



# Clean Green Croydon

## Cabinet Member Bulletin

### Councillor Stuart Collins

#### March 2018

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#### Operation Kestrel – Op Golden Eagle

After the success of Operation Kestrel on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017, officers are planning to repeat this with another operation later this month– Op Golden Eagle –. Feedback will be given after the event.

During the last operation, 30 officers went out and proactively patrolled the borough addressing enviro-crime and ASB. As a result a number of FPNs, notices and warnings were given out and a van was seized on suspicion of waste offences. The van has since been crushed.

#### Time Banded Waste Team (TBWT)

This started as a pilot in Thornton Heath three years ago. Due to the success, the TBW team was created to grow the number of roads covered by TBW. Approx. 10-15 high street areas were initially selected to fall under the TBW remit. Further high street areas have been identified to be included in the TBW project across the borough. This involves carrying out a waste disposal audit in a specific area, writing to all residents regarding the correct disposal of waste from their property, serving notices on shops and carrying out several follow up visits to the shops to ensure all the correspondence is fully understood and instructions complied with.

Follow up enforcement visits are then carried out to ensure the project is successful. This is normally in conjunction with the NSO Team and other area officers.

As part of this project to date, over 2000 visits have taken place to shops and nine £300 Fixed penalty notices (FPNs) have been issued to businesses in these areas for failing to comply with notices to produce waste contracts.

#### Flytip Task Force – (FTTF)

Since I last reported on the activities of the Flytip Task Force [FTTF] the team have continued to be very active identifying current and emerging Flytip hot spots in the borough. Several operations have taken place and the team work into the early hours of the morning catching night time offenders trying to dispose of waste.

The FTTF team have issued a number of FPNs and continue to monitor key hotspots on the borough. A particular focus has been on the household recycling centres and housing estate communal areas across the wards, more specifically the abuse of these areas by shops and residents – often from outside the borough – using the sites and illegally depositing commercial waste / industrial waste at these locations.



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#### North NSO Team

Raymead Passage has been of particular concern and recently the North Area NSO team and FTF team have been carrying out proactive visits, checking on the local shop waste contracts, carrying out inspections and deploying CCTV at the location. As a result, a fine has been issued, a new bin provision has been put in place and this so far has heavily reduced the side waste being deposited at the location.

A shop owner on Brigstock Road that was caught dumping a fridge in the alleyway on private CCTV were interviewed under caution by EET officers and issued with a £400 FPN last week.

#### Environmental Enforcement Team (EET)

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March, several environmental cases were brought to Croydon magistrates Court. All cases were successful and all perpetrators were found/pleaded guilty and were fined.

Of note was one of the cases I was personally involved in. A few months back I received a tip off from a street champion about a resident who had fly-tipped a fridge on the green area in Norbury Avenue. I knocked on the resident's door and she admitted dumping the fridge. I passed this information onto the Area NSO Team and as a result an FPN was issued to the resident. The resident did not pay the fine and instead pleaded guilty in court on 13/03/2018 where she was fined £110 and ordered to pay costs and a surcharge totalling £180.

In another successful case, the EET team deployed covert CCTV in Thornloe Gardens, Waddon in September 2017 and caught two males depositing up to 10 tonnes of waste in a former housing garage area. A trial has been set for 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018 where all matters are expected to be dealt with. A van which was seized as part of the investigation has already been crushed as it was never claimed.

In two other matters in court on the same day, one male who was issued with an £80 FPN for littering his cigarette butt in the town centre was fined a total of £770 after failing to pay his fine or contesting the matter. Another male was dealt with the same way after being caught urinating in the street – he was also fined £770 after not paying his fine or turning up to contest the matter.

These cases show we are still taking all enviro crimes seriously and will prosecute for any of these matters when people do not pay their fines.

All in all in March we had 5 cases presented and saw over £2,500 worth of fines and costs ordered against offenders for a variety of offences.

**AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON**



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Since my last update, the EET have now seized 35 vehicles involved in waste crimes. Most of these have been crushed.



Recent operation at New Addington waste and recycling centre where a van was caught trying to bring commercial waste into the borough and dispose of it without paying.

### **Schools Education Programme**

There has been a huge response from schools within the borough wanting to participate in Croydon Councils School Recycling Project. The project includes an assembly educating pupils on Recycling. The first assembly took place at All Saints School last week to children aged 4-10yrs and was a great success. A further 44 schools within the Borough are scheduled to participate over the spring and summer terms.

In addition Key stage 2 workbooks with classroom activities educating pupils on waste disposal and recycling and also a competition will also be available to schools in the summer term.



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Over the past week three schools in the Borough have been visited with the Trifocal Ground work team. This was to help educate parents on food waste and recycling. There has also been great feedback from this.

#### Improved Bulky Waste Collection

Croydon Council has announced plans to give every household in the borough up to three free bulky waste collections each year.

Currently residents pay the council £10 every time they want up to seven items of bulky waste to be disposed of, from bed frames to washing machines. Collecting eight to 14 items costs householders £20 a time.

At the cabinet meeting on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February, I announced the council plans to make three of these collections free of charge per property per year.

The council is introducing the measure as part of its Don't Mess With Croydon – Take Pride clampdown against fly-tipping. Of almost 200 successful prosecutions under the clampdown since 2015, several involved offenders who had dumped bulky waste such as furniture. White goods are also fly-tipped in Croydon by offenders dodging a paid-for collection, including one incident caught on camera involving two men fly-tipping a fridge.

The three free collections can be for up to two bulky waste collections, and one white goods collection for items like fridges or dishwashers. The council plans to introduce the new measure by this summer.

To qualify for these free collections, residents will have to sign up online to the council's bulky waste service via My Account. This will help the council to assess which households still qualify for free collections and which have used their allowance and need to pay.

Having a more detailed register of bulky waste collections is also expected to make it even easier for council staff to investigate large fly-tips.

This initiative gives a minority of residents who fly-tip fewer excuses not to get rid of their waste responsibly like everyone else does. This also gives an extra incentive for even more residents to sign up and join the thousands of households that already use our good-value bulky waste collection service.