

Croydon Green Recovery Plan

Dear Cllr Newman and Ms Fahnbulleh,

As the country and Croydon starts to recover from this global health crisis, focus will now turn to how we build back better and forge an economy that is more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient.

To this end we commend your work to have got the Croydon Climate Crisis Commission started and that you have resolved to ensure its work helps Croydon's economic recovery through promoting climate-friendly jobs and fairness for all residents.

Croydon, along with the country and the wider world is at a crossroads. Those living in crowded housing in the north of the borough have been both more likely to catch the disease and more likely to die from it, due to the inequalities of deprivation such as air pollution and poor health, whilst members of our BAME communities have been attacked with particular ferocity. The lock-down has been far more dangerous if your work is precarious, low paid or manual, or if you have limited or no access to outside space – in Croydon, too many have been in these situations.

As a result you'll know well it is now more important than ever that we take rapid action to create a more equitable society while also accelerating to transition to net-zero and biodiversity net gain.

This crisis has laid bare the fundamental connection between healthy, flourishing and productive communities and a thriving environment. Restoring nature and robust environmental protection will help build resilience and reduce the risk of future global health and economic shocks. Many have also found personal resilience through engagement with nature and experienced what a greener Croydon could be like. We've realised the importance of access to green space for our health, of safe and pleasant walking routes and perhaps even how cycling can reveal a host of new green spaces such as the Wandle Way or Whitehorse Meadow.

Responding to this situation, as you begin the process of planning Croydon's recovery and a strategy to achieve net zero by 2030, we enclose our "Plan for a Croydon Green Recovery", which sets out our recommendations for how people and planet can recover together and we can avoid returning to business as usual.

As leading civil society organisations in Croydon, supported by the Councillors below we ask you to consider our plan (please find attached) as part of your response. We ask specifically that Croydon Council include the key short and medium term deliverables from this plan in its response to COVID -19 and that The Climate Change Commission considers how the long term recommendations can be taken forward to mitigate against and adapt to climate change and the ecological crisis.

We would also like to meet with you to discuss your reactions to our plan when you have had time to consider it.

It is time for decisive action to deliver economic equality and environmental justice for the benefit of all and we are committed to working with you to achieve it.

Yours sincerely,

Croydon Living Streets; Croydon XR; Croydon BME Forum; Crystal Palace Transition Town; Asian Resource Centre of Croydon; Mums for Lungs; Croydon Cycling Campaign; Peddle My Wheels; Thornton Heath Community Action Team; Croydon Covid-19 Mutual Aid; Sustainable Thornton Heath; Action Vision Zero; Cllr Nina Degrad (Upper Norwood); Cllr Muhammad Ali (Broad Green); Cllr Janet Campbell (West Thornton); Cllr Stephen Mann (Upper Norwood); Cllr Jamie Audsley (Bensham Manor).

