

NEWS RELEASE



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CAMPAIGNER CALLS FOR A CAGE-FREE CROYDON

A local campaigner has prompted Croydon Council to announce that they are to give 200 hens a better quality of life for good by incorporating the use of free-range eggs into their food policy.

Local resident Ann Boyce contacted the council some weeks ago in order to express her concerns for the welfare of the 200 hens that supply the council's eggs and egg ingredients each year.

Ann took on the task as part of Compassion in World Farming's nationwide free-range council campaign. Other local authorities that have made the move to free-range include Hampshire County, South Bedfordshire and Wirral Councils.

Ann discovered that the council caterers had already been sourcing free-range eggs for some time, but was disappointed to learn that it was not yet part of the council's current food policy to do so.

"As Croydon Council get through 60 000 eggs each year, it was clear that moving over to cage-free eggs would mean a huge step forward for the welfare of farm animals, so I simply asked them to do so as part of their policy", said Anne.

Ann later received confirmation that the sourcing of free-range eggs is soon to be included in Croydon Council's Sustainable Food Policy. They have also decided to extend the policy to include care homes (six special sheltered units, one day care centre and one residential home) and are currently reviewing the possibility of including school catering.

Ann continued "I am very encouraged by Croydon Council's commitment to go cage-free on eggs, which follows a national trend towards a more compassionate Britain. I would like to thank the council for taking leadership and becoming one of the first local authorities to commit to higher welfare.

"I trust the council will change its policy as soon as possible and will be glad when battery cages are outlawed altogether in 2012; not soon enough!"

Rowen West-Henzell, Head of Food Policy at Compassion in World Farming applauds the move, "I would like to congratulate Croydon Council for making this bold step forward for chickens, ahead of most of the UK."

Notes:

For more information contact Emily Durrant at Emily@ciwf.org or 01483 521952 or 07771926005 (out of hours).