

MINUTES

London Borough of Croydon

Climate Action Forum (CAF)

Date: Thursday 1st October 2026
Time: 18:00 – 19:00
Venue: Town Hall

Attendees:

- Cllr Ward, Cabinet Member for Parks & Culture (Chair)
- Vivina Vincent, Programme Manager Carbon Neutral Team, Croydon Council
- Dawn Gibbons – Croydon TUC
- Lucy James - MHA Wilderness Garden
- Richard Barnes - London Wildlife Trust
- Silvia Sanchez – Teacher, Downsview Primary School
- Rizwan – Faiths Together in Croydon
- Matthew Goldschmeid – Architect, Croydon Climate Action
- Tim Coombe – Croydon community energy
- Catherine Drake Willis – Sustainable Thornton Heath
- Cllrs – Ria Patel and Tracey Hague

Item	Item/Details	Who
1	Welcome and Introductions	Cllr Ward
2	Update on Climate Action Plan	Vivina Vincent
3	Questions	Cllr Ward/Vivina Vincent

Meeting Minutes

Minutes and Actions Arising	
1. Welcome	The Chair, Cllr Ward, welcomed the Forum members and went through a round of Introductions.
2. Presentation	Vivina presented on the following topics: - • Update on Climate Action Plan The presentation is attached to these minutes for those that were unable to attend the Forum.
3. Questions	1. Dawn queried about the earlier response on S106 Funds and the response given earlier by the team as outstanding actions. Those responses were shared with wider TUC. Vivina mentioned that Carbon offset funds are likely to be discontinued because of the proposal in the new Draft London Plan. The plan is expected to be adopted in 2027 with implementation from 2028. Therefore, Croydon will not be able to charge developers on carbon offsets for new applications from 2028 (5. Creating a greener, healthier, and resilient city London City Hall (5.21)) 2. Rizwan queried about fly tipping near Purley to which it was responded that everyone can report this on the love clean streets app. 3. Catherine asked a question on how sustainable food choices could be promoted where the Council has influence such as the staff canteen? Vivina responded that while Croydon Council has signed the Bronze Food Purchase commitment, there are limited opportunities as due to financial constraints there is not much food served at Council events. Any food purchased is procured at officer level on a small scale which predominantly includes biscuits, tea and coffee. It was however pointed out that the Council is attending Sustain's events for London Boroughs and is working with Sustain to improve the Council's ranking on the Good Food Local Survey. The Council is working on publishing a Healthy Food and Active Lives Strategy which will consider elements, where we have scored low as a Council.

	4. Demolition of buildings: There was a discussion around the demolition of existing buildings which can undermine climate objectives by wasting embodied carbon, generating significant construction emissions and waste and increasing demand for new materials. Retaining and upgrading buildings can achieve operational energy improvements. Matthew Goldschmeid suggested demolition could be effectively addressed in local plans and pointed out the demolition map - https://www.demolitionmap.uk/. Cllr Patel asked if there was a map which showed what existed before and mentioned that George Street was previously a green area. 5. Richard spoke about adaptation opportunities through London Urban Forest Plan, Green Infrastructure (information on green spaces and opportunities through it) and apps which can show when the tree was last watered and London Tree Ring Project. 6. Cllr Patel: Why was the Bikeability course discontinued? The Council will find this out and report back to the Forum.
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Open Actions

Item No.		Date Raised	Date Due	Owner	Status (Open/In Progress)
1	Why was the Bikeability course discontinued?	01/10/26	Ongoing	Vivina Vincent	Open
2					
3					

