



## The Mayor of Croydon 2019 – 2020

Councillor Humayun Kabir

Newsletter

May – July 2019



### Welcome!

I decided that I would send an update so that I can let everyone know what I have been up to during my first 2 months as Mayor and what I plan to do each month during my term of office. It has been a wonderful experience so far and I thank all that have supported me specifically to the hosts in the community that I have visited already. In the first 9 weeks I have completed 101 mayoral engagements. Here are some of the highlights, there were too many to choose from but I hope this gives you a flavour of what I have been up to.

### CUT IT OUT Croydon Unites Together to prevent knife crime – 25 May 2019



I was invited by the Croydon BME forum to attend this amazing event to tackle knife crime. It was my pleasure to attend and support the great work the community of Croydon has been doing to combat knife crime. As you know this is an issue that is very close to my heart. I think we must find ways to further reduce the number of fatalities and incidents by working closely with young people and adults in partnership.

### Annual Interfaith Grand Iftar Dinner – 30 May 2019

It was fantastic to be a part of several events celebrating Eid this year, this included Eid in the Park at Purley Playing Fields on 5 June 2019. I was also pleased to host an Eid reception in the Town Hall on Thursday 13 June 2019. The annual Iftar dinner pictured here was a fantastic event to showcase a multi faith and diverse Croydon.



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### Inaugural dinner – 7 June 2019



The Inaugural dinner was a showcase of our fabulous borough. The honour guard was provided by our local regiments and youth in uniforms. We also had lots of local talent performing! It was also a great opportunity to announce my 5 chosen charities for 2019-2020. The Rt Hon Emily Thornberry MP Shadow Foreign Secretary was the chief guest speaker along with Sarah Jones MP, Steve Reed MP and Councillor Tony Newman – Leader of the Council. I cannot thank everyone enough for their support and best wishes. Special thanks goes to FM Conway for sponsoring the event.

### International Business Delegation Event – 19 June 2019

As Mayor of Croydon it was my pleasure to welcome potential investors from 22 different countries into our Town Hall to talk about why Croydon is a fantastic place to live, work and invest. Local businessmen shared their successful business journeys in Croydon and why they would continue to live and work in our amazing borough. Croydon Council's Director of Growth Emma Lindsell and CEO of Croydon BID Matthew Sims explained with facts and figures how Croydon is becoming a super town and the right place for investment. I was also pleased to announce I have appointed Mr Abdul Basit Syed the founder chairman World Humanitarian Drive (WHD) as my International Ambassador' for 2019-2020.





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### Winterbourne Junior Girls School Windrush Event – 21 June 2019

I was honoured to be invited to Winterbourne Junior Girls to recognise their Windrush event.



It was also great to see our Honorary Freewoman Donna Karen Fraser OLY (Olympian) pictured here. I attended their school assembly and they talked about the experiences of the passengers of the Windrush from the Caribbean also including Polish families that were picked up in Mexico. The children performed poetry and songs of the era. I was very proud of the accomplishment of the school and all the work they put in to learn about Windrush.

### Croydon Food and Music Festival – 23 June 2019

My wife and I had a great time visiting the Croydon Food and Music festival this year, run on behalf of the South Croydon Business Association and is in its 8th year. The idea is to make people aware of the food offering in the restaurant quarter which we are so proud of. The event is a fabulous family friendly community event which is growing year on year in stall size and attendees.



### Sri Lanka Service of Remembrance – 24 June 2019

Along with the Croydon Sri Lankan Society we hosted a multi faith service in remembrance of the victims & families of the Easter Sunday terror attack that took place in Sri Lanka on the 21st April 2019. Thank you to all the faith leaders that attended: Fr Patrick Feyisetan, Most Venerable Etheliyagoda Dhammapala Thero and Imam Abdul Hye Chowdhury. The service programme was presented by Rochelle Tomlin. Thank you to the guest speakers: Dr Hirath Kularatne, Councillors Niro Sirisena and Allen Wanigeskara, Sushe Bastiampillai and all those who took part.





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### Old Coulsdon Annual Summer Fair – 06 July 2019

The Mayoress and I were delighted to open the Old Coulsdon Village Fair run by Coulsdon Manor Rotary Club (CMRC) of Coulsdon Manor. Tremendous hospitality was presented to us by Gary Newton President of Coulsdon Manor Rotary Club and his wife Cathy and all we met at the event. Thousands poured in to have fun and meet friends while receiving information from over 100 stalls of different charities and interest groups.



### Croydon PrideFest – 13 July 2019



Ahead of Croydon PrideFest I was proud and honoured to raise the rainbow flag showing our support for the LGBTQ+ community. I am proud to be from a borough showing actual diversity and inclusiveness while showcasing local and fabulous talent. The Deputy Mayor Councillor Maddie Henson attended the festival on my behalf and reported a fantastic event and that it was very well attended.



### Croydon Mela – 14 July 2019



I was invited by the Croydon Mela Organising Committee to attend Croydon Mela as it returned to Wandle park for the third year. Celebrating the culture of Croydon's diverse Asian communities, showcasing a combination of musical talent, extraordinary dance and spectacular performances alongside local community arts groups and a melting pot of food and craft stalls. I was also proud of my 5 chosen charities and ambassadors for working hard to fundraise at the event.





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### Priorities and vision for 2019-2020

To follow up on my speech from annual council I wanted to keep you all updated as to the plans to continue on my priorities for this mayoral term of office.

**Domestic Violence** – I see within our local communities domestic violence is a big issue, I would like to raise awareness so that victims and their support networks can learn how to report it and what is on offer to them. I am hosting an interagency seminar on the 16th September at the Town Hall.

**Mental Health** – I am also organising an interagency seminar on mental health. We want to work with communities where it can be hidden in families and try to reduce stigma. This is on the 4th November in the Town Hall.

**Safer Croydon** – I am identifying young people from the community to look at new ways of approaching the issues associated with knife crime

**Local business** – my business ambassadors and I will be visiting local businesses across 7 districts in Croydon to highlight what is on offer by the council to help businesses. I will be working on an event for businesses so watch this space.

*I am working on all these plans in conjunction with the lead cabinet members, relevant officers and community groups, not to rewrite the wheel but to work together.*

### Charity Events Calendar – Save the dates

Date	Event
25 July 2019	Lunch with the Mayor - Braithwaite Hall,
24 August 2019	Fundraising dinner, Community Hall, 505 London Road,
05 September 2019	Quiz night in the Braithwaite
17 September 2019	Golf Day - Farleigh Golf Club
24 September 2019	Indian Dinner Night at Chaat House in South Croydon
25 October 2019	Caribbean ball venue tbc
27 October 2019	Diwali Celebrations, Fairfield Halls
29 October 2019	China and Britain Tea Festival Braithwaite Hall
03 November 2019	"West End Gala" Musical Show at Fairfield Halls
08 November 2019	Bangladeshi Cultural Musical Evening, Braithwaite Hall
10 December 2019	Christmas dinner, Mayor's reception, Town Hall
28 January 2020	Chinese New Year Event
12 February 2020	Fish and Chips Lunch, McDermott's Restaurant
23 April 2020	Mayor's Finale Gala Dinner incorporating St George's Day

For further information on any of these events or to purchase tickets please contact [themayor@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:themayor@croydon.gov.uk)



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**About the Mayor –** In this newsletter I will share some information about the Mayor's role.

The Mayor must be non-partisan in all that he does and an outline of the duties are set out below:

**Council duties**

To represent and promote the council as a whole in all civic and ceremonial matters.

To preside over and chair meetings of the Full Council.

The Mayor should encourage fair debate but s/he has the casting vote.

To uphold and promote the purposes of the constitution and to interpret when necessary.

To publicise events of the council and encourage involvement in the council's activities.

To promote the work of the council.

**Public duties**

To be the first citizen of the borough and the focus of local democracy: to be visible, to listen to and to engage with the community.

To represent the people of the London Borough of Croydon, both within the borough area and externally.

To support voluntary organisations.

**Borough duties**

To represent the borough.

To promote the borough as a place to live: through appropriate external contacts.

To promote the borough as a place to visit: through external contacts, visits outside of the borough and tourism events.

To promote business in/into the borough: both in terms of existing businesses and potential inward investors.

There is often a misunderstanding of the role of a civic Mayor, unfortunately the Mayor of Croydon is unable to take on any case work outside of their ward. You can find your local councillor by clicking here <https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk> and selecting councillors.

**Invite the Mayor**

If you have an event you would like to invite the Mayor to please email [themayor@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:themayor@croydon.gov.uk) with the name of the event, the organisation, location, timings and what you would require the Mayor to do. If the Mayor is able to attend you will need to complete a proforma and return 2 weeks prior to the event.

By the time of the next newsletter I hope to be able to share with you our new online form!