



# Clean Green Croydon

## Cabinet Member Bulletin

### Councillor Stuart Collins

#### October 2016

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## Latest News

### Solar Panel Powered Bins

Due to Government austerity cuts Council's across the U.K. now face difficulties with their street and park bins filling up quicker than the frequency they can afford to empty them at without spending more revenue funding. Croydon will now therefore be rolling out the use of the Big Belly bin waste and recycling system. These solar powered waste and recycling bins provide total waste containment and real time visibility into the entire operation helping to maintain a cleaner more attractive environment- efficiently and cost-effectively. Benefits include 8 times the current bins capacity, the improved containment of litter reducing visible waste and windblown litter and also the reduction of vehicle traffic, noise and air pollution.

The state of the art technology including the cloud-based solution which the solar powered bins use gathers consolidates and analyses data providing real time status, alerts and historical reports that help to optimise operations and eliminate overflowing and visible waste. The fully integrated system delivers a concise, up to the minute view of the entire environment.

In a nutshell the bins compress waste and send a message when they need emptying.

The stations can also be used as messaging platforms for advertising, branding or public service messaging. Roll out has already begun in George Street/Town Centre and will expand into other district centres and parks based on a priority needs based approach in early 2017.

### Working Together in the U.K.'s battle against fly tippers

Over the last quarter Veolia's operatives achieved an average rate 80.9% of fly tip clearances within 48 hours thus making our streets cleaner at a quicker rate. It is worth remembering in the year 2013/14 before the launch of the Don't Mess with Croydon, Take Pride campaign, only 3% were cleared in 48 hours thus leaving the eyesores longer and of course every time further fly tips were added to those already on the street they were only counted once.

From 2014 this Administration, for first time in Croydon Council's history produced a dashboard of environmental statistics for the public to see and it is good to see that over the last quarter to the end of October there is now a downward trend in fly tip incidents, the biggest fall from September to October being 404 incidents less.

A really big thank you also to residents who have given us so much information regarding fly tipping culprits that has led to over 120 environmental prosecutions, the majority for fly tipping and many more fines than this Council has ever delivered before. It is clear residents recognise the Council don't do the fly tipping and they know the Council is on their side. This fact clearly was clearly demonstrated with a further batch of community clean ups with residents working with the Council and it's contractors now totalling 111 clean ups, Taking Pride matters and it's all our responsibilities.

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A really big thank you is also due to our Enforcement Team and it's really pleasing to hear several other Council's and agencies across the U.K. have asked for information about our campaigns and initiatives particularly the crushing of vehicles involved in environmental crimes, in this U.K. wide fight against fly tipping.

#### **Behavioural Change, Education Program**

In November the Council started it's education campaign in Wards where recycling rates are low and there are high fly tipping rates. This campaign involves face to face, doorstep conversations with residents and visits to local schools, all relevant Ward Councillors have been informed and the campaign will include competitions in those schools for the best arts or cultural projects based around environmental themes.

In 2017 the Council will be working with, Keep Britain Tidy, the Streets Commission, Steve Reed M.P. and behavioural change experts who are working on the U.K fly tipping crisis, sharing our initiatives and trialling new ideas.

#### **Purley Oaks HRRC Closure**

With the increased use of Household Reuse and Recycling Centres across U.K. has come additional pressures with queuing traffic, particularly at peak times, so for the first time this Council has addressed this long standing issue. Following on from the improvements made at Factory Lane this summer, Purley Oaks will be closed for upgrade works from Monday 5 to Sunday 18 December. The site will then reopen at 8am on Monday 19 December.

Hundreds of local people use the site every day, but the current layout means it is not operating as efficiently as it could. The site is small and has space constraints which means it has to close every time one of the large recycling containers is full and needs to be replaced with an empty one. Currently this happens up to three times per day, lasting around 20 minutes each time resulting in queuing and frustration to site users.

During the summer a survey was conducted with over 730 users of the site whose views have informed the improvement works that will be carried out. The majority of the people surveyed, 78%, strongly supported a short-term closure of the site if the long-term result is shorter queues.

The aim of the upgrade work is to improve the layout as we did at Factory Lane, reduce the number of times containers have to be emptied each day and shorten the queues. In order that the works can be carried out safely the site needs to be closed for two weeks to complete the upgrade.

Residents can use the HRRC sites at Factory Lane and Fishers Farm which will be open as usual. Please be aware that these sites may be busier than usual so you may need to allow extra time for your visit.



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## New Rose Celebration of 40 years of Croydon Punk Rock

My thanks go to John Bownas, Paula Murray, Croydon BID, Ester & the Oval Tavern, artists Gavin Kinch and David Worth, punk rockers Captain Sensible and Johnny Moped for the events held on 22/10/2016. These events celebrated Croydon's musical heritage and the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the release of New Rose, the U.K.'s first punk rock single released by Croydon's very own the Damned on 22/10/1976.

The fantastic artwork was used to brighten up a dreary part of St Georges Walk nearby the entrance to the old Greyhound venue that hosted so many famous bands over the years. Later that night a packed Oval Tavern hosted three bands with a fresh take on punk rock and I had the pleasure of DJing , playing the old punk classics.

At event Captain Sensible spoke of his love of Croydon, the fact that Croydon had so much young talent and the need for live venues to showcase these talents. This comment was particularly relevant as we opened Box Park later that week showcasing some excellent musicians, my favourite being the Nova Twins, look them up. !



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