

MINUTES

London Borough of Croydon

Climate Action Forum (CAF)

Date: Saturday 4th July 2026
Time: 11:00 – 13:00
Venue: Stanley Arts Community Assembly
Panel: Cllr Ward, Cabinet Member for Parks & Culture (Chair)
Vivina Vincent, Programme Manager Carbon Neutral
Team, Croydon Council
Leonie Osborne, Resident and Member of Croydon
Climate Action

To Note: Stanley Arts Community Assembly 2026 brought together residents and local community groups to discuss climate change, biodiversity loss and social inequality, while exploring practical actions to build a more resilient Croydon. The event featured presentations from Croydon Council and local campaign groups on topics including carbon reduction, flooding, air and water quality, community energy, fuel poverty and biodiversity. Attendees also took part in workshops, networking activities and community discussions aimed at fostering collaboration and local action.

Croydon Council combined its Climate Action External Forum with the Community Assembly, creating a broader platform for engagement with residents and community organisations. This enabled Forum members to hear directly from stakeholders, share progress on the Council's climate programme, and strengthen partnerships to support collective action on climate resilience, sustainability and environmental improvement across the borough

Item	Item/Details	Who
1	Welcome	Kay Michael – Stanley Arts
2	Presentation • Update on Climate Action Plan • Annual Climate Report • Local Area Energy Plan Update • Flooding • Climate Risk Maps • Climate Scorecards	Cllr Ward
3	Questions	Cllr Ward Vivina Vincent Leonie Osborne

Meeting Minutes

Minutes and Actions Arising	
1. Welcome	The Chair, Kay Micheal, Creative Producer, Stanley Arts opened the Community Assembly and introduced the panel which consisted of the following members: • Cllr Ward, Cabinet Member for Parks & Culture • Vivina Vincent, Programme Manager Carbon Neutral Team, Croydon Council • Leonie Osborne, Resident and Member of Croydon Climate Action
2. Presentation	Cllr Ward presented on the following topics: - • Update on Climate Action Plan • Annual Climate Report • Flooding • Climate Risk Maps The presentation is attached to these minutes for those that were unable to attend the Assembly.
3. Questions	Following the presentation, attendees of the Assembly were invited to ask questions to the Panel. The following questions, suggestions and responses were raised. Governance and Community Engagement Question/Suggestion <u>In taking forward governance of the climate agenda, it was suggested that given the previous Citizens Assembly, there may now be a role for a Citizens Jury.</u> Leonie advised that the Council had scored relatively low in the area of collaboration and engagement. She commented that organisations need a similar process for engaging with the Council and referred to occasions where grant funding had been missed due to the time taken to complete an application and obtain the necessary support and contacts from the Council. The creation of a dedicated Grants Officer post was suggested.

Cllr Ward advised that he was unsure where previous resources for grants has historically been allocated but agreed grant funding is an effective way of supporting community groups.

Vivina advised that the Council now has established a Climate Action Governance Board to oversee accountability, together with a Climate Action external Forum with representation from different sectors in the borough and meets bi-monthly. She explained that the Council is currently strengthening the foundation data often required for grant applications for community working on adaptation or greening.

Question

How can the Council and community groups improve access to grant funding?

Leonie provided the example of Trees for Croydon in Broad Green where a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was established. Although the process took time, it ultimately proved successful. She suggested that the Council could adopt simple QR code-based signposting, similar to examples shared during the presentation, to improve accessibility and communication.

Tree Planting

Question

It was noted that there appears to be a strong north-south divide within the Borough and that tree cover plays an important role in climate resilience. Is there funding available for tree planting in South Norwood and other northern areas to help address this imbalance?

Cllr Ward advised that there is currently no dedicated budget for tree planting, however he encouraged residents to identify potential planting locations and email the suggestions to the relevant team. He also commented that a comprehensive map of tree pits across the Borough would be beneficial.

Climate Emergency UK Scorecards

Question

Croydon Council scored 35% in the Collaboration & Engagement category of the Climate Emergency Scorecards compared with Merton's 85%. Given the enormous difference, what is the one key action that could help close this gap?

Cllr Ward advised that scorecard assessments can sometimes be influenced significantly by relatively simple "yes" or "no" responses. As he is new in post, he was not yet in a position to identify a single action that would have the greatest impact.

Vivina advised that the Carbon Neutral Team that the assessment of these scores were done before the Climate Action Plan was passed. After the assessment the council has made improvements in terms of annual report, engaging community groups etc. which will be reflected in the next round of assessment. The council is working on a project to mobilise community energy groups which should help improve future collaboration and engagement scores.

Leonie commented that whilst the Scorecards are a valuable learning tool, they should also be used as an outward-facing mechanism for growth and improvement.

Community Resilience and Emergency Planning

Question/Suggestion

There should be a more strategic approach to community resilience including stronger links with the Fire Brigade/Police/Emergency Resilience Plans, grass roots organisations and the voluntary sector.

Vivina advised that the Council has an Emergency Planning Team that is keen to strengthen community engagement and particularly through adaptation initiatives and resilience toolkits. Unfortunately, representatives from the team were unable to attend the Assembly although contact details have been shared in the presentation for those wishing to engage further.

Education, Awareness and Climate Action

Question/Suggestion

Education should not just be limited to schools but should be embedded throughout the wider workforce and community to encourage collaboration and climate awareness. How is the Council reaching out to a wider audience?

Cllr Ward confirmed that the Council is exploring ways to improve the efficiency and resilience of its green spaces including water management and adaptation to flood risks.

He also noted that the Council doesn't do education but has some limited influence. However, the Council seeks to lead by example through initiatives such as sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) projects and efforts to improve recycling. He highlighted the importance of ensuring that our Green Spaces are properly managed and working with organisations such as the Environment Agency and water companies to better understand water flow, strengthen flood management and identify future resilience projects.

Vivina confirmed that the Carbon Neutral Team has sought to engage with the local business network although responses have been limited to date. The team has however established a Sustainability Network for Education and are actively engaging with schools to support them in developing their Climate Action Plans.

Climate Change, Health and Social Care

Climate change and environmental impacts are closely linked to health and social care. Has the cost of inaction been assessed, and do we understand what failing to act on climate change could cost the borough in the future?

Cllr Ward advised that climate change affects everyone and has implications across many service areas, including health and social care. He noted that the Council is considering the resilience of care homes, including issues relating to electricity supply (national grid),

	energy resilience and wider infrastructure. He highlighted the importance of bringing these different strands together to ensure communities are prepared for future climate impacts. Leonie commented that health and wellbeing are intrinsically connected to climate and environmental issues. She invited those present to indicate whether they represented the health sector and observed that there were no health representatives in attendance. She suggested that mapping health inequalities and climate-related health vulnerabilities across the borough could help inform future work and that stronger links with health partners would be beneficial. Vivina advised that the Council has established links with the social housing sector but that engagement with health partners is currently less developed. She noted that a Cooling Roadmap is being developed, which identifies Croydon as having the highest number of care homes in London, although the document is currently in draft form. She also advised that the Mayor of London has recently launched the Heat Ready Plan and that discussions with health sector partners have begun.
4.Notes from Stanley Arts	Please see below the PDF from the event which was drafted by participants at the Community Assembly at Stanley Arts, July 4th 2026.  Croydon Pathways of Action.pdf

Open Actions					
Item No.	Action	Date Raised	Date Due	Owner	Status (Open/In Progress)
1	Response to be sent to Dawn Gibbons question dated 19th January	04/02/26	Ongoing	Vivina Vincent	Open
2	Council to consult Estates and Capital Delivery teams and provide formal clarification on school buildings leased to academies	04/02/26	Ongoing	Vivina Vincent	Open
3	Council to investigate and report back who removed the recycling bins in some Sainsbury car parks	04/02/26	Ongoing	Daniel Shepherd	Open

