



**CROYDON COUNCIL MEETING: MONDAY 26 JANUARY 2015**  
**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

<b>Question Number</b>	<b>Question to Cabinet Member</b>	<b>Question From</b>	<b>Subject</b>
PQ001	Bee	Dr Ginn	20mph
PQ002	Newman	Mr Whittick	Purley Pool
PQ003	Letts	Mr Wallis	Purley Regeneration
PQ004	Godfrey	Mrs Hughes	Swimming pools
PQ005	Newman	Mrs Thompson	Purley Pool
PQ006	Godfrey	Mrs Marsden	Purley Pool

PQ007	Godfrey	Mr Patel	Park Hill Basketball Court
PQ008	Butler	Mrs Clinch	Purley Pool
PQ009	Butler	Mrs Barber	Purley Regeneration
PQ010	Godfrey	Mrs Gasnola	Closing Purley Pool
PQ011	Godfrey	Mrs Mann	Art & Culture in the Borough
PQ012	Godfrey	Miss Hayden	Purley Pool
PQ013	Newman	Mrs Whittick	Purley Pool
PQ014	Newman	Mr Samuel	Last Council meeting
PQ015	Godfrey	Mr Marsden	Purley Pool
PQ016	Butler	Mr Hunter	Incinerator fine
PQ017	Letts	Mr Creighton	Roehampton University
PQ018	Hall	Mr Cartwright	Election Candidates
PQ019	Collins	Ms Oliver	Traffic re incinerator location
PQ020	Godfrey	Miss Kiss	Park Hill Park project

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

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**From Dr Jay Ginn**

**Councillor Kathy Bee**

**Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment**

**Question No.**

**PQ001-15**

I appreciate your well informed reply to CQ427-14 outlining how 20mph limits will benefit Croydon residents. Where a residents survey shows overwhelming support for 20 mph limit in their road which has frequent dangerous collisions, will you consider implementing 20mph in advance of the borough-wide process?

**Reply**

I can confirm that the Council is proposing to start the process of consultation and introduction of the area wide 20mph speed limits, starting in the north of the borough, in the forthcoming financial year. I am therefore very pleased to hear that there are areas of the borough where there is likely to be overwhelming support for this project. However, the introduction of isolated 20mph speed limits would be particularly expensive and would reduce the Council's ability to provide this project across the remainder of the borough. It is therefore considered more productive to progress the area wide package across the borough, rather than be diverted into a more piecemeal approach.

It should also be noted that a 20mph limit may not always be the best solution to collision problems and that other measures may be more appropriate. Dr Jinn may therefore wish to discuss the particular issues with officers to determine the most suitable course of action.

In the meantime, the Metropolitan Police's Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs) have the necessary equipment to provide their 'Roadwatch' project, which aims to address local concerns over vehicle speeds. The information gathered by these teams is then passed on to the Metropolitan Police, to target regular offenders for speed enforcement. For further information on the Safer Neighbourhood teams, see their web site at:- <http://www.met.police.uk/teams/croydon/index.php>

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**From Mr Ken Whittick**

**Councillor Tony Newman**

**The Leader of the Council**

**Question No.**

**PQ002-15**

Knowing your wish to keep Purley open, I am sure if we sit together I can show that you were poorly briefed about the need for early closure.

Will you examine with me the last 3 condition reports with perhaps an independent observer and our deputy mayor as chair?

**Reply**

There are a number of public and Member questions regarding Purley Pool.

No decision has been taken regarding the future of the pool. I took the proposal to a pre-budget meeting of the Scrutiny Committee in December and have since met with members of the local community. There has been a good discussion around the challenges we all face as a result of eight years of no investment in the pool by the previous Conservative administration.

I am pleased that our Labour administration is committed to govern for all of Croydon and we will work in partnership with the local community on a long term plan for leisure provision in Purley.

At the Cabinet meeting on 19 January 2015, I made a public commitment that a further report on the pool will be presented to the Cabinet meeting on 16th February 2015 and I will ensure that all the questions submitted for tonight's meeting are addressed in that report.

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**From Mr Fred Wallis**

**Councillor Toni Letts**

**Cabinet Member for Economic Development**

**Question No.**

**PQ003-15**

Does the proposed but not yet finalised 'regeneration' plan also include demolishing the multi-storey car park. ? If so how will that contribute to the regeneration of Purley and where will the car using visitors and the shop staff plus the commuters all park?

**Reply**

I would refer Mr. Wallis to my response to PQ002-15.

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**From Mrs Caroline Hughes**

**Councillor Timothy Godfrey**

**Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport**

**Question No.**

**PQ004-15**

Will the Council give us, for each of its swimming pools, for each of the last three years and for the coming financial year (as forecasts):

- a. maintenance expenditure
- b. running costs and receipts
- c. public usage figures?

**Reply**

**Maintenance cost**

Thornton Heath, South Norwood and Waddon are £0. Maintenance cost for New Addington and Purley are managed by the Council's Facility Management Team, and once this information is provided it will be forwarded on to you.

**Running costs**

Leisure Centre	12/13 Contract year	13/14 Contract year	14/15 Contract year
THLC	£27,761.10	£9593.75	£7464
SNLC	£224,786.20	£224,776.30	£174,132
WADDON	£414,130	£118,539.60	£91,812
PURLEY	£324,621.30	£332,603.80	£257,664
NALC	£280,634.70	£287,535.60	£222,756

**Please note the contract years run from 1 Nov – 31 Oct annually**

**Public usage figures**

2014	New Addington LC	Purley Pools	South Norwood LC	Thornton Heath LC	Waddon LC
	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD
Wetside	44735	77009	83850	92587	95752
Dryside	28327	45473	67335	217365	96413

2013	New Addington LC	Purley Pools	South Norwood LC	Thornton Heath LC	Waddon LC
	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD
Wetside	51917	86660	94,252	94,672	51,291
Dryside	23,336	48,452	68,526	238,830	51,911

2012	New Addington LC	Purley Pools	South Norwood LC	Thornton Heath LC	Waddon LC
	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD
Wetside	48565	81650	103420	110840	NA
Dryside	26701	75131	81509	234129	NA

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**From Mrs Rachel Thompson**

**Councillor Tony Newman**

**Leader of the Council**

**Question No.**

**PQ005-15**

As Tony Newman told the Croydon Advertiser that Waddon Pool is five minutes down the road, will he accompany me and my children on public transport from our home in Sanderstead to Waddon Pool for a reality check into the time, costs and accessibility it involves?

**Reply**

I would refer Mrs. Thompson to my response to PQ002-15.

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**From Mrs Elizabeth Marsden**

**Councillor Timothy Godfrey**

**Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport**

**Question No.**

**PQ006-15**

When deciding to close Purley Pool, has the council considered the cost savings to Croydon PCT/NHS that the pool provides by keeping the many users, fit, healthy and not needing medical attention? (Particularly the large number of older people who use the pool).

**Reply**

I would refer Mrs. Marsden to my response to PQ002-15.

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**From Mrs Mayur Patel**

**Councillor Timothy Godfrey**

**Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport**

**Question No.**

**PQ007-15**

I would like to see Park Hill Park Basketball Court improved we have been playing there for over 14 years and nothing has been improved.

**Reply**

There are no current plans to improve the Park Hill Park Basketball Court, although my officers within the Place Department are always looking for opportunities to improve facilities and if any external development funding is made available they will explore improvements to the court.

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**From Mrs Margaret Clinch**

**Councillor Alison Butler**

**Cabinet Member for Homes and Regeneration**

**Question No.**

**PQ008 -15**

Replacement UDP, LR3, says 'Development leading to the loss of leisure facilities will not be permitted unless 4 criteria are met. None of the criteria is met: doesn't this mean that closure of the Purley Pool is contrary to planning rules and can be challenged by applying to the Secretary of State?

**Reply**

I would refer Mrs. Clinch to my response to PQ002-15.

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**From Mrs. Peta Barber**

**Councillor Alison Butler**

**Cabinet Member for Homes and Regeneration**

**Question No.**

**PQ009 -15**

How will the building of 200 more flats and the loss of 420 parking spaces regenerate Purley?

**Reply**

The Council is committed to the regeneration of Purley Town Centre and believes that the comprehensive redevelopment of 50-52 High Street to provide a mixed-use scheme incorporating new homes and public facilities will revitalise Purley High Street.

The existing building blights the High Street with non-active frontages and a vacant foodstore. The principles for redevelopment will incorporate public realm improvements and introduce better pedestrian connectivity from the High Street to Whytecliffe Road South as well as a sustainable new community at the heart of Purley and the co-location of public services. We are also aware of the many concerns regarding the current parking facilities which are both unpleasant and underused.

Further discussions are underway regarding the nature of the leisure provision and car park provision. As part of the due diligence work being undertaken to refine development proposals for the site, the Council is exploring options to assess the quantum of public parking that might be provided in the redeveloped site in order that it, together with the other public car parks in Purley town centre, meet current and future demand.

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**From Mrs. Anne Gasnola**

**Councillor Timothy Godfrey**

**Cabinet Member for Culture Leisure and Sport**

**Question No.**

**PQ010 -15**

Why close the only thing in Purley where one can be active? The councillor says the new pool is 5 minutes up the road; don't know what he travels by but it took 40 minutes by bus from Purley each way.

**Reply**

I would refer Mrs. Gasnola to my response to PQ002-15.

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**From Mrs. Hale Mann**

**Councillor Timothy Godfrey**

**Cabinet Member for Culture Leisure and Sport**

**Question No.**

**PQ011 -15**

Will Croydon Council be planning any new artist studios in Croydon and when will the art and culture strategy be available for the public?

**Reply**

Thank you for your question on the development of the art and culture strategy which provides an ideal opportunity to update the public on the work done to date and priorities going forward.

The council undertook the initial consultation event on the development of the cultural strategy #ambitiousforculture in July 2014. The outcomes of this consultation were published in the autumn.

This was followed up with an online survey which finished at the end of December 2014. This is currently being analysed to ensure that we understand what the Croydon community want from culture and arts in the borough. We want to make sure that the community has a say in how we develop our ideas. We intend conducting further targeted consultations with the under 25s, the business and the artistic communities in the spring of this year.

Once we have completed the consultation and analysed all of this information it will be used to ensure that a cultural strategy delivers to the needs and aspirations of Croydon. We are currently working towards publication in the summer of 2015.

The council does not anticipate providing artists' studios itself. However, as part of the town centre regeneration we will make sure the needs of local artists are heard and understood. We will certainly consider proposals which develop a range of facilities for artists as part of our plans to ensure Croydon is a place where culture thrives.

I am very pleased that we have support from across the Council departments to take and make every opportunity that shows itself to improve the cultural offer. I would very much like to see new artist spaces across Croydon, and will pursue any opportunities that arise.

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**From Miss Shannon Hayden**

**Councillor Timothy Godfrey**

**Cabinet Member for Culture Leisure and Sport**

**Question No.**

**PQ012 -15**

What is happening with Purley pool, it is vital this pool stays open, is that not abundantly obviously? Too many people rely on this facility has no one researched this or even looked into it, apparently not by the looks of it

**Reply**

I would refer Miss. Hayden to my response to PQ002-15.

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**From Mrs Sylvia Whittick**

**Councillor Tony Newman**

**Leader of the Council**

**Question No.**

**PQ013 -15**

Your statement in the Croydon Advertiser (12-12-14) says that £781,000 is needed for URGENT maintenance. Presumably, none of the maintenance is so urgent as to prevent the pool operating until April 2015. Cannot work needed to address maintenance be phased until it is necessary or regeneration is ready to be implemented?

**Reply**

I would refer Mrs. Whittick to my response to PQ002-15.

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**From Mr Mark Samuel**

**Councillor Tony Newman**

**Leader of the Council**

**Question No.**

**PQ014-15**

Would the leader kindly explain the obvious disparity between what was written on the Public Question Time papers for PQ092-14 and what actually happened on the night of 1 December 2014?

**Reply**

I am unclear about the disparity from the night of 1 December to which Mr Samuel refers. However, as I believe this question relates to a current planning application I am therefore unable to provide a response.

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**From Mr Roger Marsden**

**Councillor Timothy Godfrey**

**Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and SPort**

**Question No.**

**PQ015-15**

Have those who decided to close Purley Pool visited the pool? For example on Saturday morning, when it is packed full of children in swimming lessons. Waddon already has a well subscribed swimming lesson programme - where are all those who learn to swim at Purley Pool supposed to go?

**Reply**

I would refer Mr. Marsden to my response to PQ002-15.

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**From Mr Ian Hunter**

**Councillor Alison Butler**

**Cabinet Member for Homes and Regeneration**

**Question No.**

**PQ016-15**

Why might £200K be needlessly spent re-naming East Croydon Stn. instead of being used, in conjunction with monies from Sutton, Merton and Kingston, to jointly ask the Public Works Loan Board to subsidise the financial penalty VIRIDOR are threatening to charge if they lose their incinerator build at Beddington Lane.

**Reply**

The Council will not be spending any funding on renaming East Croydon station.

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**From Mr Sean Creighton**

**Councillor Toni Letts**

**Cabinet Member for Economic Development**

**Question No.**

**PQ017-15**

Please explain the reasons why Roehampton University has pulled out of discussions to set up a campus in the Town Centre and what steps are being taken to identify another University or to develop the University courses role of Croydon College?

**Reply**

The University of Roehampton is still keen to have a presence in Croydon, which it recognised as being a vital part of the future of the London economy and a place that deserves its own university.

Unfortunately the Conservative-led government has created such a high degree of uncertainty around future control of student numbers and tuition fee levels that Roehampton has had to pause while it awaits the outcome of the 2015 General Election. Given the high level of investment required, clarity over the new Government's policy for higher education is essential to ensure a greater chance of success in the long run.

In addition to this, conversations continue to be held with a number of University partners to seek wider interest and investment on a regional, national and international level. This relates to not only educational space but also student accommodation.

Finally Sussex University through its relationship with Sussex Innovation Centre has recently taken approx. 15,000 sq ft of office space in order to pursue its links with Croydon. This will support its relationship with Croydon College and Higher Education.

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**From Mr John Cartwright**

**Councillor Simon Hall**

**Cabinet Member for Finance and Treasury**

**Question No.**

**PQ018-15**

What are the rules / laws / regulations / guidelines about the order in which election candidates are listed (a) in the Statement of Persons Nominated (b) on the ballot paper (c) in the declaration?

**Reply**

I thank Mr Cartwright for his question. There are different rules and regulations for each type of election and the Electoral Commission website details the relevant guidelines for each election.

However as we approach the UK Parliamentary election, I will focus on the relevant rules for that election.

In regards to the Statement of Persons Nominated the relevant rules can be found in the Representation of the People Act 1983, (RPA 1983), Schedule 1, Section 14. This places a duty on the Acting Returning Officer to publish the required notice and the persons standing nominated must be arranged alphabetically in the order of their surnames and, if there are two or more of them with the same surname, of their other names.

With regard to the ballot papers again we have reference to the RPA 1983, in this instance Schedule 1, Section 19, which directs the Acting Returning Officer to follow a prescribed layout for the ballot paper in the form as given in the Appendix to the rules and printed with the directions therein, which states that the ballot paper must contain the names and other particulars of the candidates as shown in the Statement of Persons Nominated.

Turning to the declaration of result this is covered in Schedule 1, Section 50 of the RPA 1983. The Returning Officer for the election will read out the names of the candidates and the number of votes cast for each candidate, as convention and guidance dictates, in the order as provided on the Statement of Persons Nominated and on the ballot paper and declare to be elected the candidate to whom the majority of votes has been given.

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**From Ms. Susan Oliver**

**Councillor Stuart Collins**

**Cabinet Member for Clean, Green Croydon**

**Question No.**

**PQ019-15**

Was the matter of the combined traffic levels caused by two incinerators adjacent to each other considered when planning permission was granted? If not, why not?

**Reply**

It is not clear from the question which “incinerators adjacent to each other” are being referred to. On the assumption that one is at Beddington Farmlands, the London Borough of Sutton are the local planning authority (and local highway authority) in respect of the proposed waste facility at Beddington Farmlands. Similarly any other waste facilities in their Borough. There are no current or recent Croydon proposals for waste facilities near to Beddington Farmlands.

The planning application for the facility at Beddington Farmlands was determined by the London Borough of Sutton. The representations made by Croydon Council were considered by Sutton Council when the latter determined the application.

If there are further similar developments in the area, then it is the responsibility of the relevant local planning and highway authority to take account of the cumulative impact of all developments where they are material planning considerations.

In so far as the levels of traffic are concerned, Sutton Council have shown they are keen to ensure that any increase in traffic levels are minimised throughout the area, which is reflected in the conditions attached to the Beddington Farmlands planning permission. For this particular scheme the conditions relate to the monitoring and control of both construction traffic, and traffic during the operation of the waste facility.

I am very aware of the importance of air quality and the problems caused by diesel engine lorries so will be arguing for strict, open and accountable measurement of air quality standards in the area should the building of an Incinerator go ahead.

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**From Miss Josi Kiss**

**Councillor Timothy Godfrey**

**Cabinet Member for Culture Leisure and Sport**

**Question No.**

**PQ020-15**

Councillor Godfrey has confirmed that 2015 budgets for redevelopment of both the playground & toilets at Park Hill Park are going ahead (promised spring 2015), therefore please can the council supply a timeline for each project including when consultations will be made with FOPHP, designs, start & finish dates.

**Reply**

We will be holding a Parks and Open Spaces meeting at the end of February or early March which will enable us to start the process of planning how we improve all of our parks and open spaces across the borough and how we support our friends groups.

The Community Garden project is proceeding to the agreed timescale, the feasibility study into the refurbishment of the existing toilet block has unfortunately been delayed due to the project lead officer leaving Interserve unexpectedly on ill health grounds, but a revised timetable is being prepared and agreed with Interserve for delivery of this feasibility study.

In respect of the enhancements for the play facilities for toddlers, there is a draft project plan prepared and once agreed, will be shared with the Friends Group of Park Hill Park.