

Subject: Update from Chris Philp MP

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To: [REDACTED]

Update from Chris Philp MP



Dear All,

Below is an update on some local and national issues which I have been working on.

Met Commissioner meeting

I met recently with the Commissioner of the Met Police, Cressida Dick. The Met is in the process of recruiting 1,000 extra uniformed officers to get up to around 30,500. She said the constraint to doing this is practical (i.e. recruiting and training fast enough), not money. We also discussed Moped crime, which has thankfully halved from the peak last year, and discussed ideas to fight knife crime. I also asked for more follow-up to Burglaries and hope that Mayor Sadiq Khan, who is ultimately responsible for policing in London, will deliver on this.

Planning

This remains a very serious problem, with the Labour-run council approving 95% of all applications that went to the planning committee in 2017 (these are supposed to be contentious applications). We do need new homes, but we should be developing brownfield sites first (e.g. Royal Mail building next to East Croydon station; the vacant Nestle building) not destroying family homes in the suburbs which are much in demand. I will be launching a campaign on this wider issue in the near future, but in the meantime the council is running a consultation which closes at the end of Monday 15th October on their "Supplementary Planning Document 2" which relates to guidelines for developments in the suburbs. You can email your views to ldf@croydon.gov.uk before the end of Monday 15th. I will be making two main points in my submission:

- If the Council insist on giving permission to demolish family houses and build a block of flats instead (which I think they should not do at all), then they should only grant such consents on no more than 5% of houses in a given street. This is to maintain the character of the area and preserve the stock of family housing

- The SPD2 draft says in Section 2.10 that on a street of 2 storey houses, a new block of flats can be 3 storeys plus a mansard in the roof, making effectively 4 storeys. This should be limited to 2 storeys plus mansard to be more in keeping with the area

If you agree with these points please email in before end of Monday. I will be launching a wider campaign against the council's appalling planning policies in the near future, so please watch out for that.

Restore the Music

I have just met with a fantastic charity called Restore The Music UK (RTM). They are giving £20,000 grants to schools across London to buy musical instruments. Check out www.restorethemusicuk.com and so ask your children's Headteachers to get in touch with them. RTM has funded 4 schools in Croydon so far and they want to do more!

Sanderstead Poppy Appeal seeking new volunteer collectors

Sanderstead's Poppy Appeal is seeking new volunteer collectors to support the campaign and ensure it can maintain its contribution of around £8,000 per year to the British Legion's funds, helping support our Veterans.

It only needs to take a couple of hours of your time each year, but each volunteer collector can have a measurable impact. As a volunteer you can help out with door to door collections in your road or put in a short shift collecting at one of our collections at a local supermarket or rail station (such as Waitrose Sanderstead, Sainsbury's Selsdon or Sanderstead, Purley Oaks and Riddlesdown rail stations).

If you would be able to give a little of your time in the two weeks preceding Remembrance Sunday on 11 November, please drop an email to local Poppy Appeal Organiser Myles McCarthy at sandersteadpoppies@hotmail.com or call him on 07876 390045. If you want to help collect in other parts of the Borough, I am sure Myles can point you in the right direction.

House of Parliament Tours

I do regular tours of the Houses of Parliament starting at 5:15 on Thursday evenings. We have a behind-the-scenes visit the Commons and Lords chambers, as well as other parts of Parliament. Please email chris.philp.mp@parliament.uk if you would like to book a tour.

This Will Change Everything

TWiCE is a community outreach campaign built to give everyday people in Croydon a fair shot at financial success. TWiCE wants to teach people how money works and how they can make money work for them by holding workshops and online programs in the borough. TWiCE will give people the tools they need to succeed and manage their personal finances. Everyone can play a part, find out how by clicking this <https://www.twicecampaign.org/>. You could volunteer to be an advisor, or if you need help managing your own finances, please get

in touch with them.

Local Notices

As our local MP, I am happy to promote local charities, community events and other local initiatives through this email list (you will see some in this email). Please let me know if you have anything suitable for inclusion in a future email. A very large number of local residents receive this email so it is a good way to get out a message in our neighbourhood.

Latest Jobs numbers

New figures show that unemployment has now hit a 43-year low (around 4%), and adult workforce participation is a record high (around 75%). The minimum wage has been increased by 32% since 2010, and 75% of new jobs created since 2010 are full time. Croydon has enjoyed similar success, with especially large falls in youth unemployment – which is thankfully much lower in the UK than other large European countries such as France and Germany.

National Campaigns

Here are some of the national issues I have been working on:

Asking the PM to do more to fight the persecution of Christians overseas:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GtgTx2adYaA>

Asking the PM to confirm that we will link the £39 billion BREXIT exit payment to getting a satisfactory agreement at the same time on our future trade arrangements:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R_0BePUacuw

Raising the issue of responding to Russia's aggressive actions in Salisbury and elsewhere (and not getting a very clear response from the Minister):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qyPCZbc5tCc>

Raising the issue of GTR / Southern's incompetent service:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pVH913LS6bw>

More information is at www.chrisphilp.com. I hope that this update is useful. Please do forward it to friends and neighbours and if they want to be added to the list, they can email chris.philp.mp@parliament.uk.

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



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