

**Subject:** Local News from Chris Philp MP

**From:** Chris Philp MP <chris.philp.mp@parliament.uk>

**Date:** 01/02/2019, 10:56

**To:** <riddlesdownresidents@gmail.com>

# Local News from Chris Philp MP



Share



Tweet



Forward

Dear Resident,

Here is an update on some local issues I have been working on, or which may be of interest.

## **Purley Skyscraper Update: High Court Appeal by the Developer**

You will recall the excellent news that in December the Labour council's planning permission for a 17-floor Purley Skyscraper was over-turned by the Government. Unfortunately, the developer has now appealed to the High Court against that decision. I am not sure how long the appeal will take, or what the chances are of it being successful. As soon as I have more news I will let you know. The sooner the skyscraper proposal can be finally defeated, the sooner the site can be developed in an appropriate way.

## **Have a chat with me at a Street Stall - Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, Old Coulsdon, 11:30-12:30**

If you'd like to drop by for a chat about any topic, I'll be at a street stall in Old Coulsdon on Tudor Parade (CR5 1EH) from 1130-1230 on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February. There is no need for an appointment – just drop by. I will do street stalls in other parts of the neighbourhood in the next few months if this one is not convenient.

## **Croydon University Hospital (Mayday) – Brand New A&E now open**



The new A&E, or Emergency Department, at Croydon University Hospital (Mayday), opened to the public in December. It offers a wonderful service and operates at around double the capacity of the old A&E.

In 2015 I met with the then Health Secretary, Jeremy Hunt, to discuss the importance of upgrading the A&E. That year, the Government decided to invest £21 million in the new A&E. It is much bigger than the old A&E, so can see far more patients. Patients also now have higher levels of privacy – they will be treated in their own treatment rooms, rather than just a curtained cubicle.

Other facilities include two mental health liaison rooms for adults, one for children, and a dedicated resuscitation unit for very seriously ill patients. A separate new Urgent Treatment Centre has also been opened next door to the A&E to handle less serious cases.

The local NHS still recommend that residents in the south of the Borough attend Purley War Memorial Hospital's GP Hub / Minor Injury Unit for less serious matters (excluding potential broken bones – for which people should still go to Croydon University Hospital). Following my campaign a year or two ago, the Purley facility is now open 8am-8pm 365 days a year. There are both GPs and nurses available to see people immediately, as well as an X ray service. The NHS also encourages non-emergency patients to phone 111 for medical advice.

#### **Gatwick: A second Runway**

The Government announced a little while ago that the extra runway in the south east should

be at Heathrow – the (in)famous Heathrow third runway. This implied that Gatwick would not get Government support to expand.

But Gatwick has developed a plan to get a second runway operational without needing to be the “official” extra runway in the south east - and the extra Gatwick runway is likely to be operational long before Heathrow’s third runway.

It turns out Gatwick has an existing “standby” runway that runs parallel to the current main runway. They had pledged not to use it for the first 40 years of Gatwick’s lifetime – but that expires later this year. The plan is to bring this standby runway into operation. The airport could then provide for up to 70 million passengers per year, an increase of around 50% from current levels.

The amount of work needed is not significant – some more taxi routes are needed around the edge of the current runway, and the standby runway needs to be extended by 12 metres to the north to meet international aviation standards. All of this can happen within the current boundaries of Gatwick airport.

The airport would remain a two-terminal operation, and noise levels would remain about the same. The cost would be entirely paid for privately by the airport owner – no public money is needed. The cost of the second Gatwick runway, at around £500m, is around 1/30<sup>th</sup> the cost of the Heathrow third runway in any case.

I support these plans. It would be very useful for Croydon to have extra airport capacity just a 30 minute drive from Purley (in normal traffic) or a 15 minute train ride from East Croydon. But if they go ahead I do want to see Gatwick make financial contributions towards improving the M23 and A23, and also the Brighton Mainline. Extra traffic and train passengers will be generated (albeit mostly outside the rush hour) and it is right that Gatwick helps with meeting the costs of better infrastructure. I will keep you updated on progress with this project.

### **Major Upgrade Opportunity – Brighton Mainline**

The Brighton Mainline, running from London to Brighton through our neighbourhood, is one of the busiest in the country carrying over 300,000 passengers each day. Some time ago, I led a delegation of MPs to see the Prime Minister which led to a £300m programme of works to upgrade the infrastructure (for example, fixing points and signals). This work is now happening, and should ensure there are fewer delays and cancellations once completed.

But the line is nonetheless running at 99% capacity, which means any small problem creates wider disruption and rush-hour trains are often over-crowded. We need to create more capacity.

The bottleneck for the whole network is around East Croydon station – Network Rail describe it “the most challenging bottleneck on Britain’s Railway Network.” Services converge from across Surrey, Sussex and parts of Hampshire through East Croydon, before diverging to Victoria, London Bridge and Blackfriars. The Windmill Junction, near Selhurst, is also a bottleneck. You will have noticed southbound trains often pause for a few minutes near Selhurst while they wait for this junction to clear.

I have therefore been campaigning for the Government to provide around £2 billion to fix this bottleneck. This project would entail expanding East Croydon from 6 to 8 platforms and widening other areas of track in the vicinity. It would also involve grade separating Windmill junction. Not only would this prevent a lot of delays, but it would allow for more services to run, increasing capacity by 30%.

This project is being taken forward by Network Rail, and there are some more basic details in a video on this page:

<https://www.networkrail.co.uk/running-the-railway/our-routes/south-east/croydon-area-remodelling-scheme/>

The funding still needs to be finally signed off, but I will be pressing hard to make sure that this happens. This would be one of the biggest rail infrastructure upgrade projects in the country. I will keep you updated.

#### **Charity News: Get Well Gamers**

This charity is registered in Scotland but their Head of Operations, Richard Thurbon, is from Coulsdon. They provide video and other electronic games to seriously ill children in hospital and hospices to provide them with some entertainment as well as diversion from pain they may be suffering. They need donations of second hand games consoles and volunteers to take them into hospitals and hospices. They have recently worked with Croydon University Hospital. If you can make a donation of a second hand console or would like to volunteer, please have a look at: [www.getwellgamers.org.uk](http://www.getwellgamers.org.uk)

#### **Charity News: Selsdon Centre for older people**

I visited the Selsdon Centre (on the left as you go into the entrance of the big Sainsburys in Selsdon), a few weeks ago. They offer older people a place to go, a very cheap cooked meal five days a week and various social activities such as bingo, chess, cards and IT training. They have a minibus that can collect people who need that. Anyone interested in using this service themselves, or who has friends or relations that might be, should make contact (details below). They are also looking for volunteers to help in the Centre and two volunteers to serve on the Board. If interested, please contact Craig Anderson or Jane Bird 020 8651 1111 or email [selsdon.centre@btinternet.com](mailto:selsdon.centre@btinternet.com).

**In the House of Commons**

I asked the Prime Minister earlier this week about getting more young people onto the Housing Ladder. Here is the clip:



Getting first time buyers on the property ladder.

And here is the speech I gave a couple of weeks ago in the "No Confidence" debate, tabled by Jeremy Corbyn the day after the Government lost the original vote on the BREXIT deal:



The "No Confidence" debate.

I hope this update was useful.

Best wishes,

Chris



**Chris Philp**

**Member of Parliament for Croydon South**

P.S. You can keep up with what I've been doing from day to day at [www.chrisphilp.com](http://www.chrisphilp.com)



You have received this newsletter from Chris Philp after providing him or the Croydon Conservatives with your contact details.

You can choose to stop receiving these emails at any time, by selecting the 'unsubscribe' button below.

Copyright © Chris Philp 2014, All rights reserved.

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

**Want to help me in the constituency?  
Have an idea for a project?  
E-mail  
[croydonconservatives@tory.org](mailto:croydonconservatives@tory.org)  
and I'll get back to you as soon as I can.**