson October 2016

Boxpark recruitment (still in progress):

- 200 residents supported
- 120 attended recruitment day
- 42 work trials still in process
- 1 official job start with Boxpark as the direct employers, more offers pending Boxpark opening

Other Job offers:

- 1 Croydon Council
- 1 Solium Technologies
- 2 Chequers Contract Services

Go On Croydon

At Croydon Council we're committed to ensuring Croydon becomes a fairer place for all who live and work here. In November 2015, we became the first London Go ON borough when we launched Go ON Croydon, an initiative supporting as many people as possible in Croydon to take advantage of the opportunities that being digital offers. Since then, working with our Go ON Croydon partners including Doteveryone, Lloyds Banking Group and Age UK amongst others, 13 Go ON Croydon Digital Zones have opened their doors so that people in Croydon can discover the benefits that Basic Digital Skills and being online can bring to their everyday life. Digital Zones are local, friendly, social spaces where digital champions will be on hand to give top tips and advice on how to get online, use a tablet, smartphone or laptop.

On a sunny Saturday in July, over 200 people visited our first pop up Digital Zone in North End to find out about getting digital and to get some helpful tips on how to get the most out of their smartphones and tablets. We're holding another pop up Digital Zone later this month on Surrey Street Market, so that people who work and shop there can find out how they can make the most of the free wifi that will soon be available there.

A new wave of community based Go On Croydon digital zones is now being launched, equipped with our recycled council computers. The first one opened on Silver Sunday in West Wickham and Shirley Baptist Church with others following shortly in community organisations across the borough. In addition, we're piloting schemes in some of our sheltered housing sites and at other venues where there's a real need for digital support and facilities. Our priority is to reach those in Croydon who are most in need yet unable to enjoy the benefits of the digital world.



Economy and Jobs Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Mark Watson October 2016

If you want to know where the digital zones are located, or if you want to share the benefits of the digital world with others by becoming a Digital Champion, visit <https://www.croydon.gov.uk/community/go-on-croydon-/go-on-croydon> . If you want to know more about setting up a digital zone in your community organisation, email GoCroydon@croydon.gov.uk where staff will be able to give advice and support.

Surrey Street Market

The project to improve the look and feel of Surrey Street is set to start on site in January 2017 and to be complete by March. The scheme will provide a level carriageway, enhance quality of paving, pedestrianise the street, improve lighting, change market layout and provide some new market infrastructure – in total this will make the street easier to navigate and more attractive for stall holders and visitors. The area will be enhanced by new public art and free to use wifi; some public art pieces have recently completed and I urge you to visit Surrey Street and seek them out.

The Sunday market, in operation since 4th September continues to be a success. In operation between 10.30 and 5pm traders have been selling street food, smoothies, jewellery and gifts. Trading on Sundays will continue until Christmas when the market will close to enable public realm improvements; it will be relaunched in the Spring.

Working Together

As well as the external referral partners Croydon Works has been forging strong relationships with Council Departments dealing directly with residents including:

- Housing
- Gateway
- Youth Offending service
- Leaving Care
- CESS
- Schools Team

Night Time Economy

October will see the first event as part of 'CROWD', a new and exciting Croydon town centre 'pop up' event series that will be starting in St George's Walk on Friday 21st October 2016 with a second event planned for Friday 18th November 2016 to coincide with the Croydon town centre Christmas Light Switch-on.

AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON



Economy and Jobs Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Mark Watson October 2016

'CROWD' is a new concept jointly developed by Croydon Council and Croydon Business Improvement District (BID) coming out of the discussions on the night time economy in Croydon. It is being delivered by local event promoters, One Tree who has considerable music experience with the support of Minerva who own the site.

The event series 'CROWD' is designed to re-invigorate St George's Walk, the town centre and the night time economy with a mix of live music, food and drink from 4.30pm – 9.30pm. The event series is free to attend and will attract people at the end of the working day and signpost them on to other night time venues in Croydon.