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ISSUE 84 – SPRING 2019

Your main source of community news



Find out how the new Fairfield Halls is delivering for Croydon's communities - page 4

Delivering for Croydon

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Delivering for you

“As council leader I have always been determined to be completely open about the council’s finances. The days of politicians promising ever-improving services - but not offering any explanation about how they would pay for them - are thankfully coming to an end, and not before time. In a time of increasing Brexit uncertainty, and continuing Government cuts to our local budgets, I want to provide local residents with as much clarity as possible about how we are prioritising the council’s spending in Croydon. Also, about how we are listening to you to ensure we deliver the services that matter most to you and your family.

This year, to protect frontline services and continue to invest in Croydon’s future, we have taken the difficult decision to increase council tax this year by £1.54p a week (band D). I am proud that over the last four years we have held council tax increases to inflation or below. This year it is a little higher than that, but with the cuts we face and the growing demand for our services, I hope you agree it does once again represent excellent value for money.

The vast majority of the council tax increase will be directed to supporting our elderly and vulnerable residents, putting more police officers on the beat, delivering new affordable homes for local people and ensuring our sports centres continue to thrive. At the same time, we want to continue building new schools and keeping our streets both clean and safe for everyone.

And despite the challenging national economic climate, we are continuing to invest in Croydon’s future - and to ensure that this investment delivers for you. This year will see several major council investments come to fruition. In September Fairfield Halls reopens after our multi-million pound refurbishment, and I’m incredibly proud that our stunning new arts centre will offer not only performances from the stars, but also spaces for community arts groups, like Savvy Theatre, and a wealth of opportunities to develop local talent. Also opening this summer is Legacy Youth Zone, our new state-of-the-art facility for young people. You can find out more about how we are delivering for our community, through this council project and many others, inside this edition. ”



Councillor Tony Newman
Leader of the council
@cllrtony

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Run it Back by TYPT:18, Talawa Theatre Company's annual collaboration of emerging black theatre makers.



Image by: Sanaa Abstrakt

CULTURAL COUP FOR CROYDON AS ARTS ORGANISATIONS FLOCK TO FAIRFIELD HALLS

It's not long now until Fairfield Halls, Croydon's best loved arts centre reopens its doors. The venue operator BH Live, has revealed the organisations it and the council have been working with to take up residence in the venue.

In a major coup for culture in Croydon, Talawa, the UK's leading black theatre company, recently announced that they would be quitting their Shoreditch headquarters to make their first permanent home in Fairfield Halls.

Talawa will develop their new space - a 200-seat studio and offices - as a central hub for black artists.

The company will create, develop and premiere new work at Fairfield Halls, while also creating opportunities to train young artists, and developing a programme of activities, debates, events and outreach for Croydon's diverse community.

Michael Buffong, artistic director, Talawa Theatre Company, said: "For Talawa, this building provides a home

for black artists, enabling them to make outstanding work which will truly diversify and shape the cultural life of the whole country."

Joining them in the new venue will be Savvy Theatre, an award-winning inclusive, professional theatre company, who in the last 12 months has brought some fantastic productions to venues and streets all over the borough.

Sheree Vickers, artistic director, Savvy Theatre, said: "We pride ourselves on developing exciting projects that engage communities and welcome everybody, regardless of their ability or disability, their advantage or disadvantage."

Finally, Fairfield will welcome home Croydon's own London Mozart Players

(LMP) – London's oldest chamber orchestra.

Julia Debruslais, executive director, LMP, said: "We will be delighted to fly the flag for Croydon, delivering thrilling performances with world-class soloists in the Phoenix Concert Hall – a fantastic venue with unrivalled acoustics.

Neil Chandler, BH Live's venue & artistic director, Fairfield Halls, said: "I am delighted to be welcoming these fabulous companies into the refurbished and relaunched Fairfield Halls.

"Our combined commitment to aspiring young artists, the borough of Croydon and inspirational programming will make for some exciting projects in the years ahead."



Savvy Theatre Company



London Mozart Players

'I THINK IT'S GOING TO BE REALLY FUN AT THE FAIRFIELD HALLS'

Members of Croydon's fully inclusive, professional local theatre company have spoken of their delight at having a new home in the revamped Fairfield Halls.

Savvy Theatre Company welcomes members of all backgrounds and ability, and prides itself on helping them to develop new skills, in a fun and nurturing environment where they can thrive.

Until now, Savvy has operated three companies, for teenagers aged 13-19, adults, and adults with a learning disability, at different locations across the borough.

From September, for the first time members will enjoy their own permanent professional rehearsal and performance space in Croydon's new arts centre. And they can't wait.

Danny Benham, 32, of New Addington, has been a member of Savvy for more than 10 years. He is pictured on our front cover with Rebecca Perry-Bridgewater, a member of Mencap staff who supports some of Savvy's members at the sessions.

Danny said: "I like drama and being in the shows."



Members of Savvy Theatre Company

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"I think it's going to be really fun to be at the Fairfield Halls."

Rebecca said: "Savvy is a great place for social interaction and making friends."

"The guys love Savvy Theatre, they really enjoy it and their confidence grows so much."

"Everyone is really looking forward to Fairfield Halls reopening. The guys here won't stop talking about it."

"It will be a home for Savvy - we won't have to keep moving around looking for new places to rehearse. We are very excited."

Savvy Theatre Company will be expanding, offering more groups for different ages and abilities. For more information visit www.savvytheatre.co.uk

OH YES IT IS...

Fairfield Halls kick-started the year with an announcement that's been eagerly awaited across the borough.

BH Live has teamed up with production company Imagine Theatre to bring the most magical pantomime of them all, Cinderella, to Croydon audiences in December 2019.

The panto will star comedian Tim Vine as Buttons and CBeebies star Cat Sandion as the Fairy Godmother. For more information on this and what's on at Fairfield Halls visit www.fairfield.co.uk

To win a family ticket for four to see Cinderella, at the newly-opened Fairfield Halls, tell us the name of the actor who will be playing Buttons.

The tickets are for the 7pm performance on Thursday 12 December. The editor's decision is final and there are no cash or performance alternatives to the prize, which is non-refundable, and non-transferable.



Cat Sandion



Tim Vine

PLEASE FILL OUT IN COMPLETED IN BLOCK CAPITALS

Your Answer: Name:

Address:

Telephone number: Email address:.....

Please tick if you would like to receive the *Your Croydon* Weekly e-bulletin.

Post entries to: *Your Croydon* magazine, 7D Bernard Weatherill House, Mint Walk, Croydon CR0 1EA

Alternatively email your answer to yourcroydon@croydon.gov.uk along with your name address and phone number.

All entries must be received by midnight on 30 April and the winner will be drawn at random.

CROYDON'S FESTIVAL SCENERISING

Two brand new music festivals are coming to Croydon this spring, bringing world-class performers to the borough and showcasing the best of local talent, with a raft of opportunities for aspiring musicians.



Nas



Wizkid



Damian Marley

INTERNATIONAL STARS HEADLINE AT THE ENDS ALONGSIDE LOCAL TALENT

International music stars including hip hop artist Nas, Nigerian singer Wizkid and Damian Marley – son of legendary Bob Marley - will headline at the inaugural three-day The Ends Festival coming to Lloyd Park from 31 May – 2 June.

This much-anticipated event promises to be a highlight of Croydon's 2019 calendar, with aims to engage and inspire local, national, and international communities of composers, performers, creators, and concert-goers.

Delivered in partnership with Croydon Council, The Ends will also host a dedicated platform showcasing the best of Croydon's young talent, with auditions for local performers being held from 30 March. More information on how to apply will be available at www.croydonmusicandarts.co.uk

Festival organiser, Kiarn Eslami said: "The Ends is a brand new festival founded by the people of Croydon, for the people of Croydon.

"Our vision is to recreate an amplified experience of events that took place at Lloyd Park years ago, by tastefully curating a bill to suit all audiences and reflect the areas ever-growing diversity."

Day tickets are available from £50.00. For more information visit www.theendsfestival.co.uk

GENDER-BALANCED FESTIVAL BRINGS BACK GUITAR BANDS

Cro Cro Land will celebrate Croydon's rich music history and bring guitar bands back to the borough next month.

Organised by local blog the Croydonist, the festival will feature more than 30 of the UK's most exciting indie and alternative bands across three indoor stages at Urban Xchange, which is part of the Lansdowne Hotel, on 6 April.

The festival not only features a gender-balanced bill, but a crew where women are fairly represented as well.

Cro Cro Land Festival has successfully bid for funding from Arts Council England and also has Croydon Council's backing as part of its music city plans.

Festival organisers will also be collaborating with Croydon charity Lives Not Knives.



The Weird Things

Those in the programme will have the opportunity to get support and valuable work experience by shadowing professionals across all aspects of the event.

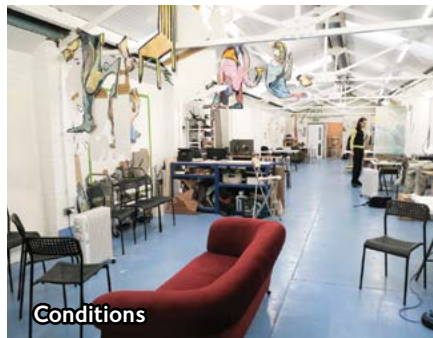
The festival line-up, celebrating one of the birthplaces of punk, include Blood Red Shoes, Nova Twins, Bang Bang Romeo, Sisteray and Jetstream Pony.

Croydon native Julia Woollams is organising the festival with Croydon convert Angela Martin.

For more information, and to buy tickets, visit www.crocroland.co.uk



Nexus



Conditions



Adebayo Bolaji, Art House

Image by: Cat Couture

STUNNING NEW STUDIO SPACES BOOST CREATIVITY IN CROYDON

Stunning new studios and creative workspaces are cropping up all over central Croydon as the town centre becomes the heart of one of London's first creative enterprise zones (CEZ).

Artists, creative entrepreneurs and organisations are moving in to the area, attracted by the borough's package of support and its investment in the arts.

In the last six months alone, several new studio spaces and venues have opened up including NEXUS, a co-working space on Croydon High Street; The Front Room, a new venue in St George's Walk; The Art House studios at Grafton Quarter, Grafton Road; and Conditions studios in Gloucester Road.

All of these were partners in Croydon's successful bid to become one of only six CEZs in the capital, announced last December.

Matthew Noel-Tod from Conditions, described their studio programme: "We have painting, sculpture, film, photography,

sound and music.

"It's artists at all different stages of their career, their life and different ages and different educational backgrounds.

"The programme has a teaching aspect but it's also focusing on studio space - places where artists can work individually but also get support from a peer network, which is really important when you are not in formal education."

The Mayor of London awarded Croydon a total of over £1m for its CEZ plans, including developing Croydon as a music city, creating cultural internships for young people, offering affordable studio spaces for under-25s, and encouraging creative businesses to move to Croydon, through business rate relief and tailored business support.



Silvastone



Miriam Thomson



MOBO-NOMINEE HELPS YOUNG PEOPLE TO CHOOSE THEIR FUTURE

MOBO nominee Silvastone has teamed up with Croydon Council's youth engagement team to deliver a 10-week music project for young people on a housing estate near Norwood Junction.

The project champions the aims of the council's Choose Your Future campaign, helping young people to make positive choices.

Silvastone has worked with Rita Ora; the Netflix series, *The Chilling Adventures of Sabrina*; Grammy winner Damian Marley and many more.

He's also a director at New Addington's White Hut Studios, who deliver music workshops in several Croydon primary schools, offer mentoring and help young offenders turn their lives around.

Silvastone said: "I am very happy to be giving something back to the next generation."

Fellow White Hut Director Miriam said: "I believe in the young people of Croydon.

"We see their vision and drive and their ability to

accomplish so much - they just sometimes need a helping hand, and we are here to lend that hand."

The Norwood Junction project is led by the 10-14 year-old participants and gives them a voice through music - making beats, lyric writing and performing with experienced musicians and youth workers.

They will end with a showcase celebrating their achievements.

Aside from regular studio sessions for young people White Hut also run events where young performers can show off their talent.

This includes a bi-monthly Afro-Box session at Boxpark; June's New Addington Festival; and at the July Butterfly Effect Festival in Lloyd Park.

For more information visit www.whitehutstudios.com



Kayla, Tyrell and Chinelo

SIGN UP NOW TO BE PART OF CROYDON'S LEGACY

Young people can now register to become a member of Croydon's new £6.5m state-of-the-art Youth Zone set to open this summer.

The brand new centre in Whitehorse Road, Selhurst, will host an impressive 3G kick pitch, indoor climbing wall, sports hall, dance studio, fully equipped gym, music room with recording studio, martial arts studio, training kitchen, wellbeing room, café and much more.

For an annual membership fee of just £5, members can enjoy a huge range of activities - for just 50p per visit.

It will be open seven days a week, when school is closed, to young people aged 8-19-years old, and up to 25 for those with additional needs.

The Legacy Young People's Development Group, made up of local young people, has played a key part in shaping the new Youth Zone.

At a site tour last month, Kayla Pitter, 17, described how the project has already opened doors for her in the year she has been involved.

She said: "I wanted to get involved to help the community as Legacy will bring new opportunities for them,

"Being on the development group has already given me new opportunities - I've been able to gain new experiences

and be a part of things that I wouldn't otherwise have been.

"I've been involved in fundraisers, and I've met the Lord Mayor, David Walliams and Prince Harry."

The Youth Zone is being developed by the national charity OnSide with Croydon Council contributing £3.25m towards the construction costs and £300,000 of the annual £1m revenue budget.

To sign up or for more information visit: www.legacyyouthzone.org or email enquiries@legacyyouthzone.org

COUNCIL APPRENTICES TRAIL-BLAZE AT NATIONAL APPRENTICES WEEK

Croydon's apprentices led a National Apprenticeship Week event at Croydon College last month.

The apprentices from Croydon Council's Employment Pathways scheme blazed a trail by promoting the fantastic opportunities that apprenticeships offer to young people, career-changers and businesses.

The Chooseday Tuesday event was organised as part of the Choose Your Future campaign, by Croydon Works employment brokerage service in partnership with Job Centre Plus and Croydon College.

It was aimed at Croydon's secondary school children to give them insight into a day in the life of an apprentice across different settings, including a Michelin star restaurant.

It also highlighted the benefits of apprenticeships for all and detailed the

council's plan to fund up to £300,000 of apprenticeship training which will help grow local businesses.

An apprenticeship is a fast-track way to a great career and to aid business growth.

All apprenticeships are available right up to degree level – that means an apprenticeship is open to school leavers, as well as people that want to further their careers or change career direction completely.

The council and business sector are working in partnership with the business sector, to provide better apprenticeship opportunities and help ensure they gain the skills needed for their futures.

For more information email apprenticeshipswork@croydon.gov.uk



KAYLEIGH, SHANE, JORDANN, CROYDON COUNCIL APPRENTICES

I CHOOSE TO...



www.choose-your-future.com

#choosyourfuture @yourcroydon @yourcroydon

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CROYDON EMPTY HOMES RENOVATION FEATURED ON BBC1

The work of a council team that has got more than 350 empty or derelict homes renovated in the last three years provided several case studies for a new BBC1 daytime series that aired in February.

The Empty Housing Scandal saw presenter Matt Allwright visit councils across the country, including Croydon, whose specialist officers work to bring homes back into use to boost local housing supply.

The programme also covered the story of a Croydon family who moved out of emergency accommodation into a new home that had been derelict until the council intervened.



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Samantha, Scarlett and Tamsin

“MOVING HERE HAS LET US GROW AS A FAMILY”

Two years ago, Samantha Clarke’s private landlord told her that she and her two daughters had to move out because the property was being sold, and they moved into one-bedroom council emergency accommodation to avoid becoming homeless.

Meanwhile, Croydon Council’s empty homes team was overseeing the conversion of a derelict private house in Purley that had been empty for almost 10 years, into four newly-renovated flats.

Samantha and her daughters - Tamzin, 12, and five-year-old Scarlett - moved into their spacious newly-fitted two-bedroom home in October.

The 33-year-old said: “We were living in just one room with a bed and little kitchenette, and it was very cramped

together and everyone was a bit stressed.

“I then had a phone call from a lady at the council who said they had found somewhere I could move into - it had two bedrooms so I said yes straightaway.

“The girls are much happier and they have much more space; we’re not living on top of each other.

“Moving here has let us grow as a family - the girls are doing really well at

school, and I applied for a new job and have been given a verbal offer.”

Samantha added: “I think converting empty homes for Croydon residents is a tremendous thing.

“When you see it can be done and there are plans for more in Croydon, it has the ability to change someone’s life for the better.”

To report a disused property, call the council’s empty homes team on 020 8760 5470.

'IF IT WASN'T FOR GATEWAY I WOULD BE HOMELESS'

A year ago, Joanne Mullet's sister was tragically killed and her mother left in a critical condition following a car accident.

Traumatised and with a funeral to organise, the 38-year-old from New Addington lost her job and began to accumulate large debts – including unpaid rent on her council home.

Facing homelessness for her and her three children, Joanne hit rock bottom.

But in September 2018 the council's Gateway project helped Joanne to turn her life around.

Led by welfare and enablement officer Nicola Flemming, the team successfully negotiated to prevent Joanne and her children from being evicted.

Joanne said: "I was going through some very bad times and didn't know what to do or who to turn to.

"Previously, I was scared of council staff and often felt judged, but it's not been like that with Nicola and Gateway - they've treated me fairly.



Joanne and Nicola

"With their support, I and my children have avoided homelessness.

"I've also set up standing orders so that I'm working towards paying off my debts."

Nicola said: "I first met Joanne in 2017 when I advised her on becoming exempt from the benefit cap.

"I never forget my customers - so a year later when I saw her name on a list of residents with rent arrears, I knew we needed to act fast.

"Our goal is early intervention and prevention – and we managed to prevent this family from losing their home.

"I still keep in touch with Joanne – providing ongoing emotional support to residents who have experienced difficulties is key to ensuring they don't run into trouble again."

Today, Joanne is able to provide a stable home for her children, attends the Job Club and purchases healthy food on a budget at the Food Stop at the Family Centre in Fieldway.

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POST-GRENFELL TOWER BLOCK SPRINKLER PROGRAMME NEARS COMPLETION

Croydon Council's programme to retrofit fire sprinklers in 26 of its tallest tower blocks in response to the Grenfell tragedy has reached the scheme's final high-rise building.

Days after the Grenfell Tower fire in June 2017, Croydon Council announced it would retrofit sprinkler systems in its high-rises of 10-12 storeys, plus an eight-storey sheltered accommodation block.

That autumn Croydon became the first UK council to begin retrofitting fire sprinklers for its high-rise council tenants.

The programme has now reached its final block, and when it is completed by Easter more than 1,250 households will have the new sprinklers.

Council tenant Tracey Clements, whose Cromwell House flat in Waddon was fitted last month, said: "I think it saves lives so it is all worth doing, and I feel safer."

This retrofitting programme is



Tracey Clements

costing the council £10m from its housing budget, delaying other long-term repairs like bathroom or kitchen upgrades.

In 2017, the council wrote to the Government three times requesting a financial contribution towards its sprinkler programme.

To date, the Government has given the council no financial assistance.

COUNCIL TO OPEN BIDDING PROCESS ON COMMUNITY-LED HOUSING

Community groups who want to develop and manage their own affordable homes in Croydon can apply to the council from next month.

In January, the council's cabinet approved a pilot scheme where it will make up to five plots of its own land available for community-led schemes.

From April, the bidding process will open to all community groups interested in developing their own affordable homes in the borough.

Those who submit successful business cases can receive design and logistical support from Brick by Brick (BxB), the council-created developer.

As well as offering professional advice on how locals can get involved in community-led housing, the council will also carry out initial due diligence checks on the sites on bidders' behalf,

plus the community groups can receive construction support if their schemes receive planning permission.

The council will encourage bids from local groups, and has already begun work with the London Community Land Trust and Croydon Citizens to support their interest in creating a community land trust scheme for affordable housing in the borough.

The initiative has received the backing of the National Community Land Trust Network, which encourages local people nationwide to develop their own homes.

National CLT Network director Tom Chance said: "The community-led housing scheme includes some of the best policies

in the country and in future should help many more Croydon community groups to develop much-needed affordable housing with local control."

Since being set up by the council in 2016, BxB has received planning consent for more than 40 sites so far, providing 1,036 new homes.

498 of these (48%) are designated affordable. Of this 48%, half will be genuinely affordable rent (maximum 65% of the private market rate), and the rest shared ownership.

For information on how to submit a community-led housing bid, contact Zohra Chiheb on zohra.chiheb@croydon.gov.uk

FIRST BRICK BY BRICK HOMES GO ON SALE TO CROYDON RESIDENTS

The housing developer set up by Croydon Council to deliver thousands of mixed-tenure homes for private and affordable buyers, and social renters, has put its first properties on the market.

Brick by Brick (BxB) is putting the finishing touches to its first flats and houses in Upper Norwood.

It is the first of several developments completing in the coming months, including an all-affordable scheme in Thornton Heath.

All BxB homes for sale are available exclusively to Croydon residents for the first two months of sale.

In Upper Norwood, the Auckland Rise & Sylvan Hill development will provide 57 one- and two-bedroom flats, including 19 shared ownership homes.

At the Ravensdale & Rushden development, 30 one- and two-bedroom flats and two- and three-bedroom houses will be available for private purchase, with Help to Buy available.

At Chipstead Avenue in Thornton Heath, the first 100% affordable BxB development, Flora Court, is set for completion in the summer, featuring 24 shared ownership and three affordable rented homes.

Croydon Affordable Housing, the charity set up by the council to provide more than 500 affordable rented homes to borough residents at a maximum of 65% of the usual market rate, will manage and let the BxB affordable rented properties



Alison Butler, cabinet member for homes and Gateway services, and Deputy Mayor councillor Humayun Kabir.

built by Brick by Brick.

These properties are allocated via the council's housing allocation process. For more information, see www.croydon.gov.uk

Anyone interested in buying a BxB home (both open market and shared ownership) can register at www.bxbdevelopment.com or visit the new Brick by Brick shop at 62 George Street, Croydon.

There they can see the typical finish and specification of a Brick by Brick home (such as kitchen and bathroom finishes, and flooring) and get financing advice from 9am-5pm Mondays to Saturdays (11am-7pm on Thursdays).

For more information, visit www.bxbdevelopment.com or email sales@bxbdevelopment.com

'I LOVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE WITH FAMILIES AND HELP THEM MAKE THAT CHANGE'

As an experienced children's social worker and a mum-of-two, Croydon resident Belinda Akinbode has a lot to offer families in need of support.

Last March, after hearing how Croydon was improving social care, she decided to put her skills to use in her home borough, joining the assessment team as an advanced practitioner.

She was also keen to work in her own community.

She said: "You get a sense of what support is out there for families, which can benefit you in your own life."

Working in assessment means Belinda is often the first social worker a family will meet, within days of their referral.

The work can be fast-paced, and the ability to engage with families, quickly get to grips with their circumstances, and capture this accurately, is absolutely key.

It is this that will enable her to make a positive difference to their lives.

Which, Belinda explains, is exactly why she likes it.

She said: "We talk to families and try to understand their needs."

Despite the complexity of her work, Belinda's tools are surprisingly simple: "I always take a pencil case and some colouring pens.

"It can be daunting for a child meeting a new adult. Colouring breaks the ice."

Belinda derives satisfaction from knowing her ability to reflect a family's circumstance has helped them get the support they need.

She said: "I like having the opportunity to meet families and engage with them.

"If the family is experiencing challenges – hardship, for example, I can refer them to our Gateway team for support with finances and housing.

"Or they might benefit from our voluntary early help to get back on track.

"A parent once said reading my report, she felt like I had lived in her home. That is rewarding."

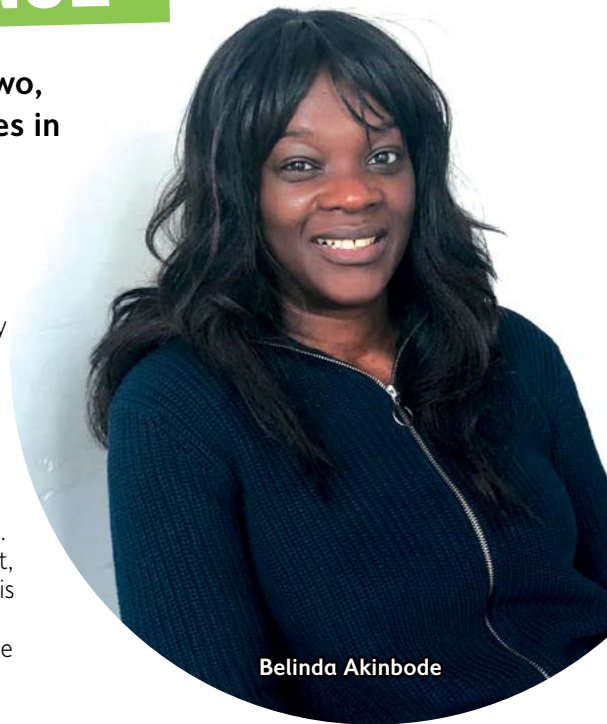
Belinda is pleased with the support she has received working for Croydon.

The borough has reduced caseloads, and strengthened supervision, to ensure social workers benefit from increased training and support, and the opportunity to reflect on their practice.

She has found managers quick to respond to the needs of frontline staff.

She said: "They listen. If the workload gets too much, they act."

Tinashe Ruwona, Belinda's manager, said: "Belinda is a social worker for all the right reasons.



Belinda Akinbode

"She wants to help people, she is motivated, and she is good at her work.

"She is the sort of practitioner we want for our improvement journey.

"We're creating an environment where we can nurture these attributes in staff.

"It's a two-way process – we don't just want them to give - we want to give them opportunities. It makes the perfect environment to create a great team."

COUNCIL USES PLANNING POWERS TO PROTECT FAMILY HOMES

Croydon Council is proposing to protect family homes by requiring planning permission to convert properties into houses of multiple occupation (HMOs).

Currently, multi-bedroom properties can be converted to small HMOs (houses occupied by between three and six unrelated individuals) under permitted development – which means planning consent is not required for the change of use.

From January 2020, Croydon Council plans to introduce an Article 4 Direction, a planning restriction which would remove this ability, requiring owners to seek planning permission for the change.

Research has identified a shortage of family homes in the borough and over the past 10 years, Croydon has lost hundreds of family homes to conversion into HMOs.

The council has held a six-week consultation and is currently reviewing comments made by the public, after which time it will decide whether the Article 4 Direction is to be confirmed. If approved, it will come into force on 28 January 2020.

OUR GROWING TOWN CENTRE

Cranes rising up across Croydon town centre pinpoint the major developments currently under construction. More than 700 new homes, a percentage of which will be affordable, as well as the Fairfield Halls, are expected to complete this year – contributing to more than 10,000 new homes and 23,500 jobs in central Croydon by 2036. The council is working with developers to sign up to the Considerate Constructors scheme, an independent organisation which promotes best practice within the industry. We'll be featuring developments such as One Lansdowne and the Whitgift Centre in future editions, as building work commences on these sites.



CAIRO NEW ROAD

Housing association Optivo has started construction of 113 new homes for shared ownership and affordable rent in Croydon's historic Old Town. The 14-storey building will have retail space on the ground floor and there will be renovations to the public realm and a listed former mission hall close to the site.



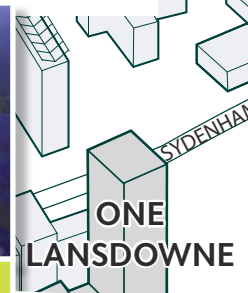
CAMBRIDGE HOUSE

This four-storey former office block on Wellesley Road will be demolished to make way for 92 new homes in a new 26-storey block. The 100% affordable scheme from housing association Notting Hill Genesis is expected to complete next year.

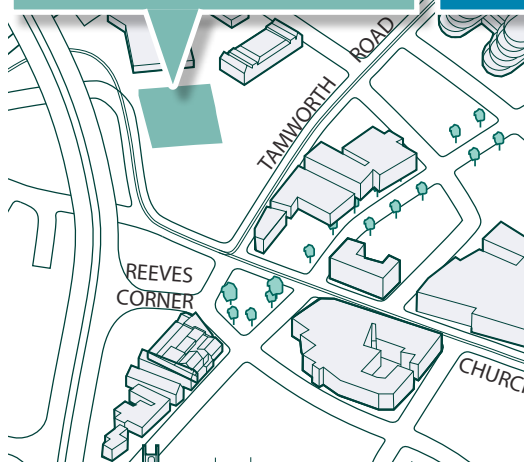


CAROLYN HOUSE

The refurbishment and extension of this 1960s office block is due to complete this year. The 22-storey building by developer JJ Rhatigan will provide 183 new homes, retail units on the ground and first floor and a rooftop garden.



ONE LANSDOWNE



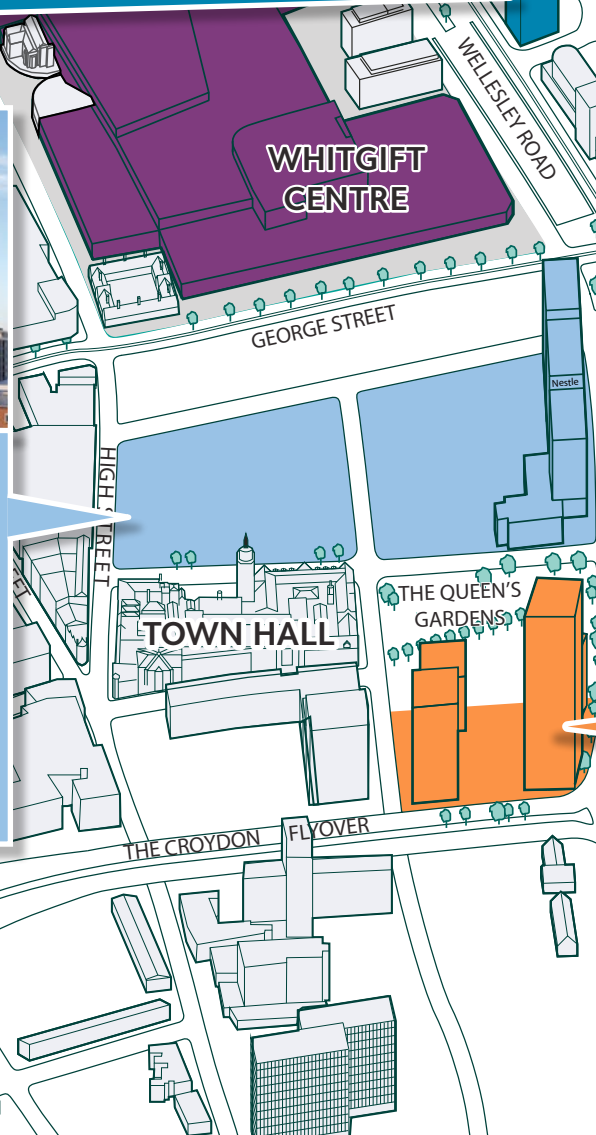
KINDRED HOUSE

Brick by Brick is preparing to start on site on part of the Wandle Road car park. This 25-storey mixed used building incorporates 128 homes (of which 50% are affordable), flexible commercial floor space on the lower levels and new public realm.



QUEEN'S SQUARE

Phase one of this mixed-use development by R&F Properties, is under way with the conversion of the Nestlé Tower and the former Blue Orchid nightclub into 290 homes. Proposals for phase two, where demolition work along St George's Walk is ongoing, is due to be submitted later this year. It will include new homes, businesses, creative spaces and a new town square alongside the restoration of Segas House.





VISTA 24

Permission was granted, in October 2018, for Bellway Homes and Telereal Trillium to redevelop the former Job Centre site to deliver 181 homes, made up of one-, two- and three-bedroom properties, along with flexible commercial space.



RUSKIN SQUARE

This 2m sq ft mixed-use scheme from Schroders and Stanhope is under way – 161 flats in the first of four residential buildings are built and the first of five major commercial buildings is occupied by HM Revenue and Customs. Work on the second commercial building is ongoing and 625 new homes are expected in total.



MORELLO

This residential-led development by Redrow Homes and Menta will deliver a mix of affordable rent and shared ownership homes, as well as a public piazza, community and small business space on the site on the eastern side of East Croydon Station. The first 330 new homes have been built and there is planning consent for another four new buildings, including two 25-storey towers that will provide a further 445 new homes.

BEDFORD ROAD

WINE ROAD

DINGWALL ROAD

EAST CROYDON Stn.

CROYDON COLLEGE

ADDISCOMBE GROVE CRO

The 21-storey building developed by Pocket Living will comprise 112 affordable one-bedroom homes aiming to give local first time buyers on low incomes their first step on the housing ladder. The innovative, factory built, modular homes should be completed during 2020.



101 GEORGE STREET

These two towers, delivered by Greystar, Henderson Park and Tide Construction, will be the tallest modular construction building in the world at 44-storeys. The 546 new homes to rent, new public space, art gallery and café are due to complete this year.



COLLEGE GREEN

Around 2,000 new homes could be built on this site. Brick by Brick is delivering the first phase of the development, which includes the demolition of the multi-storey car park to build 440 new homes.



TABERNER HOUSE

Hub Group's construction of 513 homes with L&Q and Bridges Fund Management in four residential blocks on the site of the council's former home is set to complete in 2021. The new housing will be a mix of shared ownership and rental – with half the new homes classed as affordable. Croydon Affordable Homes, set up by the council in 2017 will take on a block of 90 flats in the development.



FAIRFIELD HALLS

See page 3-4 for more information.

REMEMBERING MAGGIE

The community space in Norbury Library is to be named in memory of one of the borough's longest-serving councillors, who dedicated her life to public service, helping thousands of people locally.

The announcement was made at a public memorial to Councillor Maggie Mansell, who died in January following a short illness.

Friends and residents paid tribute to her as a compassionate community activist, who campaigned for equalities and social justice.

Born and bred in Croydon, Maggie was educated, lived and worked in the borough.

Over 32 years she made a huge contribution as a councillor, particularly in health and social care, holding several key cabinet and committee posts.

She was following a family tradition of public service – her father John Blackwood was a principal planning officer for Croydon in the 1950s.

A biomedical scientist, Maggie worked for the NHS and later as a management

consultant before becoming a full-time councillor.

She was first elected to Croydon Council in 1986, when she won West Thornton ward. She held that post until 1990, returning as a ward councillor for Norbury in 1994, and later Norbury and Pollards Hill until present day.

She has sat on the social services committee, and chaired the children's sub-committee, the environmental health and consumer services committee.

She served as cabinet member for crime and public protection, and chair of the health and wellbeing board, and was instrumental in establishing the Healthy Croydon Partnership.

In 2005, she became the 123rd Mayor of Croydon.

Throughout her career, she served as a governor at several Croydon schools.



Councillor Maggie Mansell

At the time of her death, in addition to being an active ward councillor for Norbury and Pollards Hill, Maggie was Dementia Champion and sat on the health and wellbeing, and pension boards. She was also a devoted Crystal Palace fan.

Councillor Tony Newman, leader of the council said: "We will remember Maggie's passion for equality and justice, her caring nature and her unwavering commitment as a champion of our community. She will be sadly missed."

CROYDON SPORTING HEROES AWARDED FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH

Crystal Palace manager Roy Hodgson and four-time Olympian Donna Fraser have been awarded Freedom of the Borough, the highest civic honour a council can give.

Roy and Donna, who both grew up and went to school in Croydon, were nominated for their contributions to their communities as well as their sporting achievements.

Roy attended John Ruskin Grammar School and played for their school football team.

He has managed teams including Inter Milan, Copenhagen, Fulham, Switzerland, Liverpool and England.

Donna grew up in Thornton Heath and was a pupil at Winterbourne Junior Girls School, St Mary's Catholic High School and Croydon College.

She raced for Croydon Harriers Athletics Club until her retirement in 2009.

In a career that saw her compete in four Olympic Games, Donna won gold at the 1991 European Junior Championships in Thessaloniki, Greece, and medalled at the 1998 Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.



Roy Hodgson and Donna Fraser

She also medalled at World and European Championships. Outside athletics, Donna has been an ambassador for many organisations including Breast Cancer Now (after being diagnosed with the illness in 2009) and is a Trustee for the London Marathon Charitable Trust and the Women's Sport Trust.

She is also UK Athletics' Vice President and Equality, Diversity and Engagement Lead.

Roy said: "Croydon has played a massive part of my life and my formative years were spent here.

"It's a great honour and I'm really happy to be given that honour."

Donna said: "I'm ecstatic. When I told my parents they were going ballistic.

My parents came here in the 1960s, they were told Croydon was the best place to be, and they've never left.

"I'd like to say a huge thank you."



Tyler and Jai

BROTHERS BUILDING CAREERS IN CONSTRUCTION

Two New Addington brothers found work on a Cane Hill construction site with a little help from Croydon Works, the free job brokerage service set up by Croydon Council.

Jai and Tyler Worley are helping to build more than 2,000 new homes in Coulsdon with Barrett Homes.

Tyler, 17, first contacted Croydon Works after being made redundant.

When he was unsuccessful in his apprenticeship application, Peter Wallace, senior construction pathways coordinator, made sure he didn't give up.

Peter encouraged Tyler to take a construction multi-skills course at Croydon College and gain some work experience before applying again.

Tyler's determination paid off, and in August 2018, he started his carpentry apprenticeship with Barrett Homes.

Jai, 20, joined his brother as a labourer in November and is hoping to train as a site manager.

Their mum Lisa said working on the same site has brought the brothers closer together and they are proud of the new homes they are building.

The brothers have recommended Croydon Works to friends and when asked about the skills needed to work in construction, Jai said: "A willingness to work hard and a dedication to what you're doing is all you need."

"And you've got to have banter", added Tyler.

Croydon Works has helped 145 Croydon residents into construction jobs or apprenticeships in the last 12 months and 83 people have passed through the new construction skills academy.

Peter Wallace said: "My role is to make sure residents can access the thousands of construction jobs and apprenticeships available through major development in Croydon.

"We can support people through the whole process – from training for a CSCS card, matching candidates to vacancies and career development and advice."

£2M BOOST FOR SOUTH NORWOOD STREETS AND PUBLIC SPACES

A project to improve South Norwood's high streets and public spaces has won more than £2million from the Mayor of London and Croydon Council.



South Norwood residents

Re-imagining the Everyday Spaces in South Norwood received £1.16m from the Mayor's Good Growth Fund, which has been match-funded by the council.

The bid was submitted by the council and South Norwood's town team, We Love SE25, who work with residents, businesses, landlords and community groups to bring empty premises back into use as retail and workspaces for creative and social enterprises.

The project will bring around 25 empty properties on Station Road, High Street, Selhurst Road and Portland Road back into use, as well as making improvements to the area's public spaces.

It also aims to support local businesses, social enterprises, and community hubs, including the Samuel Coleridge Taylor Centre, Socco Cheta community centre, Stanley Halls, the Croydon Youth Theatre Organisation, and South Norwood Library.



CARS COULD BE BANNED AT MORE SCHOOLS AS PUPILS VOTE ROAD SAFETY SCHEME A HIT

Cars could be banned from the road outside eight more Croydon schools during drop off and pick up times following a successful pilot.

In 2017 School Streets were created on roads around Woodcote Primary School, Coulsdon, and Heavers Farm Primary School and St Chad's Catholic Primary School, both in Selhurst.

The three schemes, designed to improve road safety and air quality, led to a total of 250 fewer children travelling to school by car, with most of them walking, cycling or scooting to school instead.

At Heavers Farm, headgirl Lily-Rose Hunter said: "I like and I feel safer when I'm walking to school."

"There are less cars around and drivers used to find it difficult because the road was so busy."

"It's less busy now than it was, the scheme was key in my parents allowing me to walk to and from school on my own."

Headboy Seth Figueira added: "I think it is a good idea because it makes me feel a lot safer when I'm walking to school and there's less traffic in the area."

"I walk to school on my own. My parents like it too."

Up to eight new School Streets could be created across the borough in September.

Each of the schools has written to the council to express their interest and we are now writing to them and nearby residents to gather their views ahead of a formal consultation later in the year.

The new School Streets are designed to help improve road safety around the schools and air quality. Residents' cars would not be affected by the pedestrian zone.

The eight shortlisted schools are:

- Norbury Manor Primary, Norbury
- Cypress Primary, South Norwood
- Winterbourne Junior Girls, Bensham Manor
- Fairchildes Primary, New Addington
- Harris Academy Purley, Purley Oaks and Riddlesdown
- Downsview Primary & Nursery, Upper Norwood
- Harris Primary Academy Kenley, Kenley
- West Thornton Primary Academy, Broad Green

FLY-TIPPER HIT WITH MASSIVE FINE

A fly-tipper caught dumping 10 tonnes of waste, including a carpet, sofas and bathroom furniture outside garages in Waddon, has been told to pay nearly £2,000.

Louis Robinson was seen by residents dumping waste near garages on Thorneloe Gardens on several occasions. They reported the 29-year-old to the council.

Council officers set up CCTV cameras and Robinson and another unidentified man were caught arriving in a white Ford Transit van and dumping a large quantity of waste.

While on patrol a few days later, officers saw Robinson loading garden waste into the back of the same van parked on the side of the road.

The officers spoke to him and, with the help of the police, seized the vehicle which the council later destroyed.

Robinson was arrested and taken into police custody, where council officers questioned him about the fly-tipping.

He claimed he was helping a friend transport the waste but later admitted it had been collected from a number of residential addresses.

Robinson was ordered to pay more than £1,500 to cover the cost of clearing up the waste when he was sentenced at Croydon Magistrates' Court on Wednesday 16 January.

Robinson, of Headley Drive, New Addington, was convicted of depositing waste on public land contrary to the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

He was sentenced to a 12-month community order with 240 hours of unpaid work, told to pay compensation of £1,518, costs of £300 and a £85 victim surcharge and made subject to a two-year criminal behaviour order.

CROYDON HIGH STREET TO BE PERMANENT PEDESTRIAN ZONE

A temporary scheme making Croydon High Street a pedestrian zone is set to become permanent after the proposal was supported by the council's Traffic Management Advisory Committee.

The site has already hosted Street Live, a free programme of music, dance and theatre performances as well as a play street and screenings of Wimbledon.

A temporary experimental traffic order restricting vehicles from driving along the road between the junction with Park Street and Katharine Street was made a year ago but would have ended in April.

Two eye-catching pieces of street art were created on both ends of the road. Croydon School of Art graduate Adam Halliday used bold colours and images in his designs to celebrate the town's skyline.

Councillor Stuart King, cabinet lead for environment and transport, said: "There has been a fantastic array of performances and events entertaining scores of residents, shoppers and visitors over the past year.

"It has been a pleasure to see this public space grow and evolve over the past year and I'm looking forward to seeing the future events it will host."

As part of the pedestrianisation of High Street bus routes were altered to go through Katharine Street and St George's Walk with the taxi rank relocated to nearby Park Street.

The permanent closure of High Street will begin in April after the road has temporarily reopened for traffic rerouted by the closure of St George's Walk, for the R&F Queen's



The High Street has hosted a range of events including yoga sessions since the trial pedestrianisation began.

Square development.

This reopening will take place over two weeks in the middle of April, during the Easter holidays and will preserve bus routes through Croydon.

Signs with details of the reopening will be displayed on High Street nearer the time.

The scheme is part of Croydon Council's £525m infrastructure and development programme delivering improvements across central Croydon in partnership with Transport for London and the Greater London Authority.

ELECTRIC VAN SCHEME HELPS KEEP BOROUGH GREENER

A business has unveiled its first fully electric van with the backing of Croydon Council, spearheading a borough-wide boost to sustainable travel.

The council helped Chequers Contract Services, who provide specialist cleaning, building and maintenance services, lease an electric Nissan van.

Under the initiative any company in the borough can ask for help to lease a 100% electric van for up to a year, for roughly the price of a diesel alternative.

James Kelly, Executive Director of Chequers Contract Services, said: "Sustainability is at the core of our business practices and we were ecstatic to be recognised for these commitments through a massive reduction of our carbon footprint by 31% during 2018.

"Go Ultra Low City has given us the incentive to further increase our electrical fleet and reduce our carbon footprint by another sizable percentage over the course of 2019.

"We urge all Croydon businesses to work alongside.



Staff from the leasing company and Chequers Contract Services with the electric van.

Croydon Council in which we believe is a fantastic initiative towards a more sustainable and greener borough."

Contact Peter McDonald on 020 8726 6000 or email: peter.mcdonald@croydon.gov.uk to find out more about the scheme.

INVESTING IN THE SERVICES THAT MATTER



Councillor Simon Hall, cabinet member for finance and resources, explains how in challenging times, the council is balancing its budget to invest in the services that matter.

Councils have had a tough time financially in recent years.

Croydon receives 76% less Government funding than in 2010. This year, our core grant has been cut by nearly £8m when we need £6m just to cope with inflation.

Meanwhile demand for services has soared. Croydon's population has grown and those with the greatest need, such as older residents, have increased in number.

This puts real pressure on the council and requires tough choices, including on council tax, which now accounts for nearly two thirds of our income.

Despite this, we remain committed to looking after those who need it most, which is why part of your council tax rise will go on adult social care.

We have already taken difficult decisions to protect services from cuts. And we have introduced new, innovative ways of delivering services, using early intervention and prevention to help people more effectively.

SINCE 2010 CROYDON COUNCIL HAS

saved

£200m



received 76% less government core funding

COUNCIL TAX FOR 2019/20

At a Full Council meeting on 4 March, councillors agreed to increase council tax, meaning households in an average (Band D) property will pay an extra £1.54 per week.

Of this rise, 51p a week goes direct to the Greater London Authority, with 46p of this for the police, with the remainder for the Fire Brigade. There is also 26p for vulnerable adults. And the remaining 77p per week is for core services.

4.88%

THE TOTAL INCREASE IN YOUR COUNCIL TAX BILL

£1.54

FOR THE AVERAGE BAND D PROPERTY, THEIR TOTAL BILL WILL INCREASE BY JUST £1.54 A WEEK



WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE 4.88% INCREASE IN YOUR COUNCIL TAX BILL.

- GLA
- CROYDON SERVICES
- ADULT SOCIAL CARE PRECEPT

NEXT STEPS

This means we can continue delivering services that matter to you, from local affordable homes to libraries.

It also helps us deliver major council investments that will benefit generations to come, like the Legacy Youth Zone, the New Addington Leisure Centre and the revamped Fairfield Halls.

We will continue to protect vital services while maintaining a balanced budget in tough times, and push Government to deliver fairer funding for Croydon.





Delivering
for Croydon,
delivering
for us

COUNCIL SUPPORT HELPS TREASURED MUSIC STORE KEEP ROCKING

An iconic West Croydon music shop which has served the community - and stars including Bryan Adams and Francis Rossi - has been helped to stay open by the council.

Carl Nielsen opened Rockbottom on London Road in 1974, running the shop and recording studios for more than four decades.

Last year Croydon Council cut the store's business rate bill allowing Carl to invest in the site, funding vital repairs and maintenance.

By offering this business rate relief the council helped Rockbottom focus on modernising their business and enhancing their online presence.

Carl said: "If I hadn't had the business rate money I would have been stuffed, because I would have had to do patch work instead of proper fixes.

"I've invested in a new flat roof for some of the shop and we are doing work on the bathroom and kitchen downstairs.

"There's still more I need to do but without the council's help we would have been in trouble.

"Maintenance is an ongoing situation but we still want to be here."

Rockbottom, which was damaged in the Croydon riots, offers recording studios for musicians and has even hosted glam rockers The Sweet and Bay City Rollers.

Business rate relief is available to businesses creating footfall in their area, driving regeneration or those who need a short period of help to achieve their full potential.

Visit www.croydon.gov.uk/businessrates/ for more information on business rate relief.

COUNCIL IN TOP 10 LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYERS FOR LGBT RIGHTS

Croydon Council has been placed in the top 10 local government employers by Britain's leading charity for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) rights.

The council, which employs more than 3,000 people, was assessed by Stonewall as part of their annual equalities index and ranked in 101st place, up from 124 in 2018 and 219 in 2017.

The council has also improved in the local government sector, being ranked in ninth place.

Employers and employees from across the UK are judged on how inclusive their workplaces are on LGBT issues.

Croydon's score of 106 put them in the top 23% of all 445 companies taking part.

Croydon resident Andrew Curtis,

chair of the council's staff LGBT+ Allies Network, said: "Our submission to Stonewall was very strong and we can only have been one or two points off the top 100.

"While it's a little disappointing to be just outside that list, we've had the achievement of improving our score massively in the past two years and there is a real drive within the council to continue to improve.

"Hopefully we can use this positive momentum to stay focused and get the council into the top 100."



Croydon PrideFest

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- Floristry and Balloon Artistry
- Garden Design
- Horticulture and Landscaping
- Saddlery and Shoemaking



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Saturday 15 June

ADVICE SESSIONS, 5pm to 7.30pm
Thursday 16 May
Thursday 27 June

www.capel.ac.uk

'I SOON REALISED I COULD HELP SIMPLY BY BEING THERE, WILLING TO LISTEN'



Could you help people experiencing domestic abuse? Susan Hassan works full time, but still finds time for volunteering at Croydon's FJC.

The centre gives emotional and practical support to men and women who are seeking help against this crime.

"I'd volunteered in South America for a year, working with women who had experienced domestic abuse and trafficking, and wanted to do more," said Susan.

"Reading Your Croydon magazine I saw the appeal for volunteers at the FJC and saw this as a chance to continue supporting people.

She did her training in May 2018, and was so keen that she opted to do one of the three-days training on her birthday.

She said: "My role is to offer emotional support.

"I speak to my client at least once a week.

"It's not a case of telling someone what to do, but more a case of listening and working through what is best for them.

"It's nice to be able to help empower someone coming out of a situation and feel a little better that they have something they have control over, as many are in, or have just come out of, very controlling relationships.

"I love encouraging people that they have options, and helping them redevelop a sense of self-worth, as this has such a positive effect on them and their families.

"Other volunteers offer practical support, such as going

to court with someone, or sitting with them as they fill in housing forms.

"When I started volunteering I did have concerns about 'how I could help', as I have not experienced domestic abuse, but I soon realised I could help simply by being there, willing to listen.

"People didn't expect me to share their experience.

"They wanted to discuss how they could move forward after it.

"You have to be honest, and you have to ensure you make enough time in your diary each week to be there for your client, but no-one expects you to have all the answers.

"Volunteering is really rewarding.

"I would recommend it to anyone who likes to support others, and it definitely improves your listening skills."

Volunteers must be 21 and over, and must be able to offer a minimum of two hours a week.

For further details, including training dates, contact volunteer coordinator, Emma Osbourne, on **020 8688 0100**, or email emma.osbourne@croydon.gov.uk.

(Susan's name has been changed to protect her and those she is helping).

LONDON'S MAYOR PRAISES CROYDON'S WORK TO TACKLE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, credited Croydon with leading the way in tackling domestic abuse when he visited a support service for violence against women and girls.

The Mayor is funding a number of support services, including the Drive programme, which aims to stop high risk perpetrators of domestic abuse re-offending, and to ensure the safety of survivors and their families.

Croydon is the only London borough to run the Drive pilot, delivered through the FJC, a centre providing services for those experiencing domestic abuse.

At his recent visit, the Mayor was joined by Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Sophie Linden; Croydon Council leader, Tony Newman; and councillor Hamida Ali, cabinet member for safer Croydon and communities.

They met staff working with survivors and perpetrators before joining a roundtable discussion with local anti-domestic abuse leads.

The Mayor announced a further £15m boost to tackle violence against women and girls.

He said: "I am committed to working with the sector to help stop these crimes.

"Support services in the capital do an amazing job, but the cuts to funding have left them at breaking point.

"We are doing what we can and investing a further £15m in projects like Drive."

Councillor Ali said: "It is great to have

the Mayor and Deputy Mayor's support and to hear the voluntary sector's view that Croydon is leading the way with this crucial work.

"We welcomed the Mayor's visit and this additional investment in services, which will make a major difference to survivors and their families."

In January Deputy Mayor Sophie Linden visited Croydon to learn more about Croydon's plans to set up one of the capital's first violence reduction networks.

She hailed the borough's plans adopt a preventative approach to crime as 'exemplary' practice.



l-r Mayor of London Sadiq Khan, councillor Tony Newman, FJC lead Alison Kennedy, councillor Hamida Ali

NEW POLICE STRUCTURE WILL HELP US WORK MORE EFFECTIVELY



Some of you may be aware that the boroughs of Croydon, Bromley and Sutton are now policed slightly differently. They are managed together, but the service you receive when you call us remains local. Dialling 999 or 101 will still mean a local officer in Croydon responds to you, and your wards are still locally policed with two PCs and a PCSO on each of them. We have also issued hundreds of tablet computers so frontline officers can work anywhere in our community, and those officers attending your calls will see your incident through from start to finish.

We also have more officers in safeguarding vulnerable people, and in schools, to provide a better service to young people.

We continue to have 24/7 access at a

front counter at Croydon Police Station on Park Lane, and we are working hard to ensure our local officers are within easy walking distance of their wards.

To give you just a sense of our work, in the week ending Sunday 3 February we executed eight warrants within the borough, which resulted in five drugs-related arrests, the arrest of a burglar, the recovery of drugs and weapons and an arrest for money laundering. We have screened 1,500 people through knife arches to keep young people safe from harm. We have responded to around 700 calls for our service, and our detectives continue to investigate serious and complex crimes across the borough. Collectively, we have conducted about 250 stop and searches, resulting in arrests, and weapons and

drugs being taken off the streets.

Without the support of you as a community however, none of this would be possible. Do continue to support us by reporting anything you think is suspicious. Dial 101 (999 if life is in danger or it's a crime occurring now). Go to www.met.police.uk where you can report anything online or contact us. You can also follow us on twitter [@MPSCROYDON](https://twitter.com/MPSCROYDON).

Take care and I look forward to talking to you again soon.

Craig Knight

Chief Inspector 240237
Neighbourhoods and Partnership
South Area Basic Command Unit

Council meeting dates

Full council meetings start at 6.30pm and are held in the council chamber of Croydon Town Hall, Katharine Street, Croydon CR0 1NX.

Meeting: Monday 1 April **Deadline:** Monday 25 March

Meeting: Monday 20 May **Deadline:** Monday 13 May

Questions (maximum number of words: 50) for consideration at a full council meeting, can be emailed to **democratic.services@croydon.gov.uk**; alternatively, write to **Questions for the council, Democratic services, 7C Bernard Weatherill House, 8 Mint Walk, Croydon CR0 1EA.**

Unless otherwise stated, cabinet meetings start at 6.30pm, in the council chamber of the Town Hall.

Meeting: Monday 25 March, Tuesday 7 May

For information on meetings, minutes and agendas, go to www.croydon.gov.uk/meetings For information on cabinet and shadow cabinet members, go to www.croydon.gov.uk/cabinet

Unless otherwise stated, scrutiny meetings start at 6.30pm, in the council chamber of the Town Hall.

Meeting: Tuesday 30 April

For information on scrutiny, go to www.croydon.gov.uk/scrutiny or email democratic.services@croydon.gov.uk

Meetings of the Safer Neighbourhood Board are held in the venues indicated. For further information, check www.croydononline.org/safer-neighbourhood-board

The next public meetings:

Meeting: Wednesday 12 June

Venue: Town Hall

Details of all Croydon Council meetings can be found at www.croydon.gov.uk/meetings

Useful contacts

For police, fire brigade, ambulance, call: 999 or 112, Text phone 1800

**Croydon Council general enquiries
020 8726 6000**

**Croydon NHS Walk-in Centre
020 3040 0800**

Non-emergency urgent care - 111

**Croydon University Hospital
020 8401 3000**

Get in touch

To get in touch with the *Your Croydon* editorial team, email: yourcroydon@croydon.gov.uk

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Central Library and Museum of Croydon

Katharine Street, Croydon CR9 1ET

Open: Monday to Saturday (see website for daily hours)

Library – www.croydon.gov.uk/central-library

Museum – www.museumofcroydon.com

Telephone: 020 8726 6900

Telephone: 020 8253 1022

Email: libraries@croydon.gov.uk

Email: museum@croydon.gov.uk

Guided Walks

Find a new spring in your step with one of our healthy guided walks. Each is designed to help you savour the greenery around the borough, so set your best foot forward this year.

MARCH

Sunday 24

Junior wildlife tracker – Happy Valley

A family event looking for the clues wild animals leave behind. Join the countryside warden searching for tracks, burrows, droppings and tooth marks before making your own animal track plaster casts. The walk is suitable for children and adults and will cover two miles over around 90 minutes. Email biodiversity@croydon.gov.uk to book your spot.

APRIL

Saturday 6

Spring Walk – Selsdon Wood

The Friends of Selsdon Wood will welcome you to join a walk to hear the sounds of spring and see the sights. Meet at 2pm by the wooden bear in the Selsdon Wood car park off Old Farleigh Road.

Sunday 7

Spring woodland detectives – Ainsley Berry Shaw

Join the countryside warden at the far end of Tandridge Gardens at 10.30am for one or two hour stroll and explore this remnant of an ancient woodland. Explore this hidden gem, part of a woodland that used to cover the area. The walk is suitable for children aged five and up but covers uneven, narrow and often muddy footpaths so please dress appropriately.

For full details, visit: www.croydon.gov.uk/leisure/parksandopenspaces/walks

Sunday 14

Easter walk – Haling Grove

Join the Friends of Haling Grove Park for an afternoon of family fun in the park from 3pm until 5pm. Meet by the wooden shelter in the park.

Saturday 20

Spring has sprung – Biggin Wood

Meet the London Wildlife Trust at 11am by the tennis courts off Biggin Hill for a stroll through the woods. Learn about the wood's connection to the once Great North Wood and enjoy the fresh green of spring.

Saturday 20

Spring Flower Walk – Littleheath Woods

Join the Friends of Littleheath Woods as we search for the first flowers of the year. See how the climate changes when the flowers come out. Meet at 10am at the junction of Queenhill Road and Littleheath Road.





See your **Croydon pharmacist** at the first sign of illness, don't wait until it gets worse.

They're healthcare experts who can help with many minor health concerns.

🔍 Search 'NHS find a pharmacy'

**HELP US
HELP YOU**
STAY WELL THIS WINTER

Croydon

TALKING

Therapies

We are a **free** and confidential NHS service and offer workshops, group sessions, online courses or one-to-one support.

We can help support you to:

- ✓ manage stress and anxiety
- ✓ handle low mood and depression
- ✓ cope with difficult times



WORRY LESS

ENJOY LIFE MORE

FEEL MORE RELAXED

Search for '**Croydon Talking Therapies**' or call **020 3228 4040** to find out more