

From: "Chris Philp MP" <croydonconservatives@tory.org>
Date: 17 May 2016 12:47
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Update from Chris Philp MP on Southern Rail, Coulsdon parking, Purley Re-cycling Centre and other issues

Update from Chris Philp MP



Dear All

I am continuing to work hard on local and national issues as Croydon South's MP and this email contains updates on some local issues you may find of interest. I have also held 15 street stalls on Saturday mornings on high streets around the constituency in the past 8 months and met with hundreds of local residents. The first item below is about the appalling service offered by Southern Rail. I am hosting a public meeting with them on 24th May – please do come along if you can. Please also forward this email to any friends, family and neighbours who may be interested.

Southern Rail Public Meeting

Southern Rail has been one of the biggest issues facing our neighbourhood for some time. The constant delays have plighted commuters and leisure travellers alike.

I have been complaining to Ministers, Southern and Network Rail and it is now time for residents to get a chance to hear from the train companies directly. To this end, I am hosting a public meeting on 24th May at 7.30pm at Purley United Reform Church (in the hall). This is at 906 Brighton Road, Purley CR8 2LN, next to the hospital. There is no parking on site, so people driving are advised to use the multi-storey or the pay & display hospital car park.

There will be representatives from Southern and Network Rail in attendance who will be giving presentations before opening the floor to a Q&A.

Southern's performance is abysmal – the worst of any line in the country. The latest performance data showed only 82.7% of services were arriving on time compared to a national average of 91.2%. 5.4% of trains were also either cancelled or over 30 minutes late. Nationally this is 2.7%. If I do not get suitable answers I will be calling on them to lose the franchise.

Everyone is welcome to attend and share their views on our current train service. Do come along and

have your say. Click [here](#) to see the Facebook event with more information. Please email me at chris.philp.mp@parliament.uk if you would like to attend and do pass this on to friends and neighbours.

Purley Oaks Recycling Centre

There have been huge problems at the Purley Oaks Recycling Centre recently resulting in queues around the block. I have been stuck in one of these myself and therefore share the frustration of the many people who have contacted me about it. I am in touch with the council asking for the opening hours to be extended. Another key problem is the large recycling containers being moved or emptied during the current opening hours. This causes the site to be temporarily closed for around 30 minutes, exacerbating the problem of queuing. I have asked the council to stop doing this, and instead empty or move the bins outside opening hours.

Coulsdon BID

I am hosting a meeting to discuss the creation of a Business Improvement District (BID) for Coulsdon and would like to invite you to attend if you are a local resident or business owner in the area.

I believe that Coulsdon needs a proper voice for businesses to ensure action is taken on issues such as the parking fiasco and to help local traders.

A BID is a business-led body funded by a modest (2%) business rates levy to improve trading conditions in a defined area. A BID was successfully launched in Purley in 2015. You can find out more information about it [here](#). They are now working on better parking, street cleaning, signage, town centre marketing and other initiatives.

The upcoming meeting, where I will be joined by business representatives, resident association representatives, Purley BID organisers, local councillors and council officers is happening on the 19th May at 7pm in the Coulsdon Community Centre, Barrie Close, CR5 3BE. Please do let me know by emailing me at chris.philp.mp@parliament.uk if you would like to attend.

Parking in Coulsdon

Parking in Coulsdon has taken another blow as the 1 hour of free parking in Coulsdon town centre has been reduced to 30 minutes. Croydon Council's Traffic Management Committee met recently and discussed the proposals. Almost 2,000 residents had written to the Council objecting to their proposals. Every local Residents' Association, many local businesses, our GLA member Cllr Steve O'Connell and the six Councillors for Coulsdon West and Coulsdon East joined me in making these objections. However Labour Councillors Kathy Bee, Stuart King, Stephen Mann and Robert Canning all voted in favour of the proposal, pushing it through. I attended and spoke at the meeting to personally protest at the decision. In their 2014 manifesto Labour said "To support our local economies, our district centres will offer free parking for the first hour". They have now shamelessly gone back on their promise and broken this important manifesto commitment.

Thankfully the front half of the Lion Green road car park is now open again and the CALAT car park is also open to the public. I am continuing to press the council to do more to help parking in Coulsdon.

House of Commons and Media

I frequently speak in the House of Commons Chamber and also make regular media appearances. To see a full list of these, see my [YouTube channel](#). Most recently I have spoken in the Chamber in debates on the [Investigatory Powers Bill](#), the [Budget](#) and the [Housing and Planning bill](#). I have also appeared on Channel 4 news [discussing the UK steel crisis](#) and [talking about the London Mayoral election](#) and [Daily Politics discussing the Housing and Planning Bill](#). Click on the underlined words to go to the videos.

On the Treasury Select Committee we have been preparing a report on the economic impact of a potential EU exit to shed light on the facts. I have interviewed the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England on this topic, as well as representatives of both the “Leave” and “Remain” side.

Purley Food Hub

Purley Food Hub is the local independent food bank set up by the churches of Purley and Kenley to provide food to people in crisis. Since they opened in January 2013 they have fed nearly 6,800 people, most of whom visit one or two times at a moment of crisis. I visited a few weeks ago and met volunteers and users.

Food, toiletries and household items have been kindly donated by churches, schools, organisations like Rotary and WI, and many families and individuals, and they gratefully appreciate everyone’s generous support. Each month they produce a list of the items they most need for clients, to see the full list for May, click [here](#).

In addition, they are in desperate need of some small warehouse type space for storage and to provide more care for people in need. They would like this to be in Purley if possible and so if anyone can help in any way, however small, please get in touch with them on 07546 635295 or purleyfoodhub@gmail.com. For more information click [here](#).

Big Lottery Fund

The Big Lottery Fund is the biggest community funder in the UK and gives money to local projects all over the country. If you are a group with a local project (such as a community café, saving a local heritage site or starting a charity project), or already running an established service in the community, then you may want to consider the funding opportunities they offer. Grants are available from as little as £300 up to tens of thousands of pounds. For more information click [here](#) or contact Croydon’s assigned Local Funding Officer, Hugh Stultz, on 0345 410 2030 and hugh.stultz@biglotteryfund.org.uk.

Westfield

The Croydon Partnership has published further details about the planned Westfield Shopping Centre in Croydon town centre here: <http://thecroydonpartnership.com> Work is due to start on site in spring 2017, with it opening in 2020. We are still waiting for confirmation that John Lewis will have a store in the new centre, which we hope it will! The project should transform the town centre and give a real lift to the Borough’s economy.

Community Payback

Community Payback is unpaid and demanding work undertaken by people who have been convicted of a criminal offence as part of their sentence. Community Payback forms part of their punishment and makes offenders give something back to the community. I recently arranged for a Community Payback team to repaint a scout hut in our neighbourhood.

Local projects can be community based or for the good of a charity or charitable organisation. Suitable projects include street clean ups, graffiti removal or painting of derelict or run-down buildings for the benefit of the community as a whole. Further information and details of how to make a nomination for a Community Payback project can be found [here](#).

Tours

I regularly conduct tours of the Houses of Parliament for constituents, which includes the Chambers of the

Commons and the Lords. If you would like to come on one of these tours, please send me an email to chris.philp.mp@parliament.uk. Friends and family are welcome too.

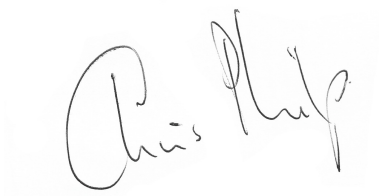
Leaflets

I like to keep residents fully informed about what I am doing as our MP. Not everyone is on this email list so local councillors and I therefore deliver leaflets to homes across Croydon South two or three times a year with local news. If you would like to help deliver those leaflets to your street or a neighbouring street, please reply to this email.




If you would like to keep up to date with what I am doing as your Member of Parliament follow me on [Twitter](#) and like my [Facebook page](#) and further details are also available at www.chrisphilp.com

I hope this update has been useful.

Kind regards,



Chris Philp MP
Member of Parliament for Croydon South

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