**LOCAL PLAN PRESS RELEASE**

Labour published their damaging plans for our borough,

residents objected in their thousands and Labour are now backtracking.

Last year local Conservative Councillors, Residents Associations and residents came together in unprecedented fashion to object to the Labour Council’s local plan, with over 7000 responses being submitted during the consultation.

As a result of those submissions the Labour Council has backtracked in a number of key areas.

**What was proposed**

* a gypsy and traveller site in Conduit Lane, in the green belt, next to the award winning Coombe Wood Gardens? **DROPPED**
* a gypsy and traveller site at Coombe Farm, in the green belt, next to Lloyd Park? **DROPPED**
* a gypsy and traveller site at Pear Tree Farm, in the green belt? **DROPPED**
* the return to policies that allow building on back gardens and any green space, with developers pressurising homeowners through garden grabbing? **POLICY AMENDED TO PROTECT BACK GARDENS**
* intensification of development around shopping parades, such as South Croydon, Forestdale and Shirley? **RE-DRAWN SO THAT THEY FOCUS ON THE MAIN ROUTES AND NOT SURROUNDING SUBURBAN STREETS**

Whilst Labour have u-turned on many issues there are still a number of areas of the local plan that will change the nature of our borough for ever.

**Areas of concern**

* the introduction of a gypsy and traveller site at the Purley Highways Depot, behind the already overcrowded recycling centre.
* the loss of greenbelt status for areas such as SSSI Croham Hurst Woods and Purley Downs.
* The introduction of a number of schools into the green belt.
* the downgrading of the much loved Metropolitan Open Land around Shirley Oaks Village, though the plans for 100s of new homes have been dropped.
* the loss of Local Area of Special Character protection for over twenty roads including West Hill, Stanhope Road, Preston Road and Cheston Avenue?

Just like last time it is imperative that as many residents as possible respond to the latest consultation which will commence on 4th September 2016 for a six week period.

Whilst there is much to be commended within these documents there are still major areas of concern for Croydon, namely ***the introduction of a gypsy and traveller site in Purley; the downgrading of much loved greenbelt land and metropolitan open land and the loss of protected special character status for many roads, with the move from Local Areas of Special Character to Local Heritage Areas.***

Cllr. Jason Perry, Conservative Spokesman for Planning, commented “People power has really spoken and this Labour Council has been forced to U-turn on a number of key areas of their local plan. Whilst these U-turns are to be welcomed there are still many areas of concern for the borough that will have a real impact. I urge residents to take to their soap box once again and let this Council know that their plans are simply not good enough.”

The Local Plan documents, the accompanying Sustainability Appraisals and the Representation Form to respond to the Consultation may be viewed:

• At the borough’s libraries (during normal opening hours)

• At Bernard Weatherill House (Access Croydon), Mint Walk, Croydon, 9:00am-4:00pm (Monday to Friday)

• By downloading from the Council’s website: Croydon Local Plan: Strategic Policies – Partial Review (Preferred and Alternative Options) [www.croydon.gov.uk/localplanone](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/localplanone)

Croydon Local Plan: Detailed Policies and Proposals (Preferred and Alternative Options) [www.croydon.gov.uk/localplantwo](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/localplantwo)

• Alternative formats of the document are available on request at LDF@croydon.gov.uk or 020 8407 1385.

You can respond by letter, e-mail, petition to

[ldf@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:ldf@croydon.gov.uk)

Croydon Local Plan: Strategic Policies – Partial Review

Spatial Planning, Bernard Weatherill House

8 Mint Walk, Croydon, CR0 1EA

This is our last chance as residents and local Councillors to fight these proposals.