

# Subletting crack down

Council tenants in Waddon will come under the microscope as council officers investigate every home for cases of subletting and messy gardens.

Council properties in the ward will be targeted over the next year by a team of five Croydon Council officials who have promised to return time after time until they are able to talk to tenants.

Working around the clock and at weekends, a team of four people will also check that gardens are being kept tidy and free of junk.

Councillor Dudley Mead, Croydon Council's cabinet member for housing, said: "When someone sublets a home it means two things, they do not really need it and someone else who does loses out."

"It is vitally important social housing is given to those with real need, not people who see it was a way of making a fast buck."

"We also want to make sure that the estate in Waddon is clean and tidy so that the majority are not made to suffer by the minority."

Subletting deprives the Government of about £2bn every year.

The council has set up a hotline for reporting any suspicion of housing fraud anonymously.

Call 0800 3289270 or 020 8760 5645 or email corporatanti-fraudteam@croydon.gov.

# New orders target crime

Two new dispersal orders have been introduced to the town centre and the centre of the northern wards.

The six-month orders, launched by Safer Croydon Partnership, starts from October 28.

Cabinet member for community safety Councillor Simon Hoar said: "We are concentrating on hot spot areas where there is a high risk of crime and high levels of rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour."

"The town centre order, therefore, includes the main shopping area and both east and west Croydon stations, while the inner north order aims to clamp down on problem areas in London Road and the surrounding area."

The orders give the police extra powers such as returning under-16s back to their homes if they are likely to be a victim, or acting antisocially.

# Boris to join Croydon conference

by NICHOLAS HITCHENS  
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Mayor of London Boris Johnson will headline the second Develop Croydon conference, aimed at persuading some of the UK's top businessmen to invest in the town.

Organised last year by companies White Label Publishing and 3Fox International, the conference focuses on marketing the town's business to investors.

Jo Gumb, managing director of White Label, said: "Croydon could be the capital of the south-east, it has fantastic transport connections and is already attracting a lot of interest - you just have to see the work going on in Ruskin Square or Lansdowne Road."

"We did the conference last year to see what sort of reaction we would get and have just built on the momentum." The event, on November 22, will be led by Paul Evans, director of UK Regeneration.

The Mayor will speak on the progress of on the progress of



Sign here: Sir Simon Milton, Jon Rouse, Coun Jason Perry and Coun Steve O'Connell at last year's conference

the Opportunity Area programme, with Central Croydon identified as having the potential to create 8,000 new

homes and 5,000 new jobs. Croydon is set for major redevelopment a new bridge linking East Croydon station

to the town centre, the controversial Menta Tower, which will be the UK's largest residential tower block and the

redevelopment of Ruskin Square all in the pipeline.

Ms Gumb said: "You step into the breach to make it happen if you are a company who has invested millions in Croydon."

Many of the mayor business owners in Croydon have joined the Develop Croydon forum, which works together to promote the town, and is funding the conference.

Ms Gumb explained why the conference could help Croydon residents.

She said: "It is all a trickle down effect. If a new company relocates its head quarters to Croydon that immediately mean new jobs, firstly in constructing the building and then at the company itself."

"If you then become known as a main centre for something like insurance you then gets specialised training centres popping up which all filters out all bringing money into the local economy."

To find out how to get involved in the Develop Croydon conference, visit [developcroydon.com](http://developcroydon.com).



Magical land: The stage is transformed into Narnia

The Winton House Performing Arts Centre at Coloma Community Girls' School was transformed into the magical land of Narnia.

Following on from the success of the Sound of Music in July, The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe, the first of the Chronicles of Narnia by CS

Lewis ran from October 12 to 14. The show, with a cast of about 100 girls, was directed by Mrs Ballinger, head of drama at the school.

# 'You are all fabulous'

Actress June Whitfield joined trustees of the South East Cancer Help Centre (SEHC) in Purley at an event to thank the charity's supporters.

The event, hosted at its centre in the Tesco development in Purley, also provided an opportunity for supporters to tour the newly-refurbished centre and to try some of the therapies offered to

members including yoga and singing.

The charity receives no Government funding and relies solely on donations.

SEHC president Whitfield said: "I am sure you all know what you do is so appreciated by all the staff, the volunteers and everyone who comes to this wonderful centre, and the refurbishment looks wonderful."



Charity president: June Whitfield with the charity's supporters



# Concerns about riot panel

The Tamil community has questioned the make-up of Croydon Council's riot review panel.

The Croydon Tamil Business Forum (CTBF) felt the panel had too close a relationship to the Croydon Conservative Party and traders who were looted in London Road were not represented.

CTBF chairman Dr Jeyathan said: "Tamil and other minority community businesses were hit severely in the London Road riots, but no

one has thought to include any trader on the body looking at where things went wrong."

Instead we have a judge with close relations with Conservative politicians.

"We as a business body wonder just how independent such a body can be with its close connections with the Council and the Conservative Party and wonder why traders with direct experience of the troubles are excluded from representation."