

Croydon's Draft Local Plan

We need to be worried by these proposed revised plans from Croydon's Labour Council

There was a hurried consultation on revisions for Croydon's Local Plan. We objected strongly, as did our local resident associations, to both many of the changes and the lack of time (3 volumes to review in just the 6 weeks before Christmas) for a proper understanding of the effect that the new plan would make to many areas of Croydon. There were few identified places in Coulsdon East, yet there are worrying references to district centres, such as Purley and Coulsdon, as places for high density development. There is also concern of the effect the unrealistic housing targets will have upon our area resulting in many cramped new developments with little regard for the character of our ward.

There is also growing risk to the Green Belt with some parts of Croydon under threat of having their green belt re-designated.

We hope that the final draft of this plan, which will be published this summer, will take these concerns into account although we fear that dogma might prevail.

Tollers Estate

In September of last year we called a Public Meeting for the residents of the estate to discuss ways that problems could be addressed and hopefully solutions found. Since that date we have been having a series of meetings with Council officers to find solutions. No solution has been possible for the continuing parking problems due to lack of funds from the Council, but we are continuing to try and persuade the Council of the growing need both for more parking spaces and also funds to protect both the corners of the closes and the grass edges to the estate roads.

Bradmore Green Library

Libraries in Croydon are again at risk.

Croydon Council are presently consulting on the future of our libraries. One of the key questions is whether you would be prepared to staff a library as a volunteer.

Other questions ask whether you want to turn the library into a community room.

We believe that, not only are the local libraries, especially our own Bradmore Green Library which being the smallest in the borough is at risk as essential for the culture of the ward but also provide such a valued asset for young and elderly as well as a source of information for us all.

To provide these services it is vital to have a fully trained and experienced library staff.



Please go on- line by May 2nd <https://getinvolved.croydon.gov.uk/KMS/elab.aspx?CampaignId=82&noip=1&strTab=elab&SessionId=MD4E547RWG>

to complete this consultation or ask at for a copy at the library(although few paper copies have been made available) and show how dedicated we are for the long term future of our Bradmore Green Library.

We do not want Croydon to go the same way as other boroughs such as Lambeth where funding has already been withdrawn from four branches.

Croydon's Parks

Our parks could be in danger.

There are strong rumours that the Council, in looking at ways to save money, are considering the prospect of finding friends groups to take over the day to day running of our parks.



Just as the libraries require well trained specialised staff so do our parks.

Even if volunteers were found to do this, and they would not be experienced in this work, what about the future if these local people decided to disband or just moved away.

It is another crazy idea that could threaten the future of our much loved Marlpit Lane Recreation Ground and Grange Park. If we hear any further news about this we will make sure you are fully aware of any scheme.

Coulsdon South Parking

The parking problems in the roads around Coulsdon South Station have been a growing concern for us for a long time. Acknowledging that the present scheme had worked very well, finding a solution to the new pressures that would benefit the often hard pressed residents close to the station, whilst not returning to the 'free-for-all' situation of 20 years ago was difficult. We therefore circulated all those residents in the Contolled Parking Zone to hear their views.

Replies have now almost stopped and we hope that in the next couple of weeks we will be able to report the results of our survey by e-mail or letter to those who have replied.

Garden and Green Waste Collections

Missed collections, since the Village scheme was brought in, continue to be a problem for the residents in Coulsdon East and we are continually pressing for a better service.

The Council announced that there had been a sufficient take up of the paid for Garden Waste collections and the fortnightly service commenced week beginning April 18th and will end this year on 18th November which is a total of 15 collections per household, the same as last year. Confusingly though for residents, the collection day will not necessarily be the same day as all other waste is collected from each household.

If you have subscribed, you can find your date of collection at <http://maps.croydon.gov.uk/aya/pages/aya/aya.html?tab=home&task=gardenwaste> .

For residents who have chosen to sign up manually, letters have been sent to these confirming their arrangements.

Residents can still sign up for the new service at <http://www.croydon.gov.uk/gardenwaste>.

Home composting and access to the household reuse & recycling centres are other options for green waste disposal.

Chris Margaret and James will continue to monitor the service in the interests of residents.

Bonfires

With no free garden waste collection residents may feel it necessary to return to burning their garden waste.

Please be considerate towards neighbours near and further away that may be in their gardens enjoying the sunshine or have washing out drying and allow trimmings to dry out before lighting as this reduces smoke. Follow London Fire Brigades advice on bonfires <http://www.londonfire.gov.uk/BonfiresAndFireworks.asp>

News from Friends Groups

Grange Park Play Area

A huge local success

Within a very short time the trustees of this local charity have very nearly reached their target of £100,000 to completely replace the equipment in the Grange Park Play Area. The designs have been approved and a target date for the installation is July of this year.

This is by far the biggest and best organised of any campaign in this ward for a generation..or more.

The trustees however acknowledge that this enormous sum of £100,000 could not have been achieved without superb support from Resident Associations, Churches, Schools, Rotary, very many local organisations, businesses, and local residents. Their thanks also to all those who supported the many functions they organised. – the latest Eggstravaganza on Easter Saturday was a typical example with hundreds turning out to support in very poor weather.

If the target date of July is achievable then look out for details of a GRAND OPENING.

Bradmore Green Pond

Working hard for more than 10 years

Another successful winter, clearing the pond and preparing it for the summer and the breeding season.



Thanks once again for all the hard work to the gallant band of helpers many of whom have been active at every occasion since June 2005.

We always need new volunteers so do get in touch or just turn up. You would be very welcome.

We can't disturb the wildlife in the summer but put Saturday 24th of September in your diaries for the first of the winter sessions.

Marlpit Lane Bowling Green FMLBG

The Bowling and Putting Green at Coulsdon Memorial Park in Marlpit Lane, run entirely by volunteers, opened for this season on April 16th to a cold start but hopefully a warm dry season to follow. Volunteers have worked through the winter keeping the green maintained and have started



the regular mowing sessions that will be required throughout the growing season. Volunteers are always needed to keep the pavilion open daily from 2-6pm and assist with the maintenance. Without the income from playing bowls or putting and donations they would not be able to keep this wonderful local facility open. If you can help in any way please ring:

07532 233159

or email them at their new address

fmlbg@googlegroups.com.

Follow them too on Facebook at Marlpit Lane Bowling Green. Fees start at £1 for children and season tickets for one or both activities are available, and it is a great healthy way of spending an afternoon in the open air. Bowls, mats and putters and instructions if needed are provided. Please do support this wonderful local facility.

Christmas Lights in Old Coulsdon Friends Group

Many residents and traders contacted Margaret and Chris before Christmas about the lack of festive lights on Tudor Parade. The Council no longer have the funds for areas considered not business centres and we were too late for 2015 but have successfully formed a local group to raise funds to make sure Old Coulsdon is lit in the festive season in the future. Danny Tevfik of Danny's Fish & Chips was elected Chair of the group and fundraising has begun with several pledges already. We are looking to raise £4000 this year and welcome any help in achieving this aim.

Donations can be given to Danny, Margaret or Chris (cheques payable to Christmas Lights in Old Coulsdon Friends Group) or see them at the Rotary Fair on July 3rd.

Consideration has also been given to festive lights in the Lacey Green shopping area but unfortunately the lampposts there are not already equipped with the commando sockets needed and the cost of installing them has proven prohibitive.

Our aim is to ensure that Old Coulsdon Tudor Parade will be festively lit in 2016!

Coulsdon Coppice

On the second Saturday of each month a team of volunteers help to manage this valuable woodland, keep the Coppice (an oasis of woods behind Birchfield Close) clear of litter, the grass cut, etc and also do more strenuous activities.

We are always looking for more volunteers. There is no obligation to help every month but we can guarantee that you will get great satisfaction in knowing that you are protecting this area for the many kinds of wildlife that inhabit the Coppice. (contact Chris for details).

Coulsdon Town Parking

Croydon's Labour Council are wishing to reduce the one hour free parking in Brighton Road to half an hour despite their election pledge to keep one hour in district centres, which has resulted in over 1000 signatures being presented to the council calling on them to rethink their plan.

We are pleased to see Lion Green Road Carpark open for public parking again as no alternative scheme was put in place, resulting in a considerable loss of trade for businesses and we hope consideration will be given to long term parking in any new plan submitted as well as a much needed larger than we have at present branch of Waitrose who we understand are still interested in the development.

Residential Parking Plea

Please consider where you park on the streets of Coulsdon and Old Coulsdon and do not block driveways, park on single yellow lines when a restriction is in force, on double yellow lines or outside of schools on the zig zag lines that are there for the protection of our children.

Keeping up to date

If you would like to be kept informed of the latest news, please send us your email address. We will of course not pass on this address to other organisations

Councillors

Councillors hold regular surgeries on the last Saturday of each month (except August & December) from 10.00am -12.00 noon in the Guide Hall, rear of Tudor Parade, Old Coulsdon.

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