

**From:** "Chris Philp MP" <croydonconservatives@tory.org>  
**Date:** 18 March 2016 12:23  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Update from Chris Philp MP

## Update from Chris Philp MP



Dear

All

### Purley Hospital update

Thank you to all who attended the packed public meeting which I arranged in January to put pressure on Croydon health chiefs to restore the service level at Purley Hospital's Minor Injury Unit, and to the thousands of people who signed the online petition. Both of these things really helped to show the Croydon Clinical Commissioning Group how strongly we all feel about this.

The good news is that they have listened and the new service which is due to start in April 2017 will have the morning opening hours restored, starting at 8am. This is fantastic news! They are also saying that from April 2017 there will be the facility to make immediate referrals to the X-ray machine (which is just down the corridor once again for everything apart from suspected fractures, which they are saying will still require a trip to Croydon University Hospital (Mayday). I am putting pressure on them to re-consider and include this at Purley too, but the immediate X-Ray referrals for everything else is definitely excellent news.

I am more generally lobbying for the widest possible range of treatments to be delivered at the new unit from April 2017. Given that the journey to Croydon University Hospital (Mayday) A&E is a long one, a good alternative at Purley Hospital for injuries not needing full A&E treatment is essential. Further updates to follow, but this news looks like a very welcome and significant step in the right direction.

### Job figures in Croydon

Earlier this week the Office for National Statistics published job figures for Croydon. They showed that the number of jobseekers has fallen by 5,015 or 51% over the last 5 years in Croydon. The number of young unemployed (aged 18-24) has fallen by an incredible 62% or 1,480. Unemployment in Croydon has halved in

the last 5 years to 2.5%, which is itself half the national average. 75% of the new jobs are full time and wages are rising at 2%-3%. From the start of April the minimum wage will increase to £7.20 per hour, up from £6.50 an hour this time last year – an 11% increase to help those on the lowest incomes. It will rise further to £9.00 per hour by 2020. This is something that I personally lobbied the Chancellor for last summer, because I think it is only fair that employers pay their staff enough to live on.

### **Southern Rail**

Southern Rail's performance remains very poor. Only 78% of Southern's trains arrived within 5 minutes of the scheduled time last month, and on December 15th last year it was only 44%. Further, 5% of all trains were either completely cancelled or were over half an hour late. Given that problems are concentrated in the peak hours, the effect on commuters is even greater than the headline figures suggest. Station skipping and overcrowding are also still serious problems.

In January, I and about 20 other affected MPs met with the Chief Executives of Southern and Network Rail as well as the Rail Minister to highlight our continued outrage at the abysmal performance. Despite numerous improvements being promised, they have yet to materialise.

We need more drivers, longer trains, signals and points problems to be fixed, better management and communication and better compensation to passengers for lateness. In the longer term, the next capital spending period (called "Control Period 6", starting in 2019) needs to deliver an upgrade to the line between South Croydon and Norwood Junction which is the pinch point on the whole Brighton Mainline. This should include track widening, junction improvements at a key junction and increasing the number of platforms at East Croydon from 6 to 8 to increase throughput capacity. I am already lobbying for this funding and work.

I called a Westminster Hall debate on the subject last July (see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vc5Odi2uezc>) and have met repeatedly with the Rail Minister. We held another Westminster Hall debate earlier this week to keep up the pressure. I am prepared to call for Southern to lose the Franchise if these problems are not fixed fast.

### **Coulsdon Parking Update**

It recently transpired that Croydon's Labour Council had closed Lion Green Road car park – causing parking chaos – completely unnecessarily. The Waitrose which was to be developed at the site will not now be going forward as previously planned.

The needless closure of this car park caused parking chaos in Coulsdon with some traders being driven to the brink. In a press release dated 14th July 2015 the Council said that "the car park closes on the 19th July with work beginning the following day". Clearly this was totally untrue, as work never started.

Following pressure from local residents' groups, councillors and I the car park has now re-opened with about 100 spaces on a temporary basis, which is at least an improvement on no parking. This follows on from Aldi agreeing to keep their car park open for all (not restricting it to just customers as they had planned) and the opening up of the CALAT centre car park both of which are helpful and followed pressure from residents, councillors and me.

Unfortunately, the council is now planning to break its clear election promise to provide 1 hours free parking by cutting the free on-street parking in the town centre from 1 hour to 30 mins. I am formally

opposing this with local councillors, and hope the Council administration have the decency to keep their promise and leave it at 1 hour. Please sign our petition at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/freeCoulstonParking> and forward this link to friends and neighbours.

I will be keeping a very close eye on this issue.

### **Street Stalls**

I am keen to be as accessible as possible, so I have been holding street stalls on Saturday mornings around the constituency. The next three are as follows:

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March, 10:15-12:00, Outside Aldi in Coulsdon

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April, 10:15-12:00, outside Post Office, Limpsfield Rd, Sanderstead

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 10:15-12:00, Tudor Parade, Old Coulsdon

No appointment needed – just drop by if you would like a chat about anything.

### **Purley Skyscraper**

I was told this week that the formal planning application for the 17 floor Purley Skyscraper (it has grown by a floor, up from 16) is due to be made in April, although these timings often change. The Skyscraper is totally out of keeping with Purley where the next tallest building is only 5 floors. I completely oppose the Skyscraper, and yesterday Zac Goldsmith repeated his previous pledge that he will veto the application if elected as Mayor of London (which he has power to do for an application of this size). Please sign the petition against the Skyscraper, and forward the link to friends and family:

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/StopPurleySkyscraper](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/StopPurleySkyscraper).

### **In Westminster**

I have been busy in Westminster on the Treasury Select Committee and on housing issues as well as locally. I have also been invited to do quite a few TV interviews recently on various (often contentious) national topics, and a few of the links are here if you are interested:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JHmh9O\\_VBKI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JHmh9O_VBKI)

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5rtwv6f1RSI>

[bit.ly/1LHUg95](http://bit.ly/1LHUg95)

I have also been supporting the family of Breck Bednar (whose father lives in Croydon South). Breck was murdered at the age of 14, having been groomed online and then lured to his murderer's house. I am very keen to ensure that the Police are able to access the internet records they need to in order to be able to investigate and prevent this kind of crime. I took Barry and Lorin, Breck's parents, to meet the Home Secretary personally earlier this month to discuss the issues involved and also spoke briefly (as there was a short time limit) to the issue in the recent second reading of the Investigatory Powers Bill on Tuesday of this week:




<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q7712FrOMjc>

I hope that this update has been useful. More information is at [www.chrisphilp.com](http://www.chrisphilp.com) or by following @chrisphilp\_mp on twitter.

With best wishes

**Chris Philp MP**

Member of Parliament for Croydon South

 Share	 Tweet	 Forward
---	---	---

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.**

