

YourCroydon

ISSUE 16 - April 2008

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Wellesley Road
Past, present and
future

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The next edition of **Your Croydon** will be published on Wednesday 30 April 2008.

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A matter of choice and trust

I hope that those of you who've lived in the borough for six years or more will have noticed a difference in the last couple of council tax bills you've received.

Immediately after the 2002 election, residents were hit with a 27% council tax increase followed by an inflation-busting 7.2% hike just 12 months later.

That was hard for every household – especially those on fixed incomes, such as pensioners.

We've now been responsible for two budgets since being elected in 2006, and in both we've kept our promise to hold the increase below 4%.

And that's despite suffering the meanest settlement from central Government, the 92p a week rise for 2008/09 is the lowest for six years.

Not only can I confirm that our predecessors' rollercoaster approach to council tax has been consigned to history, I can also promise that, as a result of our prudent approach and a record level of efficiency savings, every single penny of the extra money we're raising through council tax will be spent on improving services that matter to residents.

So that's more on recycling – £4.75 million to be precise – to continue lifting Croydon from being the worst-performing borough in London toward our ambition to be among the best.

There's more being spent on recruiting additional neighbourhood enforcement officers to tackle antisocial behaviour and the fear of crime.

There's more for schools, to boost attainment in key subjects and address attendance issues and poor behaviour.

There's funding to keep Purley Pool open until the new leisure centre at Waddon opens and the plans for another new pool at Coulsdon take shape.

It's only the absence of a fair deal from Government that has prevented us from levying a smaller increase.

But, even without fair treatment, my promise to residents remains that the council will continue focusing on providing better services without ever putting up bills by more than 4%.

Mike Fisher
Leader of the council

Croydon backs plans for new regional park

Thousands of acres of parkland could be formed along the banks of the Wandle

Residents, community groups and local businesses are being urged to have their say on plans for a new regional park in the Wandle Valley.



The park, to run from the source of the Wandle in Croydon, through Sutton, Merton and Wandsworth, would be the second of its kind in the capital and could provide thousands of acres of connected green space along the river's length.

The scheme has the enthusiastic backing of the four concerned councils, which are looking at what financing would be needed to make this dream a reality.

The idea is also likely to attract the backing of the Greater London Authority. The London Plan gives general support for the idea of the Wandle's banks and some neighbouring land forming a "regional park for London".

Environmental charity Groundwork has recently launched a new website – www.wandlevalleypark.org.uk – which includes an interactive map allowing people to zoom in on different areas of the valley. They can also add suggestions about what they would like to see improved or changed.

People are being urged to make their comments online before 31 March so that the next stage of the plans can be drawn up and published this summer.

Plans for Cumberlow Lodge fail at appeal

Developer loses out in appeal against council planning refusal

Plans to build seven blocks of flats on a historic South Norwood site have been thrown out by the planning inspector.

Cumberlow Lodge, home of Victorian philanthropist William Stanley – who bequeathed to the area the Stanley Halls, Stanley Technical College and its Clocktower – formerly occupied the 3.9-acre site, in Chalfont Road.

Fairview New Homes (West) Ltd lodged an appeal against Croydon Council's refusal for permission to build 155 flats built on the site, along with parking, open space and extensive landscaping.

At the end of a four-day inquiry, the Government stated that the site was in a good location and the proposal would provide much-needed housing.



However, the plan failed to preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the South Norwood Conservation Area, and would harm the character and appearance of the area to the immediate north-west.

In addition, the design would not provide satisfactory routes for pedestrians or disabled people.

Formerly, the South Norwood Respite Centre had occupied 22% of the site, and the inspector ruled that the same proportion of any new development should be made available for community facilities, or for an equivalent financial payment to be made.

Pupils' designs on architecture

The prospect for the look of public buildings is good as three Croydon students net prize in competition

With an eye on the future shape of community centres, pupils of an Upper Norwood college have taken a top prize in an annual architectural design competition for secondary schools.

The three year-13 pupils, from St Joseph's College, Beulah Hill, took the third spot in the recent Open Up awards.

Organised by Open House, the Open Up 2007 programme recognised the achievements of young people, architects and teachers.

The competition celebrates the work young people have created in response to explorations of London's exemplary architecture with a public display of their work.

James Wright, Alex Wilson and James Magbanuh (pictured) put their heads together and came up with a design for a contemporary community centre.

Their design caught the attention of the judges who felt it displayed creative and imaginative ideas, and showed lively engagement in the design process.

Open Up is a comprehensive programme of activities for students aged 11 to 17 that aims to deepen their understanding of architecture and design.



More Neos on the beat

Council to pay for increase in uniformed street officers

Nine more neighbourhood enforcement officers (Neos) will be out patrolling Croydon's streets from April.

Croydon Council has earmarked nearly £350,000 from next year's budget to expand the new service and maintain its promise to invest in community safety.

When the new recruits are fully trained and deployed, Croydon will have 13 wards, along with the town centre, covered by Neos.

The final stage of the service rollout will take place in just over 12 months' time, ensuring that the entire borough will be served by uniformed personnel.

The council feels that increasing team numbers is a highly visible way of demonstrating its commitment to maintaining the trend of falling crime in the borough and helping to allay public fear of crime.

In only six months of operational service, Neos attached to police safer neighbourhood teams have already chalked up considerable success in tackling crime and antisocial behaviour.

Their work to date has included:

- Giving evidence in court to secure Anti Social Behaviour Orders;
- Tackling aggressive begging and illegal street trading;
- Identifying subjects for Acceptable Behaviour Agreements;
- Helping with deployment of knife arches; and
- Working with CCTV operators to identify environmental issues, including taking proactive steps to control street drinking.



Read all about it

See everything the council's telling the papers

A lot of residents rely on local weekly newspapers to find out what's happening in the borough.

The *Advertiser*, *Guardian* and *Post* are a great help in quickly spreading information about things they regard as newsworthy.

Unfortunately, due to space limitations, the newspapers are not able to feature everything the council tells them about.

You can see what the council is telling the press by looking up "council news" on our website.

Just go to www.croydon.gov.uk/democracy/councilnews to find the news we're breaking to the newspapers.

Parking charges frozen

Parking charges for council-controlled pay-and-display bays and surface car parks are to be frozen – and in, some cases, reduced



In a move designed to encourage greater use of facilities and, at the same time, help small businesses, Croydon Council has announced a general freeze for on-street parking charges.

And a pilot programme that would introduce free parking in Portland Road, South Norwood has been recommended.

If approved, the first 15 minutes' parking will be free of charge when motorists buy a parking ticket. They will be able to pay for additional time up to a maximum of one hour.

Following the recent redevelopment of the Clifford Road car-park site, in South Norwood a reduction of about 30% in parking charges is hoped will encourage greater use and revitalise local businesses, and a new reduced-rate all-day tariff of £1 for a number of roads in the Park Hill area, Croydon.

The parking-charges review also recommends a small increase in the cost of residents', visitors' and business parking permits, equating to an average rise of 0.48%. The proposed increases are in line with inflation.

Residents' permits will go up by £1 to £40 for the first permit; visitors' permits in some areas of the central parking zone will rise from £2.80 to £2.90; and, in district zones, by 10p to £1.90. Business permits will go up £10 to £250 but businesses running alternative-fuel vehicles will see their permit costs frozen at £190 to encourage cleaner forms of transport.

Online service provides 24/7 access

Secure internet service will improve

Residents, landlords, businesses and council taxpayers are now able to check their benefits, council tax and business rates accounts wherever and whenever it suits them.

People can also now choose to receive their accounts electronically.

The introduction of an online customer account system by Croydon Council means that the internet can be used by individuals to access the secure personal information.



The new customer improvements mean that those registering for the online operation will enjoy a much easier service allowing them to:

- check their balances and statements;
- examine personal payment history;
- inspect payments made and due to be received.

In addition, landlords can check benefits payments on behalf of tenants.

The service links with current payment facilities and online forms to allow customers to communicate with the council or make payments at the time of their enquiry.

The security of the online system has been of utmost importance. Once signed up, customers will be sent a unique identification number to ensure online communications with the council remain confidential.

Drop litter, pick up a £75 fine

Bin it or pocket it – just don't throw your litter on the street

Dropping litter on the streets of Croydon has become a very expensive way of getting rid of unwanted sweet wrappers, fast-food containers, cigarette butts and chewing gum.

Under recently introduced legislation, Croydon's neighbour enforcement officers (Neos) have been delegated the power to issue on-the-spot fines to anybody they see thoughtlessly discarding their litter on the street.

The new powers mean that a Neo can issue a fixed penalty notice for £75 to anybody from the age of 16 who is littering and making the environment less pleasant for everybody else.

The decision to allow Neos to issue fines follows Croydon Council's recently announced programme of litterbin placement in central Croydon and in district centres around the borough.



They are part of the council's continued commitment to make the borough a safer and more pleasant place in which to live, study and work.

The bins and the new Neo powers have been provided as a direct result of residents and businesses asking the council to address the problem of litter on the streets.

Taking the puffing out of crossing

Kenley people should benefit from new way across the A22

Residents of Kenley should soon be able to cross the busy Godstone Road without having to dodge the almost constant flow of traffic that uses the busy feeder route.

Transport for London, which has responsibility for the road, has announced a period of public consultation into the possibility of installing a puffin crossing adjacent to the Sutton and East Surrey Water Company treatment works.

Households near the site have received leaflets seeking the opinion of local people and their views on the proposed location and how often such a crossing would be used.

Puffin crossings differ from the more common pelican crossing in that the length of time traffic is stopped is dictated by motion detectors that are able to tell if a pedestrian is waiting to cross the road, and then how long

it takes that person to cross. For example, a nimble 10-year-old will not take as long to cross as an older person or somebody with a disability.

Funding to take the project forward, provisional upon the outcome of the consultation, has been allocated for the next financial year.



Parking in Croydon is changing

New laws will make parking regulations clearer for all

Greater consistency and transparency will be the main benefits of new parking laws introduced on 31 March.

The Traffic Management Act 2004 defines how local authorities will run their parking enforcement operations and recommends a number of changes to make parking fairer – not least, placing the emphasis on quality of enforcement, rather than quantity.



The act represents the biggest change to the parking industry since control was passed from the police to local authorities and is intended to provide a new, single framework in England for the civil enforcement of parking contraventions.

Despite a change in name from parking attendant to civil enforcement officer, the CEO will have a similar role to the PA, with duties remaining exclusively in the field of parking and traffic enforcement, and not including other civil enforcement activities.

The most significant change from motorists' point of view is that the act gives councils the power to issue penalty charge notices (PCNs) by post if the CEO is prevented from issuing a PCN because the motorist acts in a threatening manner or drives away before it can be affixed.

The act also emphasises that the goal of parking enforcement is to see an increase in the number of motorists abiding by the parking regulations, stating that councils should aim for the maximum level of compliance with parking regulations while maintaining a self-funding parking operation.

Local authorities will be required to produce

an annual report on income and parking expenditure within six months of the end of the financial year. This will be submitted to Government and made publicly available from outlets such as the council website.

As part of this increased transparency, the council will be required to publish its policies on parking enforcement, including guidelines such as its enforcement regime and when it may apply its discretion to cancel a PCN. However, the guidelines will not replace the power of discretion held by back-office staff.

From 31 March recipients of PCNs will also be able to take advantage of the Paypoint scheme being provided for a raft of council payments.

In the meantime, the cash office in Fell Road will remain open until 30 April for cash payments of parking fines issued on or before 30 March 2008 only.

Further updates on the new Traffic Management Act, the revised parking policies and more information about parking enforcement will be available over the next two months on the council's website at: www.croydon.gov.uk/transportandstreets/parking/

New fund promises to bring community benefits

Council initiative set to pay for improvements across the borough

A raft of grass-roots projects aimed at improving quality of life for residents could be financed by a £2m cash injection over the next couple of years.

The money will come from Croydon Council's newly introduced community improvement fund, designed to allow ward councillors to get to grips with key issues on their patch.

A number of individual projects have already been put forward for inclusion in the boroughwide wish list.

However, the total cost of the ambitious list would be more than twice as much as the available funds, so priorities have had to be made to ensure that the improvements can be spread around the whole borough.

Those projects providing the widest benefit for the smallest outlay, allowing the greatest number of individual schemes to go ahead, have been the focus.

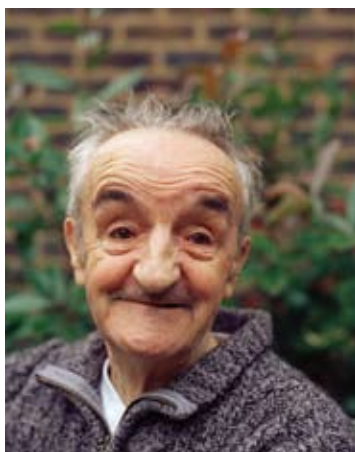
Typical requests have included installation of vehicle-activated speed indicators, fencing and gating, resurfacing of pathways and sports courts, repairs, renewal or installation of street furniture, new signage, and lighting.

Delivery plans are now being drawn up involving local businesses or other local agencies that, through making a financial contribution, help the council money go a lot further.

In some areas, such as New Addington and Fieldway, local councillors and other interested parties are being brought together to steer projects.



Between 1,830 and 2,595 people are caring for someone with dementia.



Help with dementia care

Praised for the work it has already undertaken, Croydon Council says even more needs to be done.

After being held up as an example of excellent practice, Croydon Council has backed a Londonwide call for Government help with meeting the costs of elderly care.

The plea follows the recent publication of a National Audit Office report warning that the number of people affected by dementia could rise by 40% in the next 15 years.

The report recommends earlier diagnosis and increased referrals to specialist memory services by better-trained staff in the health and social sectors, to cut the rising costs of care and give sufferers a better quality of life.

Croydon's well-established memory service assesses, treats and supports people with dementia in the community, and it was that work that led to the praise and acclamation as being an example of excellent practice.

The NAO report shows that demand will continue to grow, stretching existing services even more.

Over the next 10 years, the number of people aged 65 and over in Croydon is expected to top 47,000.

It is estimated that:

- there are 3,170 Croydon residents aged 65 and over with dementia, with almost twice as many women as men suffering from the condition;
- that figure will rise to about 3,500 by 2017;
- 1,098 older people with dementia live alone;
- between 1,830 and 2,595 people are caring for someone with dementia.

The Croydon Memory Service offers a comprehensive assessment of an individual's current memory abilities, and attempts to determine whether the individual has experienced a memory impairment that is greater than expected, given their age.

If appropriate, the client may be offered a range of services to help minimise the problems their poor memory causes.

These may include treatment with memory-enhancing medication, attendance at day centres, and attendance at therapy groups.

The service is for individuals experiencing memory difficulties for at least six months, which seem to be getting worse.

The service can be accessed only by appointment following referral from an individual's GP.



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There are 25 London Assembly Members:

- 14 Constituency Assembly Members who represent different areas in London; and
- 11 London-wide Assembly Members, who represent London as a whole.

Voters will have two separate ballot papers to vote for the London Assembly:

- a yellow paper to vote for a Constituency Assembly Member; and
- an orange paper to vote in the Londonwide Assembly Member contest.

The Additional Member System is used to elect the London Assembly Members.

This system combines the first-past-the-post system, which is used to elect the Constituency Assembly Members, and a form of proportional representation, called the Modified d'Hondt Formula, which is used to elect the remaining London-wide Assembly Members.

First, in each constituency the votes for the Constituency Assembly Members are tallied. Using the first-past-the-post system, the candidate with the most votes in each constituency is elected. If there is a tie, the Constituency Returning Officer draws lots to choose the winner.

If all assembly members were elected in this way, some parties or independent candidates, whose votes were spread right across London, might not win any individual seats.

So the votes cast across London in the Londonwide Assembly Member election are added together, regardless of constituency boundaries. At the end of the count, any party or individual candidate with less than 5% of the vote is eliminated.

A formula is then used to proportionally allocate the 11 Londonwide seats taking into account the political make-up of the 14 Constituency Assembly Member seats already allocated.

This voting system is used so that the overall Assembly reflects how all of London voted.

Final London Assembly result in 2004

Party	Seats	Gain/Loss
Conservative Party	9	38,085
Labour Party	7	28,636
Liberal Democrats	5	25,861
Green Party	2	15,203
UK Independence Party	2	6,175



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Wellesley Square is to be built on the site of two former 1960s office blocks, Randolph and Pembroke Houses. Demolished after some 30 years, the land has intermittently been used for temporary car parking since 1994.

Council planners consider the sharp, angular form of the tower will result in a distinctive development that contributes to the town's visual quality.



Just as Altitude 25 lands the title of Croydon's tallest building, a new kid arrives down the block to take the crown

It's not just a green light that Croydon Council has given to Berkeley Homes for their 44-storey, Wellesley Square tower on the corner of Wellesley Road and Bedford Park.

It's also the go-ahead for one of the greenest approaches for a new residential building in the borough. And, with 739 apartments and studios, the scheme is a further realisation of the council's ambitions to bring life and vitality to the town centre.

Wellesley Square is to be built on the site of two former 1960s office blocks, Randolph and Pembroke Houses. Demolished after some 30 years, the land has intermittently been used for temporary car parking since 1994.

Planning permission means that Altitude 25's position as the town's tallest building is set to be short lived. At 134 metres, the sleek and slender Wellesley Square will be unparalleled in dominating the town's skyline, being more than 55 metres taller than the tower currently being constructed in Fairfield Road.

However, sustainability is a key feature of the design. A significant proportion of the energy requirements will be met by on-site renewable energy sources. Green roofs will increase the ecological value of the development, while reducing heat loss and rainwater run-off.

Recognising its position close to Croydon's public transport hubs, the scheme will include provision for just 151 cars, but there will be a cycle parking space for all but one of the residential units. It is anticipated the developers will promote a car-sharing club.

Cladding of the tower will incorporate a design depicting a crocus flower, symbolising the origination of Croydon's name. Wellesley Square will also feature a

publicly accessible landscaped courtyard. Ground-floor restaurants, cafés and shops are intended to encourage people to use and enjoy what's been designed as a new town square, featuring a series of grass terraces.

Council planners consider the sharp, angular form of the tower will result in a distinctive development that contributes to the town's visual quality.

Said cabinet member for planning, Councillor Chris Wright: "As a northern gateway for the town, this site is superbly located and it's entirely fitting to see proposals for such a bold, high-quality landmark building. It reflects our aspirations to be recognised as London's third city and will be a further step in the regeneration that we have been pursuing on behalf of Croydon."

As part of the planning permission, the council will be expecting the developers to contribute around £1.25m toward schemes to enhance the town's amenities.

This will include £400,000 to improve passenger capacity at both East and West Croydon stations; £330,000 for progressing sustainable transport in the town; £300,000 for public realm improvements; £100,000 for recreational open spaces and another six-figure sum toward education. And libraries are to get £11,000 to improve stock.

Just in case the height of the building interrupts television signals, the developers have also been obliged to do whatever is necessary to maintain satisfactory TV reception in the locality.

Checks were made to ensure that the National Air Traffic Services had no objections to the proposal. However, the Civil Aviation Authority has indicated it would like the building to incorporate aviation warning lights.



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The prospect of transforming the centre of Croydon by dramatically turning Wellesley Road into a series of people-friendly open spaces and a boulevard is gathering pace



From Wellesley Road to Wellesley Boulevard?

Main route through Croydon could become a people-friendly open space

The prospect of transforming the centre of Croydon by dramatically turning Wellesley Road into a series of people-friendly open spaces and a boulevard is gathering pace.

Peter Bishop, the director of Design for London, has told Croydon Council that he and Ken Livingstone would like to see the proposal included in the Mayor of London's 100 Public Spaces Programme.

The initiative to minimise traffic in the 1km length of Wellesley Road between St Mary's Church and Fairfield Halls (including part of Park Lane) also fits in with ideas that architect Will Alsop has included in his vision for Croydon.

Although the concept of converting the road into more of an open area has been around for some time, never before has it come under serious consideration by London's top strategic planners.

Following a formal approach by the council last month, asking for Wellesley Road to be considered as part of the 100 public spaces programme, Mr Bishop said: "I fully agree on the importance of addressing Wellesley Road and would be delighted to support and participate in a project which might transform this from a barrier into a new set of spaces integrating Croydon's shopping centre with its commercial areas and the station.

"I have spoken to the Mayor and he would be delighted to endorse this as one of the 100 spaces project."

Mr Bishop confirmed that Design for London would be happy to work closely with the council to develop ideas further and to achieve wider support from the Greater London Assembly and Transport for London.

This is bound to involve ways of improving public transport along the road.

This positive response has pleased the council, which regards the road in its current state as a major obstacle to pedestrian movement in and around the town, driving those on foot into a series of subways.

Members and officers recognise that realising the potential of Wellesley Road by minimising through-traffic to create a new public space, while still accommodating trams, buses and local traffic, will be an enormous challenge.

However, the council can point to its success in pedestrianising North End as an example of a way in which imaginative thinking can overcome what may, at first, appear as insurmountable difficulties.

Said council leader Mike Fisher: "No one in their right mind today would design a town centre with a six-lane motorway running through the middle.

**"As we all embrace more green policies, so I am confident that we can find solutions that will enable us to realise the dream of Wellesley Road becoming, at least in part, a new network of public spaces in the heart of our town."
- Councillor Mike Fisher**



"This is what we've got in Croydon and it's something that is holding back the development of our town.

"Removing some of the through-traffic and enabling the road to become at least a partial open space would transform Croydon's appearance and have a huge impact on the urban environment.

"That's why we're making it one of our top priorities, and I'm delighted that our bid for it to be considered in the Mayor of London's 100 Public Spaces Programme is already winning high-level support."

A critical key to the proposal is finance. However, the council is already working on a strategy for the use of section 106 development money.

It also anticipates using its own assets to release finance for public realm improvements through its

enterprising urban regeneration vehicle.

Councillor Fisher acknowledges that the project would still pose many questions, not least of which would be where to accommodate displaced traffic.

But he believes that, with a positive approach, the issue can be addressed successfully: "We need to do more detailed research, but it's pretty clear that an awful lot of traffic in Wellesley Road is just passing through the town and bringing nothing to Croydon town centre but noise and pollution.

"As we all embrace more green policies, so I am confident that we can find solutions that will enable us to realise the dream of Wellesley Road becoming, at least in part, a new network of public spaces in the heart of our town."

Removing some of the through-traffic and enabling the road to become at least a partial open space would transform Croydon's appearance and have a huge impact on the urban environment.

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Let's make Croydon blooming beautiful!

Now's the time to start planning for this year's Croydon in Bloom

Each year, across the UK, local authorities, businesses and communities join together to prepare their entries for their local and regional In Bloom campaigns. In 2008, the council will once again be supporting Croydon in Bloom – but this year there is a difference.

Local gardeners who enter Croydon in Bloom could well be recognised not only locally, but regionally in London in Bloom and even, perhaps, have their efforts shown to the nation's top gardening judges in the Britain in Bloom finals.

That is because, as well as competing with other boroughs across the capital for the London in Bloom title, this year we are hoping that Croydon can secure the title of Britain

in Bloom Best Large City. Croydon has been nominated to the Britain in Bloom finals by London in Bloom and will be competing with Sheffield and Belfast.

So, whether you potter alone in your own garden or down the allotment, or belong to a school, business or community group with outside space, why not pull on those gardening gloves and help give Croydon a chance to shine in Britain in Bloom 2008?

Keen-eyed judges will be looking for the best efforts in the various categories in July for Croydon and London in Bloom and in August for Britain in Bloom.

Look out for hints and tips in future editions of Your Croydon or visit the Royal Horticultural Society's website: www.rhs.org.uk/britaininbloom for inspiration.



For more information or to enter
Croydon in Bloom, visit
www.croydon.gov.uk/croydoninbloom
email parks@croydon.gov.uk or call
020 8760 6900. Alternatively, you can
pick up an application form from One Stop
receptions, libraries and leisure centres.



NASUWT

The largest UK-wide teachers' union

The Croydon branch of NASUWT congratulates Croydon teacher

Amanda Haehner

on her induction as

National President of NASUWT

See our website: www.croydon.nasuwt.org.uk

NASUWT is one of the country's largest unions with well over a quarter of a million members, including 1,300 teachers in Croydon. Amanda Haehner, a teacher at St Mary's High School in Croydon, became National President at the National Conference over Easter 2008.

For more information on NASUWT, or to join, call 0121 453 6150. The Local Association can be reached on 020 8654 3146



YourCroydonSurvey

Your chance to help shape Croydon's involvement in the Olympic and Paralympic Games of 2012

In 2012, the world's greatest sporting event will be taking place on our doorstep.

The London Olympic Games will run from 27 July to 12 August and the Paralympic Games from 29 August to 9 September.

This may seem like the distant future, but London 2012 is more than just four weeks of sport in four years' time.

August, this year, marks the beginning of the Cultural Olympiad, a four-year celebration of the upcoming games with a programme of events and festivals across the UK.

The core themes of the Cultural Olympiad are: inspiring and involving young people, celebrating London and the UK welcoming the world, and generating a positive legacy through cultural and sporting participation.

By the end of the 2012 games, we want people in Croydon to have felt they were a part of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

To ensure this happens and that the whole event reaches out to people, we want to find out what you want from the London 2012 Games and the Cultural Olympiad.

By completing our survey, you can help inform how Croydon can get maximum impact from the games and help inform the council's new cultural strategy.

For more information, email edward.mcdermott@croydon.gov.uk or call Ed McDermott on 020 8726 6000 (ext 62228).

Completed surveys can be handed in to a One Stop reception, any borough library, or posted to: Getting Off the Blocks Survey, Strategic Improvement Unit, ECCP, 10th Floor, Taberner House, Park Lane, Croydon, CR9 3JS

What would you like to see from the games for Croydon in particular? (please tick three)

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| More opportunities for young people <input type="checkbox"/> | More volunteering opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> | More job opportunities for local people <input type="checkbox"/> |
| More people taking part in sport and physical activity <input type="checkbox"/> | Improved transport facilities and transport links <input type="checkbox"/> | More visitors coming to Croydon <input type="checkbox"/> |
| More cultural activities, such as festivals, concerts, music & dance <input type="checkbox"/> | More opportunities for Croydon businesses <input type="checkbox"/> | Improved sporting and leisure facilities <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other (please state) _____ | | |

Before reading the article accompanying this survey were you aware of the Cultural Olympiad and its role in the games? (please tick) Yes ☐ No ☐

From the following cultural provision which would you like to see, or improved, in Croydon? (please tick three)

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| Improved or new public spaces e.g. café plazas, squares to sit/eat <input type="checkbox"/> | Performance and art <input type="checkbox"/> | Live performances <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Gallery/Exhibition space <input type="checkbox"/> | More art in public spaces <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (please state) <input type="checkbox"/> |
| More arts events/festivals <input type="checkbox"/> | Theatre, dance and music venue <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |

From the following sporting or leisure provision which would you like to see, or improved, in Croydon? (please tick three)

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| Improved parks, playgrounds, open spaces <input type="checkbox"/> | Facilities for individual sports/activities <input type="checkbox"/> | Outdoor facilities <input type="checkbox"/> |
| More facilities for team sports/activities <input type="checkbox"/> | Indoor facilities <input type="checkbox"/> | More varied facilities for children <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other (please state) _____ | | |

How often do you take part in the following activities?

	Sport and physical activity	See or take part in cultural activity	Volunteering
Every day	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Once a week	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Once a month	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Within the past six months	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Within the past year	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Longer ago	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What would help improve services or facilities?

Lower cost	<input type="checkbox"/>	More varied range of activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Better location	<input type="checkbox"/>
Modern facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Good customer service	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Better information about what's on	<input type="checkbox"/>	More accessible times	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Where do you use cultural, sport or leisure facilities or services?

Croydon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kingston	<input type="checkbox"/>	Central London	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bromley	<input type="checkbox"/>	Merton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please state)	
Sutton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wandsworth	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Do you think that the games or the Cultural Olympiad will encourage you to:

Do more sport or physical activity	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Take part in more cultural activity	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Do more volunteering	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

Are you interested in being kept up to date with what is happening as part of the games?

Yes ☐ (please provide your contact details) No ☐

How do you find out about what is happening in Croydon in terms of culture, sport and leisure activities? (please tick)

Newspapers	<input type="checkbox"/>	Your Croydon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Internet	<input type="checkbox"/>
Newsletters	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other publications	<input type="checkbox"/>	Email	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify)					

About you

Name

Contact details

Gender Female ☐ Male ☐

Age 0-16 ☐ 17-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 65+ ☐

Are you:

White	<input type="checkbox"/>	Asian	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/>
Black	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed background	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other ethnic background	<input type="checkbox"/>

Do you consider yourself to be disabled? (please tick) Yes ☐ No ☐

Fill in this form then cut along dotted line and send back to the address supplied.

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Get a qualification

Learn for Leisure

Bringing learning to life

calat@croydon.gov.uk www.calat.ac.uk



I'm 22 years old. I was a victim of crime. Now I organise community safety events. I'm doing my bit to make Croydon safer, are you doing yours?



If you have been a victim of crime, contact Victim Support Croydon on 020 8681 7711



CROYDON COUNCIL



Victim Support Croydon

We can help victims of any crime, from theft to serious assaults and whether or not they have been reported to the police. We have specialist workers who can support victims of rape and sexual assaults, domestic violence and hate crimes such as those motivated by racism or homophobia. We also have a service for those bereaved through murder and manslaughter.

Specifically Victim Support Croydon can:

- Offer emotional support and discuss options
- Liaise with the police or any other criminal justice agencies including the Witness Service if you have to attend Court
- Provide information and help about personal safety
- Provide information about crime prevention
- Provide information and help with claiming Criminal Injuries Compensation
- Provide information and referral on to other appropriate agencies that can help

Our service is confidential and free.

Tel: 0208 681 7711 Website: www.victimsupportcroydon.org.uk

R U OK? Victim Support Croydon has an additional service specifically for young victims and their carers.

Tel: 0208 8253 4422

Website: www.victimsupportcroydon.org.uk and follow the links to R U OK?

From here to modernity



The growing of Wellesley Road

Most now know Wellesley Road as a busy dual carriageway and tram track, but it wasn't always so

In living memory, the main road running through Croydon has been the A23.

For a time, before Purley Way took that road designation, the A23 ran through central Croydon, taking in North End, the very centre of Croydon's shopping area.

Parallel to this ran Wellesley Road which, until 1965, was a relatively quiet road bounded on its western side by the Whitgift Middle School – better known as Trinity – and its playing fields.

The school moved and made way for the mighty Whitgift Shopping Centre, which opened its first shop in 1968.

As the volume in traffic through Croydon increased, the relatively narrow North End became a bottleneck, and Wellesley Road became the main thoroughfare for traffic through the town centre.

Surprisingly, the road has not changed a great deal over the past 25 years. A couple of new buildings have sprung up but perhaps the greatest change is to the road furniture and markings that now seem to dominate the scene.

Trams also run down the centre of the road, increasing the feeling that Wellesley Road carves a great swathe through our town and divides the centre into two. For more examples of Frazer's work, visit www.frazerashford.com



The value of choice



Whether it's choosing a care home, opting for independence or attending day centres, Croydon Council is making life easier for those who need help

Choice is a commodity most would consider they are entitled to – the choice of what to eat, where to go, whether to enjoy a walk or lounge in front of the TV.

Choice is important and it's something Croydon Council values and recognises – and is keen to extend to its service users.

For many older people, one of the most important choices they face is between maintaining their independence, and taking residence in a care home.

Those electing to stay in their own homes are being offered greater choice in arranging their own care.

Through the Direct Payments support service, managed by Disability Croydon, they can choose, and pay for, their own care, using the money that would have been used to pay for the care the council would have arranged.

Some, however, feel they cannot manage at home and opt for residential care.

Croydon Council has produced a *Guide to choosing and paying for a care home* to take them through the process – from assessment to choosing the right care home and how to pay.

The guide, as well as some additional advice, can be seen and downloaded from the council's website at www.croydon.gov.uk/carehomes or can be picked up at any One Stop reception.

As part of the council's ethos of choice, the work on providing state-of-the-art care facilities for the older members of Croydon's community is now well

under way, with the first of four new schemes due for completion later this year.

The Homes for the Future project will see six existing residential care homes and day centres replaced with care homes and day services boasting facilities that will offer modern care in modern settings that add value to older people's lives.

In summer, the Fellows Court extra-care sheltered scheme, in Addiscombe, is scheduled to be the first of the new centres to open its doors. Comprising 40 flats, it will offer 24-hour care and support.

Those wishing to maintain their independence are benefiting from a new meals-on-wheels contract

The new service offers a greater range of menus with more flexibility. This will enable, for instance, customers to provide meals for guests or to order several frozen meals at once, giving them the freedom to choose what they want to eat, and at a time to suit them.

Other plans will see adults with learning disabilities benefiting from five new resource bases, offering support facilities, across Croydon.

Help is available to move people into supported living accommodation which will increase independence and provide more choice.

If you think you might need social care services, call social services for adults on 020 8726 6500 or visit the council website at www.croydon.gov.uk/healthsocial to find out more about the services available.

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Seven up for Croydon

Croydon Council has become a Beacon winner for a magnificent seventh time

In a national scheme that showcases excellence in public service delivery, Croydon has an almost unrivalled record – and has become a Beacon holder in each of the past four years.

Winning Beacon status in the local strategic partnership and local area agreement category has singled Croydon out as the only borough in London to receive top-level recognition for this key approach to providing services to residents.

The Awards recognise the very best practice in service delivery and innovation. Beacon organisations are seen as being at the cutting edge of policy development and often ahead of the pack in implementing the latest ideas.

It is widely recognised that the best achievements arise from authorities working with the extensive cooperation of a number of partner organisations, such as police, health, business and voluntary sector partners.



Pictured at the award ceremony are (left to right): Nero Ughwujabo, chief executive of the BME Forum; Councillor Mike Fisher, council leader; Caroline Taylor, chief executive, Croydon Primary Care Trust; Brian Stapleton, chief executive, Croydon Business.

In Croydon, many of the greatest improvements in crime reduction, education, health and the local environment over the past few years have been achieved through joint working.

Examples of successes achieved through partnership include a dramatic reduction in crime within the borough, higher educational attainment, more people adopting healthy lifestyles, the establishment in Croydon of Europe's first integrated family justice centre, and the Croydon Enterprise activities that are driving an entrepreneurial approach within some of the borough's most deprived communities.

Passing the test



Annual competition once again underlines Croydon's reputation as a hotbed of musical talent

With categories for bands, singer/songwriters and hip-hop/R&B, Croydon's Testing1,2,3 can usually provide something for most tastes.

This year's event proved no exception, and lived up to its well-earned reputation as a springboard for local talent.

After three nights of competition, the final comprised six acts, two from each of the categories, selected by a panel of judges from the music industry.

The Gold Disc trophy was raised by singer/songwriting duo Cellar Door.

The soaring, haunting vocals of Aimee, coupled with Mike's original guitar playing, meant you could barely hear a breath as Cellar Door had everyone spellbound with their mature and insightful music.



A major part of their prize is the chance to play in front of thousands at this year's Croydon Summer Festival.

The runner-up prize went to the band fronted by vocalist Lyanna Austin. The band's big sound was spun from two synthesisers, powerful backing singers and a strong rhythm section.

Organised by Croydon Council's arts department, Testing is made possible by generous sponsorship from local music businesses and assistance from Croydon Clocktower and the Arts Council England.

To go on the mailing list for next year, email testing123@croydon.gov.uk

Fly-tippers beware

Croydon Council and its partners are out to get you

In line with its stated intention of improving the environment, the council has launched a programme of spot checks that should see a decrease in the antisocial practice.

The first exercise saw council staff, aided by police and community support officers, stopping vans as they made their way into the Factory Lane Reuse and Recycling Centre.

Drivers were asked to open their vehicles, explain the contents and, where applicable, produce their licences to dump at the site.

In addition to ensuring that their loads were acceptable, checks were made against a database of details of vehicles known to have been involved in fly-tipping incidents.

Croydon-based general builder John Howis said that, far from being annoyed by the check, he was glad that

the council was taking proactive measures against the cowboys that gave his trade a bad name.

He said: "It's not worth my job to cheat the system. I'm not looking to save a quick fiver by avoiding the charge to dump my waste, I'm looking to the long-term.

"Yes, it can be expensive but, in this day and age, we have to do the right thing.

"Apart from the mess fly-tippers leave – which is no good to anybody – it's simply not worth the chance of being caught and getting a £5,000 fine."



"I'm glad the council's doing this – perhaps it'll make others think before fly-tipping."
- John Harris



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Dates for your diary

Council

Deadlines for public questions for forthcoming full council meetings (all start at 6.30pm) Noon on each relevant deadline date.

Meeting

Deadline



Monday 21 Apr

Monday, 7 Apr

To submit a question for consideration at a full council meeting, email it to council.questions@croydon.gov.uk; fax it to **020 8760 5657**; print and complete the form at www.croydon.gov.uk/councilquestion and post it to Questions for the Council, Democratic and Legal Services, Taberner House, Park Lane, Croydon CR9 3JS; or call **020 8726 6000 ext 62327**

Scrutiny

Deadlines for the forthcoming scrutiny and overview committee public question sessions. Noon on the relevant deadline date.

Meeting

Deadline

Cabinet Member



1 Apr

Scrutiny and overview

24 Mar

Cllr Gavin Barwell (resources and customer services)

To submit a question to a cabinet member at a scrutiny sub-committee Q&A session, email it to scrutiny.public.questions@croydon.gov.uk; fax it to **020 8760 5657**; post it to Scrutiny Public Questions, Democratic and Legal Services, Taberner House, Park Lane, Croydon CR9 3JS; or call **020 8726 6000 extn 62529 or 62315**.

Neighbourhood Partnership

Neighbourhood partnership meetings (all start at 7.30pm)

Meeting

Group and venue

2 April

Fairfield, Heathfield and Shirley

Venue to be confirmed

19 April

Purley and Kenley

Christ Church Hall, Brighton Road, Purley

For information on Neighbourhood Partnerships, visit the website at www.croydononline.org/neighbourhood_partnerships/, email neighbourhood.partnerships@croydon.gov.uk, write to Neighbourhood Partnerships, Democratic and Legal Services, Taberner House, Park Lane, Croydon CR9 3JS or call **020 8726 6000 extn 62564 or 62396**

Croydon Community Police Consultative Group Partnership

Meetings of the Croydon Community Police Consultative Group are held in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall. All are open to the public and begin at 6.30pm. For further information, go to www.croydononline.org/ccpcg

Forthcoming meeting dates are: Thursday, 15 May; Wednesday, 9 July; Wednesday, 17 September; Tuesday, 25 November.

Details of all Croydon Council meetings can be found on the council website at www.croydon.gov.uk/meetingsofthecouncil



These meetings are to be transmitted using webcasting. They can be viewed at www.croydon.ukcouncil.net/site/webcasts.php

What's On

www.croydon.gov.uk/leisure

April 08

Croydon Clocktower, Katharine Street, Croydon

Ticket office: tel:020 8253 1030

Email: ticketoffice@croydon.gov.uk

Text: 07771 837121

Live events at the Clocktower

Wednesday 2 April

Croydon Scriptworks

5.30pm

An inspiring collaboration between Half Moon Young People's Theatre, Croydon Clocktower and pupils from years 9 and 10 at Haling Manor High School.

£2 (no concessions)

Thursday 3 April

Metamorphosis

8-8pm. £5 (no concessions)

Music

Wednesday 23 April

Afternoon Tea with...

The London Mozart Players

3.30-4.45pm

£12.50 (no concessions). Ticket includes tea and biscuits served after the concert.

Friday 25 April

Rachel Unthank & The Winterset

(rescheduled from 9 February)

7.30 (on stage 8pm)

£12 (£9 concessions)



Dance

Wednesday 30 April

Gravitas

8pm - Earthfall, the multi award-winning dance group, brings its trademark ingredients of physical theatre, live music, film and dark humour to the Clocktower.

£10 (£7.50 concessions)



DAVID LEAN - APRIL

There Will Be Blood (15)

My Blueberry Nights (12A) Digital

The Kite Runner (12A) Digital

The Other Boleyn Girl (12A) Digital

No Country for Old Men (15)

Love in the Time of Cholera (15)

The Orphanage (15) Digital

Fri 11 to Thu 17 April

The Boss of it All (15) Digital

Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street (18) Digital

Water Lilies (15) Digital

Children of Glory (15)

Lars and the Real Girl (12A)

27 Dresses (12A)

Still Life (PG)

Children's and Family Films

Wombling Free (U)

Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium (U)

Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves (PG)

The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep (PG)

Alvin and the Chipmunks (U)

National Treasure: Book of Secrets (PG) Digital

The Golden Compass (PG)

Bee Movie (U)



My Blueberry Nights



The Golden Compass

Guided walks in April

Thursday 3 April

Morning walk on Mitcham Common

Saturday 19 April

Birds on the commons

Sunday 20 April

Sunday afternoon walk on Mitcham Common

Wednesday 23 April

Springtime delights in King's Wood

Friday 25 April

Bats over South Norwood Country Park

Saturday 26 April

Bluebells and orchids of Selsdon Wood

For further information of these and other walks and wildlife, go to www.croydon.gov.uk/leisure/events or call the community partnership officer on 020 8726 6900 ext 64952

it's your choice



If you are young and want something to do, want to make new friends or need advice there are lots of organisations in your local area ready to help.



To find out what is going on in your area visit:
www.croydoncsd.co.uk



THE FIVE BOROUGH'S ALLIANCE



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Working together for a safer London

