



# Culture, Leisure and Sport Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Timothy Godfrey March 2018

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## Latest News

### Live Well Croydon

The Live Well programme is nearing completion of its first year of delivery and we are looking forward to continuing onwards into 2018/19 to help even more residents in making lifestyle changes, whether it be small steps towards increasing physical activity or tackling greater challenges by giving up smoking. Across the service so far this year we have provided 807 initial appointments with residents and of these 314 residents have successfully reached either their 3 or 6 month follow up stage, which is a very positive demonstration of their commitment to the programme.

Our latest Quarter 3 report shows some significant achievements in healthy outcomes for residents participating in the Live Well programme:

- 79.7% 4 week quit date success rate.
- Highest client participation rate in two of Croydon's top areas of deprivation
- 38.5% participation by BAME individuals in the face to face service
- MIND in Croydon started delivery to support people with advanced mental wellbeing issues

In addition, the Just Be website has had just over 25,600 hits with the highest number of visits in January at 3,375 in response to our New Year, New Year campaigns.

A number of residents have provided feedback on the service they are receiving from our Live Well Advisor teams celebrating their success so far on their behaviour change journey:

Mr G - so happy to have given up smoking and he has managed to pay of a large credit card debt and looking to get into volunteering.

Mrs S - Smoke free and very happy she has started to knit again.

Mr P – as a result of recent COPD diagnosis has given up smoking with our service. Happier to be smoke-free and now has more money to spend on his daughter.

More information about the Live Well Croydon Programme and healthy lifestyle information, advice and support can be found via: <https://www.justbecroydon.org/>

### Get Active Wandle

Get Active Wandle moves into year 3 in January and is continuing to deliver positive outcomes for Croydon. The Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust have delivered a number of physical activity sessions in Croydon as a result of our support to this project and are in contact with us regarding the activities to be delivered in year 3. These include beginners running sessions at Wandle Park, family cycle rides and BMX sessions as well as family activities.



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## Biodiversity

### Green Floating Platforms

Thanks to funding from the Environment Agency 3 floating green islands have been installed at South Norwood Lake in January 2018. The islands will help improve water quality and provide refuge for smaller fish to hide under.



### Hazel coppicing- traditional woodland management in action

The Conservation Volunteers have been coppicing Hazel in King’s Wood again this winter producing fencing stakes, binders for hedges, pea and bean sticks for local allotment societies.

Both Selsdon Wood and King’s Wood have a long tradition of hazel coppicing and managing the areas for products results in the operation being sustainable and beneficial for wildlife as coppice areas provide sheltered, sunny areas for woodland butterflies, nesting areas for birds and hide outs for deer. The better value coppice areas are managed by a traditional Underwoodsman who markets the products.





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## **TLC for Croydon's Ponds gets underway thanks to HLF funding**

The Conservation Volunteers Croydon have received a Heritage Lottery Funded grant for a two year Pond project. The new part time officer has taken up the role in February to work with community groups and volunteers to survey all existing public accessible ponds, research their history and carry out vital management work to ensure the ponds provide a thriving habitat for local wildlife.



Volunteers hard at work clearing excess growth at Beulah Pond

## **London National Park City Event week 21-29 July**

The London Mayor Sadiq Khan has announced a week of events to celebrate all things wild and natural in the city.

Croydon has a wealth of green open spaces and a large diversity of habitats and species present, all 44 Friends of Park and local nature conservation organisations have been contacted and asked if they could help put Croydon on the map. The events week will also be a great boost to get more local people involved in enjoying and caring for the biodiversity of Croydon's parks and open space.

For further information, visit: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/parks-green-spaces-and-biodiversity/london-national-park-city-week>



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## Friend of Park groups

44 parks in Croydon now have a Friends of park group, with the latest addition of Lloyd Park, A recent meeting with residents marked the start of yet another positive partnership between residents and the council to bring about positive improvements to parks and open spaces. The new group wants to focus on promoting the many different activities on offer in the park.

To support the network of Friends of groups, the council is running free first aid training courses for key volunteers, on 28 September and 5 October and continues to offer regular 'drop-in' sessions to enable face to face contact between groups and the Community Partnership Officer.

## Great North Wood Project

Croydon is a key partner in the London Wildlife Trust's 4 year Heritage Lottery funded Great North Wood Project. The Trust received £ 669,000 from the Lottery to work with local people to revive the once great north wood. Croydon is a stronghold of woodland remnants and with the help from London Wildlife Trust volunteers will be able to get in involved in managing these woods, learn to survey them for wildlife and take part in many community events which aim to bring to live the history of the woods, ranging from guided walks, bat surevye, to spoon carving and charcoal making events. Woods that will benefit from this project are Biggin Wood, Spa Wood (The Lawns), Grangewood Park, Beaulieu Heights and Long Lane Wood.

The project is looking for keen volunteers, no experience required, to find out more visit [www.wildlondon.org.uk/great-north-wood](http://www.wildlondon.org.uk/great-north-wood)

## Wandle Park Heritage Lottery Project

It's too early in the year for any Wandle Park events to have taken place but an exciting programme of events has been compiled for 2018 taking the season to September and the end of the HLF project.

New partnerships are starting to build with the local Military College who are keen to adopt the park and support maintenance projects. Tramlink are engaged with the project in allowing a vegetation and litter clean up on land they own leading in to the park. The clean-up would have happened Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March as part of the Great Britain Spring Clean but unfavourable weather forecasts meant it was cancelled and re-arranged to the Sunday before Easter.

The community gardening group took advantage of a cold but sunny Sunday morning and made a fantastic job of clearing one side of the footbridge that had become covered in leaf mulch and was becoming a hazard. See some before and after pictures below.



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## Parklife

Parklife is a collaborative project with Sport England and the Football Foundation exploring the potential of Croydon hosting two football hubs in the borough. Two sites currently in scope are Purley Playing Fields and Ashburton Playing Fields. Stage 1 feasibility work has now been completed and Stage 2 work is being commissioned on both sites. Further S106 funding has been secured for a wider site plan for each park, and this is in the process of being procured alongside Stage 2 work. We are also developing a report on the social outcomes that each site might provide, in partnership with local organisations such as the Palace for Life Foundation and our Livewell team.

## Funding – Rethinking Parks

A bid to the Rethinking Parks funding by NESTA, Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery was submitted by the Active Lifestyles team with a focus on South Norwood's parks. The funding asked applicants to focus on district centres and consider alternative operating models for parks. An outcome of the stage one expression of interest is expected by the end of April.

## Walking for Health

Our dedicated walk leader volunteers and Intrepid walkers have been walking together in Croydon's parks and woodlands throughout the winter and are looking forward to the Spring.

Croydon Council are the local coordinators for the Ramblers Association national Walking for Health scheme. There are 14 regular walks each week in parks and woodland across the Borough and these are led by volunteer walk leaders. The walks are graded according to the environment covered. They cater for all abilities, from people who start from doing very little or no regular exercise to those ready for the challenge of Nordic Walking. New walkers at any level are always welcome.

We are always recruiting for Walk Leaders (training will be provided). For further information email [walks@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:walks@croydon.gov.uk).



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## Registrars Service

### Tell Us Once

Full details now on our website. The service is now well embedded and business as usual. This enhancement has been well received by service users, easing their burden at the time of bereavement.

### Passport Checks

New, short term service offer continues to out perform targeted levels bring in an additional £5.5K since introduced in September 2017.

## Bereavement Services

### Cremation Metals Recycling Scheme

We are now entering the next nomination period for the distribution of surplus monies from the national cremation metal recycling scheme.

This time we have nominated Woodside Bereavement Services a local charity providing free bereavement counselling to young people, families and adults in Croydon for the past 25 years. Clients are referred by GPs, Council Services, Health Agencies, Schools and Colleges as well as individuals self-referring from the website. The service is delivered by volunteers trained specifically in bereavement counselling generally through one-to-one sessions in our premises or at home if required. A very worthy cause indeed.

It is anticipated that we will be donating a similar amount to last time which was £5,000.00

### New Burial Land

Our new planning application was due to go before Tandridge DC Planning Committee in February. Unfortunately a last minute anomaly was identified so we requested our application be deferred. We are now hoping to go to Committee in April 2018.

### Events

Our next service event is the Easter Memorial Service on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2018. This is always a very popular well attended event to which everyone is welcome. We hope that you will join us.



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## Libraries

Following the collapse of Carillion on January 16, the council took immediate action to bring the service back in house, safeguarding the jobs of all staff and ensuring a seamless service for library customers.

In the short space of time that has passed, all supply arrangements in relation to our libraries have been transferred to the council, staff have been paid on time and there has been no disruption to library services. We have also made some immediate changes to the way things are done such as improved cleaning regimes and introducing local staff and customer led book selection – new books selected in this way will start to appear on library shelves from April onwards.

The council is now focusing on the exciting opportunities that managing the service in house brings. We are working with Red Quadrant (a specialist consultancy) to develop our future strategy for libraries. As part of this work we are currently engaging with the public through our online “Get Involved” platform, in our libraries and in targeted focus groups to ask our residents what matters to them. The engagement closes on March 26 and we expect our draft strategy to be available in the summer.