



Councillor Paul Scott (Job Share)
Lead for Planning and Regeneration

**Environment, Transport
and Regeneration
December 2019**



Councillor Stuart King (Job Share)
Lead for Environment and Transport

Tree Planting Programme 2019/20

The Council is now in its second year of the Five Year Street Tree Planting project which will see 3500 new street trees planted across the borough by the end of 2023. 1100 trees were planted in Year One of the project and a further 850 trees are planned for this year with planting already underway.

The Project has attracted funding from the Mayor's Greener City Fund (which cannot be used to plant street trees). This involves £10k to plant trees in Ashburton Park and Ashburton Playing Fields, with the latter being in partnership with the Regeneration Department to support a proposed sports development project. In addition the Council has recently been awarded further funding from the Mayor in the form of a grant of 20k to plant flowering Cherry trees on 'Cherry Tree Green' to coincide with 'National Tree Week'. In addition further trees will be planted in several 'sheltered' housing sites located in the Borough.



The Council has also been successful in obtain grant monies from the Urban Tree Challenge - A £10 million scheme recently launched to plant more than 130,000 trees across England's towns and cities and forms part of the government's commitment to plant one million urban trees by 2022.

I am now awaiting the results of the final offer which will fund tree planting in 2020/2021 in the wards identified by the Forestry Commission as having 20% less tree canopy than other parts of the Borough.

Climate Change Citizens Assembly

After a unanimous decision, Croydon declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency at the Council's July meeting. As a result of this one of the actions the Council is taking is to establish a Citizen's Assembly on Climate Change and a Commission aimed at making Croydon a sustainable city.

A citizens' assembly is a group of residents who are brought together to discuss a challenging and difficult issue and reach a conclusion about what they think should

happen. Employing this approach will ensure that the voice of residents' is very much at the heart of the plans the Council adopts to tackle our climate crisis. The outcome of the Citizen's Assembly will be reported to a future Cabinet as well as provided to the Climate Commission.

The report to Cabinet in January 2020 will detail how the independent commission on sustainability will gather evidence, assess the current situation in Croydon and make recommendations back to Cabinet. This method will be supported by independent advisors to ensure that the commission is independent and appropriately supported to fulfil its purpose.

By giving evidence to the commission, young people, residents, voluntary and community sector organisations and businesses will have the opportunity to directly influence the recommendations that will be put to Council on what actions to take.

As Croydon continues to work towards a more sustainable future, the Council recognises that the task ahead is monumental and requires the whole borough to work together as a community to bring about lasting change. The above options are geared towards ensuring that local residents, businesses and young people will be a part of the journey every step of the way.

New Environmentally Friendly Gritters Ready for Winter

A new fleet of 10 low-emission gritters will be helping keep Croydon's roads clear as the borough prepares for winter weather.

The new gritters are fitted with a tracking system which will enable them to be quickly diverted to areas in need of urgent treatment, for example if a water pipe bursts.

Alongside this 5,500 tonnes of salt have been stockpiled to treat roads and footpaths across the borough, and arrangements are already in place should more salt need to be bought during the winter.

Priority is given to gritting key routes including A and B roads, main bus routes, approaches to rail stations as well as fire, police and ambulance stations, and roads with steep gradients. Pavements and roads around polling stations will be treated as appropriate on Thursday 12 December.

The 570 public salt bins across the borough have been stocked and will be monitored across the winter. Schools, along with housing and social support services have all been given advice on how to access grit for their buildings.

Meanwhile proactive monitoring of Croydon's gullies and soakaways in areas at risk of floods alongside regular reviews of water level and rain fall monitors will allow a quick response if there's a risk of flooding.

As ever we are working hard to try prepare for the cold weather and this year the low-emission vehicles will help makes this a greener Christmas. We're working hard to make sure the borough is as prepared as it can be to meet the weather's challenges.

More information on Croydon's winter maintenance is available [here](#).

Croydon's Green Fund

As of October 2019, the Green Fund has been open for bids to provide funding support for projects, activities and initiatives that promote **environmental protection, green living** and a **sustainable lifestyle** in Croydon. This opportunity is available on the Green Fund page on the Councils website <https://www.croydon.gov.uk/community/advice/tsfunding/funding/green-croydon-fund>

The fund will remain open all year around, but applications will be reviewed, and awards will be made three times each year, and confirmed by email. The funding decisions will be made by the Communities Team in consultation with the Cabinet Member for the Environment, Transport and Regeneration.

The sum of £250,000 will be made every year over three years to voluntary organisations delivering either small/medium projects within Croydon that require £1,000 - £15,000, or medium/large projects requiring £15,001 - £50,000.

This fund is also open to applications that extend beyond one year. Multi-year bids will be awarded on an indicative basis, and will be subject to performance.

Green Fund Projects must take place in Croydon, and should deliver an environmental benefit linked to at least one of the following priority areas; environmental protection, green living, sustainable lifestyles.

Projects should also demonstrate, using clear evidence, a link to the priorities outlined in our [Croydon Council's Corporate Plan](#) e.g.; reducing social isolation and creating a greater sense of community involvement, creating an environment where our young people thrive and reach their full potential, providing volunteering opportunities, particularly hard to reach groups

Organisations should be non-profit and be at least informally constituted, which means having a bank account in the name of the group with a minimum of two signatories. Funding cannot be used to pay staff.

Bus Route Changes for Tollers Estate and Cane Hill Estate

Transport for London (TfL) and Croydon Council undertook parallel public consultations in January and February 2019 associated with the potential re-routeing of the 404 bus service to serve the Tollers Lane Estate and accompanying highway changes.

The Council split the highway changes in the Tollers Lane Estate into two broad phases.

The final phase works are being undertaken during November / December 2019 and include the following:

- New bus stops;
- New footpaths / footways to connect to the new bus stops;
- New double yellow line parking restrictions at key junctions / pinch points;

TfL Approval of Bus Changes

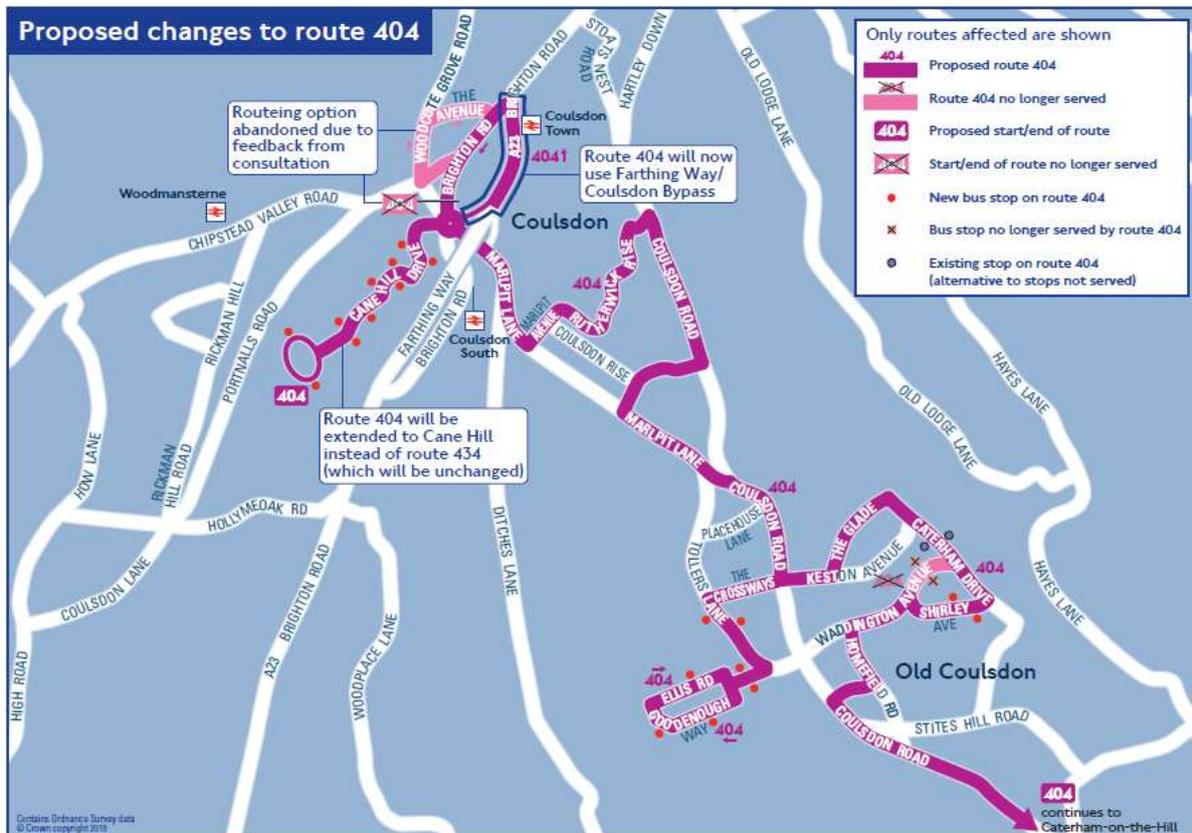
In October 2019 TfL agreed to proceed with amendments to the 404 bus service, (subject to a satisfactory route test i.e. a bus fitting around the route). The agreed changes include:

- Extending the 404 service into Cane Hill to stand at Cane Hill Drive. This is intended to route in an anti-clockwise loop via Farthing Way and Brighton Road in both directions, enabling direct connections to Coulsdon Town Station;
- Diverting the 404 route into Tollers Lane Estate
- Diverting the 404 route via Shirley Avenue
- Increasing the frequency to 2 buses per hour and introduce a Sunday service.

There will be no changes to the 434 bus service.

TfL's Consultation Report relating to the changes can be found at: <https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/buses/routes-404-434/>

It is intended to implement the changes, including the new link to serve the Tollers Lane Estate, in early 2020. A map illustrating the route changes is shown below:



New Addington Heating System Pilot

Croydon Council is piloting a low-carbon, ground-source heat pump system to reduce council tenants' bills while helping the environment. The heat pump being installed at a 10-storey block in New Addington will reduce carbon emissions, help improve air quality, and save up to £300 per home per year on more than 40 households' heating bills. The pump works by extracting the natural heat stored more than 200 metres beneath the ground, and then piping it into residents' homes.

The block in Chertsey Crescent is the first Croydon Council building to get the technology, which will replace the existing electric storage heaters. As well as saving each home between £260 and £300 a year off residents' bills, the ground source heat pump is expected to cost the council less to maintain. The project aims to contribute towards a local carbon emissions reduction target – 34% by 2025 – set by the council as it declared a climate emergency this summer.

Removing electric storage heaters cuts enough carbon emissions equivalent to a 4,150-mile car journey. The average night storage heater produces approximately

1,092kg of carbon dioxide per year, compared to the new system that produces around 396kg per year.

Specialist Company Kensa expects to complete the works by spring 2020, which have been timed to coincide with an 18-month, £3.2 million refurbishment to the block including new insulation, a replacement roof and windows, landscaping and new parking. The £700,000 heating system will be funded through the council's ring-fenced housing budget and via energy credits from energy regulator Ofgem.

Making Croydon more sustainable is a key council priority, and by both cutting carbon emissions and residents' heating bills this project underlines our commitment to improving the environment.

LATEST NEWS

GROWTH ZONE

Croydon town centre continues to see rapid change with new buildings under construction and plans for further developments in the pipeline.

The Growth Zone programme consists of a range of transport, public realm, and social infrastructure and technology projects. They are deemed essential to mitigate the impact and maximise the opportunities of the growth planned for the Croydon town centre area, (as detailed in the Croydon Local Plan 2018, Croydon Opportunity Area Planning Framework 2013 and the London Plan), for the benefit of existing and future residents, businesses and visitors.

The following provides a short update on projects underway:

Place and Public Realm

The **Minster Green** has been developed to Stage 2 designs in March 2019. Designs have been informed by stakeholders, Diocese, landowners and the Council's Place Review Panel. Public engagement on the Stage 2 designs was undertaken in March 2019, which will inform the Stage 3 designs. Following this engagement the project focus is on making the Minster a destination / place, whilst designing a deliverable scheme. Stage 3 designs are currently scheduled to be completed by late 2019 and delivery starting in 2020/21.

The profile of projects being progressed in 2019/20 focus on the Old Town and Mid Croydon area, including **St John's Road, Drummond Road, Katherine Street** and all to follow commencement of delivery of Minster Green.

The Council has completed the commissioning of a world class design for **the Fair Field** to provide a public space Croydon can be proud of. It is an integral part of the renewal of the Croydon Opportunity Area and delivery of Croydon's cultural quarter, anchored by the new Fairfield Halls. The team is now working on creating a final design, and it is anticipated work will start on site in 2021.

Corridors

Three roads have been identified as the key 'movement corridors' serving the Growth Zone these are; **London Road, Brighton Road & Mitcham Road/Roman Way**, it is essential that their design, and the priority afforded to each transport mode, responds appropriately to the future needs of Croydon Town Centre. The nature of interventions will be determined by the design process and engagement with residents and businesses in the area, and the council's objectives for these key routes align with the Mayor's Transport Strategy focus on prioritising walking, cycling and public transport. Initial feasibility reports have been completed for London Road and Brighton Road, and further survey work will be commissioned prior to progressing holistic plans for these key routes. Local public realm improvements at two key sites on the London Road are being developed as initial short-term projects.

Croydon Council are working with TfL to prepare and model improvements to **Lombard roundabout, Thornton Heath Ponds gyratory** and the **Purley gyratory**, which form part of the broader corridor programme. Healthy Streets assessment and projects list for London Road Corridor has been completed.

Transport, Walking and Cycling, Parking

Key schemes include:

- the implementation of Bedford Park contraflow cycling track scheme, due to be completed December 2019;
- implementation of the Fairfield Public Realm 'interim phase' project that incorporates a segregated cycle route;
- approval to commission the West Croydon Station development project next design stage;
- TfL commencing work on the Park Lane gyratory scheme;
- initiation of key bus priority projects and movement into the 'delivery pipeline';
- ongoing work in relation to Network Rail's Croydon Area Remodelling Scheme, involving a number of inter-related workstreams (including commissioning initial feasibility/optionseering for a significant increase in bus stopping and standing capacity as part of a redeveloped East Croydon Station);
- completion of GZ Controlled Parking Zone review;
- funding agreed to support a new Transport for London officer embedded in the GZ team;
- Initial governance and programme development for £18m Liveable Neighbourhood programme.

Social Infrastructure

We are at feasibility stage for the ***Clocktower building refurbishment***, working with the various services in the building to improve the public offer and access to this valued community hub.

We are building on the masterplan developed in 2017 for ***Park Hill***, one of the town centre's only major parks, we are planning phased improvements to this site, principally focusing on creating spaces for young people and children's play alongside other changes to the park landscape and infrastructure. A survey of park visitors was completed in September. From early 2020, there will be an 8 month programme of pop up play events and engagement activities, working with young people to test out ideas and design proposals for the new play spaces in the park.

Funding has been allocated from the social infrastructure workstream to support the development of a new ***university campus*** in the town centre, following the announcement of a partnership with London South Bank University.

We will be undertaking an analysis of ***community space*** in central Croydon, to map and understand the existing availability, quality and accessibility of community space for use and hire, alongside an assessment of the pipeline of new community facilities being delivered as part of new development within the Town Centre. This work will align with the council's recently published Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy.

We are commissioning a research partner to develop a framework to gauge and monitor the social impact of the town centre regeneration programme. The first stage survey work and report should conclude in spring 2020.

Smart City

SLP INNOVATE IoT project; we have hosted 3 IoT engagement workshops as part of the South London Partnership ***INNOVATE Internet of Things project***. The first session focussed on Business Growth, the second focussed on Adult Social Care and Assistive Technology, and the third will focus on Housing, Assets and Sustainability. The INNOVATE project will deliver an IoT platform across the 5 boroughs of Croydon, Merton, Sutton, Richmond and Kingston. The workshops aim to identify key challenges in priority areas and develop IoT solutions over the next 3 years.

Air Quality Monitoring - The ***AirPublic pilot*** to monitor air quality around construction sites has been extended for 6 months.

Full Fibre Broadband - Discussions with Openreach, Community Fibre, and other infrastructure providers are underway to bring Full Fibre broadband across the borough. The Openreach delivery across Thornton Heath is nearly complete and delivery to selected surrounding areas and hot-spots will follow.

Full Fibre to Social Housing - rollout by Community Fibre and Openreach has commenced in Q4 2019.

Digital Inclusion - Digital inclusions and skills training is being planned and delivered in 2019 and 2020 to older residents through all Croydon Libraries and in New Addington as well as targeted skills training for young people across the borough through the Freeformers Facebook Digital Skill Programme for 18-30 year olds.

Electric Vehicle Charging Points - 150 points have been programmed through a number of channels including Brick by Brick, Go Ultra Low City and Source London as well as a trial programme with Virgin Media. These are all underway and will be delivered within 6-12 months.

Energy

Specialist consultancies were appointed via the Mayor of London's Decentralised Energy Enabling Project (DEEP) to deliver the detailed technical project development and commercial assessment of the district heating scheme. A full business case will be completed by March 2020 to enable the Council to take the decision as to whether to move to the delivery phase (depending on a viable scheme being presented).

Other decentralised energy projects including community energy are being further developed with the aim of reducing carbon emissions and lowering energy costs.

Construction Logistics

The Construction Logistics efforts in the Growth Zone are progressing well, traffic levels remain relatively unaffected by construction traffic due to measures undertaken to manage HGV's, sites are loading/unloading in protected areas and holding areas are being provided to reduce the number of on-street HGV's. Implementation of permitted construction routes and prescribed delivery hours in particular, limits the HGVs in the peak periods. Our efforts in this regard have been shortlisted for over a dozen national awards this year, with a key headline being that there have been no construction-related HGV accidents for the entire duration of our efforts so far, a figure that is significantly less than the statistical average.

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AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON

Consultation on the Local Plan review

The consultation Commenced earlier this month and the Council is asking for as many people as possible to have their say on how the borough should grow. The consultation is based around three spatial strategies, sites and planning policies, which are necessary to ensure Croydon's growth and delivery of much-needed new homes, jobs and community facilities over the next 20 years is managed correctly.

Using government methodology, up to 46, 040 homes are needed within the borough between now and 2039 and residents will be able to have their say on how best to manage the delivery of them, employment growth and how best to respond to Croydon's climate emergency. Residents can also share their views on how each of the borough's 16 places will change as Croydon grows.

A series of public consultation events have taken place or will take place:

- Thornton Heath Library, 19 November, 5.30pm – 7.30pm
- Norbury High Street, 20 November, 11am – 2pm
- Purley Library, 26 November, 5.30pm – 7.30pm
- Purley High Street, 27 November, 11am – 2pm
- New Addington Library, 3 December, 5.30pm – 7.30pm
- Addington Road, Selsdon, 4 December, 11am – 2pm
- South Norward Market, 7 December, 10am – 2pm
- Ashburton Library, 10 December, 5.30pm – 7.30pm
- Lower Addiscombe Road, Addiscombe, 11 December, 11am – 2pm

The Council's spatial planning officers will also be available to speak to residents at Croydon Arts Store in the Whitgift Centre Wednesday-Saturday between 8 November and 20 December. Further information can be found at:

www.croydon.gov.uk/localplanconsultation

Urban Greening



The Council is working with National Park City, Timberland and the artist Loyle Carner to launch a new 'Nature Needs Heroes' campaign. Two sites have been selected in Croydon to turn the grey into green: the Brit School and the forecourt of Ambassador House in Thornton Heath. The launch event for the campaign took place on the Ambassador House forecourt on Thursday 17th October with Loyle Carner spending time with the local community to look at designs for adding greenery and texture to the concrete space of the forecourt. Loyle then headlined an evening of music and speeches, featuring some of our local artists engaged in the Music City programme.

Place Regeneration

The borough's regeneration programme is being aligned to the 16 'places' of Croydon in order to support the sustainable growth of the borough. We are developing place profiles for the 16 places of Croydon which will provide an objective evidence base of need for regeneration intervention and investment and help to inform local communities in their development of community place plans for their areas. This will form the detail of a cabinet paper in December.

This work builds on the successful examples of community place planning in South Norwood and Kenley as previously reported on. The South Norwood Community Plan can be found here: <http://www.welovese25.org/plan/>. The plan has already informed a successful bid to the Mayor of London's Good Growth Fund and is delivering a £2.3m

programme of regeneration around South Norwood's high streets. In September, we also learnt of our success in securing High Street Heritage Action Zone funding from Historic England, building on the work of the Community Plan and Good Growth Fund project. We are currently in the Project Design phase which will confirm the grant amount in the new year.

The Kenley Community plan engagement work has now concluded with over 700 responses received. The draft plan is currently being finalised for publication in the new year, more information available here:

<https://www.croydon.gov.uk/planningandregeneration/regeneration/places/kenley-community-plan/introduction-kenley-community-plan>.

The outcomes of the Community Plan engagement have fed into a bid to the Mayor of London's Good Growth Fund for a contribution of c.£900k towards the delivery of the projects and initiatives identified by the community. The work is also influencing the investment and interventions of our partner organisations including Transport for London and Network Rail.

Local ward members in Selsdon are beginning their journey to develop a community place plan, supported by the Council, with the first community engagement day held at the beginning of the month. More information here:

<https://www.croydon.gov.uk/planningandregeneration/regeneration/places/selsdon-regeneration/selsdon-community-plan-2020-2025>