



Clean Green Croydon Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Stuart Collins October 2020

Bee Highways and Butterfly Corridors

Croydon Council is busy establishing more wildflower and bee and butterfly-friendly road verges and habitats across the borough.

Working alongside the London Wildlife Trust a number of sites have been targeted to improve the environment for wildlife and wildflowers as part of the council's Bee Highways and Butterfly Corridors campaign. At the current time two chalk banks are being created in Milne Park and scrapes to expose chalk are taking place in Falconwood Meadow and Foxley Wood. Wildflowers grow well in chalk grassland. Bradmore Green was also recently re-seeded to create a wildflower area.

There are also plans for wildflower areas in Sanderstead Recreation Ground and Higher Drive Recreation Ground, while mowing regimes are changing across the borough to ensure more wildflowers grow on road verges and so encourage a greater number of birds, butterflies and wildlife.

If any residents would like to nominate their road to be a 'wildlife friendly road' by changing the mowing regime of their road verge to encourage more wild flowers they can register their interest by emailing biodiversity@croydon.gov.uk Residents need to be able to commit to assist with the raking up of any cut grass and vegetation once or twice a year and seek the agreement from the majority of residents in their street.

Following the success of the Street Champions we are asking what part you can play in taking pride in our area and help maintain the beautiful wildflower verges and habitats we are setting up across Croydon. We are already an incredibly green borough but we want to do more and the creation of wildflower areas is crucial to this vision. More wildflowers means greater biodiversity and a home for more bees, butterflies, insects and birds. We are already working hard in matters such as recycling and street cleaning but allowing nature to thrive is of paramount importance as we look to the future.

The focus of creating more wildflower meadows is also part of a two-year project, funded by the People's Postcode Lottery and delivered in collaboration with the London Wildlife Trust, Butterfly Conservation and Natural History Museum called Brilliant Butterflies.

The aim is to create a 'living landscape' of chalk grassland in areas across Croydon and work with communities to create butterfly colonies in their local green spaces.



AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON



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Great British Spring Clean

Croydon Council has joined forces with Keep Britain Tidy to launch the inaugural Great British September Clean after the original Spring Clean was cancelled due to COVID-19.

The national event kicks off from Friday September 11 until Sunday 27 September and calls on residents to take pride in their areas by helping to safely dispose of litter from the borough's streets, parks and open spaces.

The event comes as Croydon's very own Street Champions volunteering initiative goes from strength to strength. Following the ease of lockdown in July, more residents have registered to join the network - bringing the current number of champions up to 487. A surge of activity saw 23 litter picks carried out in August alone.

Last year a record number of 215 volunteers across Croydon took part in clean ups, securing Croydon the title of ['Best Local Authority'](#) at the Keep Britain Tidy awards in 2019. This year, planned events include The Good Gym Croydon group litter picking Norbury Park and the Friends of Park Hill cleaning up around the water tower in the park.

During lockdown we welcomed more people than ever to our parks and open spaces and it is clear that our residents truly value and appreciate these. With the number of registered Street Champions on the rise, I'm extremely proud of how proactive and community spirited Croydon's residents are. This is exactly what the Street Champions initiative is about, and the Great British September Clean is the perfect opportunity to show how great things can happen when we all work together.

If you are interested in organising a litter pick in your area for a group of up to six people then please email champions@croydon.gov.uk notifying of the location, time and date you are planning to run the event in.

Volunteers are reminded that government guidance on safety measures may be subject to change so please consider the latest advice before carrying out an event.

Respect Your Park Campaign

Croydon Council has joined forces with residents and park users to launch a social media campaign aimed at combatting the challenges of litter dropped in our parks, after seven extra tonnes of rubbish were collected from April to June this year.

With contributions from the Friends of South Norwood Lakes, the Friends of Lloyd Park and children from Howard Primary School in south Croydon, a series of videos will explore how Croydon's parks and green spaces became a sanctuary for many during the unprecedented lockdown period. A number of the residents recalled how coming to their local open space helped their physical and mental well-being with many positive memories made.

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Nine year old Amira-Lee Henry from Howard Primary School was one of those who shared her memories of coming to Duppas Hill Park following the school closures in March. Amira-Lee said: “Me and my brother came to this park every day and we learnt to ride our bikes during lockdown. It was lovely to have the big open space.”

However, these memories are at risk of being tarnished by the excessive amounts of litter left behind by some park users. Despite the introduction of new larger caged bins to handle a rise in people visiting parks, the council’s grounds maintenance team are collecting up to 300 extra bags of rubbish a day.

During lockdown we welcomed more people than ever to our parks and open spaces and it’s fantastic that we have nature on our doorstep in Croydon. But it is also saddening that a significant minority are abusing these spaces by littering and spoiling our parks for others. There is no excuse for littering – anybody caught will be issued a £150 fine. If the bins are full, take your rubbish home.



50th Fly-Tipping Van Seized

Croydon Council’s crackdown on fly-tipping has seen two more vans seized, bringing the total up to 50.

Officers swooped on the parked vans on Holmesdale Road on Friday 3 July and Northwood Road on Wednesday 15 July after both vehicles were linked to fly-tips across Croydon. Footage shows the 50th vehicle reversing into a site on Harrington Road, South Norwood, and dumping rubble, tarpaulins and other rubbish before driving off. It is thought to be linked to three fly-tips across Croydon.

After a vehicle is seized the team contact the owner who has a month to respond or come forward. If they do and are responsible for fly-tipping related offences they may face an unlimited fine. If they do not come forward the vehicle will be crushed.

Don’t Mess with Croydon – Take Pride launched six years ago in an effort to clampdown on illegal fly-tipping in the borough. It has also seen hundreds of fines issued for littering and hundreds of Street Champions organise litter picks in their local communities.



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If convicted by a court, fly-tippers face an unlimited fine, criminal behaviour orders, property forfeiture and - in the most serious cases - prison sentences.

Fly-tipping is an offence that blights our communities and we will always seek the strongest penalties against the criminals who carry it out. Croydon leads the way in seizing vehicles associated with fly-tipping – each one we take makes it harder for these criminals and we will keep doing everything we can to bring them to justice.

Reporting Environmental Issues

Help us to help you by using one of the following methods to report any environmental issues that you come across;

Online at www.croydon.gov.uk/doitonline/report-it

You can report the following online

- Issues with trees
- Issues in parks
- Issues with waste and recycling collections
- Issues with street cleansing and fly tipping

Love Clean Streets App

Download the free Love Clean Streets smartphone app and select Croydon as your home local authority. You can now report issues to us on the go in four easy steps.

- Select the location
- Add a photo
- Choose category and add brief description
- Hit send – and you're done!

A complete list of services are available on the app.

Using My Account

Use My Account www.croydon.gov.uk/myaccount to check if we know about a problem and if we don't, you can either report anonymously or set up an account where you can track the progress of your report.

See My Account for a complete list of services available. You can also log an issue on someone else's behalf on My Account

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