

GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.00 pm on 1 February 2011

Present:

Councillor Tony Owen (Chairman)
Councillor Stephen Wells (Vice-Chairman)
Councillors Nicholas Bennett J.P., John Canvin,
Roxy Fawthrop, Simon Fawthrop, Will Harmer,
Ian F. Payne, Diane Smith, Tim Stevens, Harry Stranger,
Pauline Tunnicliffe and Michael Turner

Also Present:

Councillor Douglas Auld, Councillor Kathy Bance,
Councillor Peter Fortune, Councillor David Hastings and
Councillor Kate Lymer

81 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF ALTERNATE MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Roger Charsley, John Getgood and Charles Rideout.

Councillor Simon Fawthrop attended as Councillor Roger Charsley's alternate.

82 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

83 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ATTENDING THE MEETING

There were no questions from members of the public attending the meeting.

84 SCRUTINY SESSION ON ALCOHOL AND VIOLENT CRIME

This part of the meeting was a joint meeting between the Public Protection and Safety PDS Committee and the General Purposes and Licensing Committee.

Members received a presentation relating to alcohol and community safety issues from the Head of Community Safety. In support of the presentation and to assist the discussion, the report contained a copy of the Alcohol Needs Assessment for the Borough and a document outlining details of alcohol related admission at Accident and Emergency Departments.

The Chairman welcomed all those giving presentations to the meeting.

Members received a PowerPoint presentation from the Head of Community Safety, the Head of Food, Safety, Occupational Safety and Licensing, Chief Inspector Malcolm Noone and Ms. Tracey Pidgeon from the London Ambulance Service. The PowerPoint presentations are attached to these minutes as an appendix. Verbal presentations were received from Mr. Andy Bawn, Chairman of Pub Watch Bromley and Ms. Tracy Sickel, a representative from Street Pastors.

Mr. Andy Bawn addressed the meeting advising that he had been in the licensing trade for 25 years, 8 years in a Wetherspoons public house in Bromley Town Centre. He was also the Chairman of Pub Watch Bromley. The public house he took over had a bad reputation. There were two other large public houses in same part of the town centre at the time and there were many problems in the town. He had to work very hard to address the issues and now ran a very professional establishment. He had worked with Pub Watch, the police and licensing officers. The regulation of door staff had helped a great deal. Previously there was not a massive emphasis of running premises properly but this has changed with the Challenge 21 scheme becoming the Challenge 25 scheme and the adoption of the Best Bar None national initiative. There was now good co-operation between all involved agencies with police and licensing officers attending all Pub Watch meetings. Mr. Bawn was also involved in Safer Neighbourhood meetings. The town centre was a much safer place than it had been 8 years ago. He reported that there had been no need to ban anyone from pubs in Bromley for the last 5 years. The most recent concerns that Mr Bawn had noticed were that people had started to come to pubs later in the evening. He assumed they had started drinking at home by buying cheap alcohol from supermarkets. This meant that when people arrived at pubs they got drunk more quickly. He had also noticed people drinking in minicabs and this caused littering and conflict when entry into venues was refused. In conclusion, Mr. Bawn suggested that the £500 fine for drinking in public places was reduced to £80 but with a tougher line on enforcement together with a ban on drinking in all types of public transport.

Ms. Tracy Sickel, a representative from Street Pastors, advised that the Pastors aimed to be in Bromley town centre every Friday night between 10pm and 2.30am and every other Saturday. They also visited Beckenham (11pm to 3pm) and Orpington (8 p.m. to 11 p.m.) when possible. Fridays saw a younger age group visiting the town centre with an older age group coming in on a Saturday evening. The town centre got busier in the summer months. Street Pastors had found staggered closing times very beneficial for a number of reasons including allowing crowds to disperse more efficiently. The Street Pastors could also achieve more coverage with staggered closing times. This year so far 328 can/bottles had been picked up, 24 vulnerable people had been assisted and 19 aggressive people had been encountered. In her view, the town centre was now a much calmer place with less binge drinking, less drunkenness and the gang culture was no longer seen.

The Chairman opened the floor to questions by asking if there was anything the Council was doing wrong regarding its licensing decisions. Chief Inspector Griggs stated that the partnership had come a long way and although Bromley town centre was considered to be at saturation point with regard to licensed premises, it was hard to object to applications because the situation had improved so much. Ms. Pidgeon confirmed that Bromley was not causing the Ambulance Service as much trouble as other areas of London.

In response to a question on whether alcohol was recorded on police forms as the cause of a crime, Commander Griggs advised that this was not recorded.

The Head of Food, Safety, Occupational Safety and Licensing said the Partnership prided itself on having a tough policy. However, this was sometimes seen as “bashing businesses”. This was not true but the Partnership should not lose sight of this perception. How could the night time economy be encouraged and yet still continue with a tough line? There should be a balance. Members might want to revisit the cumulative impact zones (saturation zones) to see if they were still necessary.

Councillor Simon Fawthrop stated that there had been a 20% increase in licensed premises since the Council had become responsible for licensing. He asked if the footfall had reduced since the recession. Mr. Bawn responded that the footfall had reduced but the recession was not the only reason. Food customers had seen a 50% rise but there had been a drop in “vertical” drinking. Chief Inspector Griggs commented that the pressures remained the same.

The Chairman of the Public Protection and Safety PDS Committee congratulated all partners involved in tackling the problem of alcohol and crime. The Bromley Safer Partnership had achieved its success because of the tough line but he agreed that a balance had to be struck. The cumulative impact policy should be relaxed if there were good reasons to do so. It was difficult to turn down applications if there were no police objections to the applications. He had been alarmed and appalled by the assaults on ambulance staff statistics and he hoped many of the perpetrators had been taken to task. He asked if local Safer Neighbourhood Panels were consulted about applications in their areas. The answer was no but the Head of Food, Safety, Occupational Safety and Licensing agreed to do so in future.

One Councillor was not sure about the possible relaxation of the cumulative impact policy as he felt that there was still a problem which would grow again if not properly controlled. If new premises were opened because there were no police objections, then the police should object more. This was an area that had experienced a great deal of trouble in the past and more of a lead from the police was needed. He continued that he was not sure why the night time economy in Bromley was needed.

Following a question Commander Griggs responded that the change in shift patterns could not take place any sooner but would double the police presence in town centres at weekends. However, it would mean fewer resources to deal with calls across other parts of the Borough.

*General Purposes and Licensing Committee
1 February 2011*

It was noted that the reduction in alcohol related incidents was as a result of a number of reasons such as CCTV and the awareness of it, partnership working, police and other organisation's visibility and trained door staff.

The Committee noted that most of the badly managed establishments had closed. However some were reopening and the Council must ensure these were well managed.

A Councillor said that since the report on crime in the town centre in 2006, the situation had markedly improved. He noted that many people went drinking in Bromley before travelling into London. The Councillor felt that Bromley needed vibrant town centres and a balance must be achieved. He questioned the link between gaining planning permission on an establishment before being able to get an alcohol licence. He asked who should lead. He also highlighted the need for more "middle aged" venues in Bromley, more eateries as older people visiting the town centre might have a good effect. He questioned whether the TfL should investigate the drinking on public transport issue. The lack of toilet facilities had not been addressed and this exacerbated the nuisance of anti social behaviour. He noted that minicab offices were a flashpoint area and work must be done to ensure sufficient taxis at the right time.

Ms. Sickel advised that the minicab office at East Street was much improved and there was very little trouble. She reported that in the four Friday nights in January 2011, 28 people had been noted urinating in public – usually in alleyways beside shops. A Member commented that all public houses, night clubs and restaurants had toilets so there should be no need for adults to urinate in public. He also commented that the old problem of underage drinking had been addressed but he wondered if the places to "try out" drinking were now not available young adults.

Commander Griggs stated that the minicab offices still seemed to be a flashpoint and there were other taxi offices in the vicinity but they were not well advertised.

A Member stated he was intrigued about the change towards eating and drinking from vertical drinking. He did not feel this was the case in Beckenham and asked whether this subject was worth looking into.

Commander Griggs stated that where offenders came from was not recorded at the time of arrest.

Following a point regarding the experience of landlords, Mr. Bawn advised that many companies who owned public houses had moved away from using couples as managers and preferred single, younger people. It was also easier to get a licence and there were some problems associated with "revolving door" licensees. He agreed that it took a few years to gain enough experience on how to deal with difficult clients and to learn about an area. Some managers work a pub for a year and move on. However, Wetherspoons insist on a two year tenure and also have a great deal of support for licensees such

as training and support staff who visit the premises. Some other companies do not have this facility.

The Head of Food, Safety, Occupational Safety and Licensing stated that Mr. Bawn made an interesting point as the licence regime was now split between the premises (the company) and the Designated Premises Supervisor (Landlord). He wondered whether it would be worth telephoning the companies in question when trouble arose.

The Chairman thanked the presenters for attending the meeting and for their very interesting presentation.

RESOLVED that the presentation be noted.

The Meeting ended at 8.45 pm

Chairman

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Minute Annex

Public Protection & Safety Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee

Alcohol and Violent Crime

Tuesday 1 February 2011

Alcohol & Public Protection

- Alcohol and Health Issues
- Alcohol and Young People
- Alcohol and Communities
- Alcohol and Crime

National Alcohol Strategy:

- Reducing Alcohol Related Crime
- Tougher Enforcement of Underage Sales
- More Help for Those who Want to Drink Less
- Trusted Guidance for Parents and Young People
- Information Campaigns
- Review of NHS Spending
- Public Consultation on Alcohol Pricing
- Development of Local Alcohol Strategies

Public Perceptions of Alcohol Pricing

- 63% of “Sensible Drinkers” said they had witnessed any alcohol-related crime and disorder in the last 12 months.
- 18% of “Increasing” and “Higher Risk” drinkers and 9% of “Sensible drinkers” admitted to having engaged in any alcohol-related crime or disorder in the past 12 months.

Public Perceptions of Alcohol Pricing saferbromley partnership

- Alcohol was seen as contributing to levels of crime and anti-social behaviour, as well as to the nation's health problems.
- Cheap alcohol was more likely to be thought to contribute to levels of crime and levels of anti-social behaviour than alcohol in general.
- 65% agreed with the statement that 'the amount people drink in this country is out of control'

Health:

- Bromley Drinkers:
 - Hazardous - 32,008 men
- 25,944 women
 - Harmful – 13,207 (4.3%)
 - Alcohol Dependent – 14,359 (6%)
 - Binge Drinking – 32,191 (10.7%)

Health:

- Total Number Alcohol Attributable Hospital Admissions 07/08 were 4625
- Admissions Rose for Both Men and Women Between 2003 and 2007
- Admission Rates Rose at a Steeper Rate in Bromley than in Comparable PCTs
- Hospital Admissions for <18s was 118 (2005/06-2006/07)
- Admission Rates for People Under 18 are Higher in Bromley than London and Most Comparable PCTs

Young People:

- National
 - 2008 – 52% of 11-15 yr olds Reported Drinking Alcohol, Compared with 62% in 1998
- Bromley (Tell Us 4 (yrs 6, 8 & 10))
 - 42% Had Drunk Alcohol
 - 13% Had Been Drunk

Alcohol and Violent Crime

- ❖ Outline of Licensing Issues
- ❖ The Police Experience
- ❖ London Ambulance Service
- ❖ The “Trade” Perspective
- ❖ On the Streets – Street Pastors
- ❖ Questions and Discussion

Paul Lehane

Head of Food, Safety and Licensing

Bromley:

- Over 700 Premises Licensed for the Sale of Alcohol
- 750 Temporary Event Notices
- 1 in 10 Businesses Hold a Licence for Alcohol

Democratic Control:

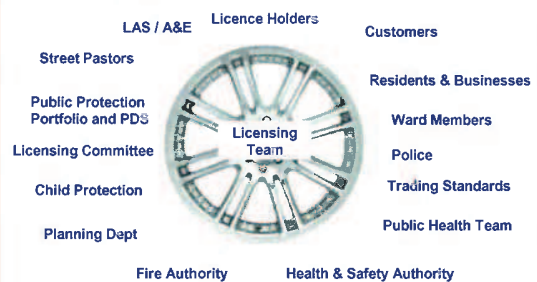
- The Licensing Function Falls to the General Purposes and Licensing Committee (15 Members)
- Licensing Sub Committee Hearings (3 Members)
- Licensing also Impacts on the Delivery of the Public Protection & Safety Portfolio Plan and the PDS Committee

**Licensing Act 2003
Key Points**

**Duty on the Council and Businesses to
Promote the Licensing Objectives :**

- Prevent Crime and Disorder
- Prevention of public nuisance
- Public Safety
- Protection of Children from Harm
- Publish a Licensing Policy

**Licensing Team –
The Hub of the Wheel**



Licensing Policy 2011-2014

Key changes:

- Strengthening of the Council's Commitment to the Principle of 'Deemed Refusal' in Areas Subject to Special Policies of Cumulative Impact.
- Endorsement of a 'Challenge 25 Policy'
- Added a Section on Underage Sales
- Added a Section on Drugs

Reviews:

- Anyone can Apply for a Review of a Licence
- Fresh Look at how the Business is Working to Promote the Licensing Objectives
- Council can Suspend (up to 3 Months) or
 - Revoke a Licence
 - Remove Licensable Activities
 - Remove DPS
 - Add or Vary Conditions

Reviews:

21 Reviews applications made since 2005

- Police 9
- Violence 4
- Drugs 3
- Withdrawn 2
- Trading Standards Underage Sales 8
- Public Health Noise 3
- Ward Member 1 for Breach of Conditions

Reviews:

- 1 Licence revoked
- 11 Licences Suspended
- 1 Reduced Hours of Operation
- 1 No Action Taken
- 18 Had Licence Conditions Varied

**Police Reform and Social
Responsibility Bill**

**Early Morning Alcohol Restriction
Orders:**

**Council can Make an Order
Prohibiting Supply of Alcohol
Between 12 Midnight and 6am**

**Police Reform and Social
Responsibility Bill**

Late Night Levy:

- Can Charge a Levy on Premises Selling Alcohol Between Midnight and 6am
- 70% must go to the Police
- Detail of scheme will be set out in Regulations

**Police Reform and Social
Responsibility Bill**

**Allow Local Authorities to Use Measures
such as Fixed Closing Times, Staggered
Closing Times and Zoning Where
Appropriate (Statutory Guidance).**

**Introduce Presumption that Licences will
be Reviewed and Revoked Following
Evidence of Persistent Underage Sales
(Statutory Guidance).**

Partnership Work

**Chief Inspector
Malcolm Noone**

**Metropolitan Police
Bromley**

**Crime Types
Considered**

**Grievous Bodily Harm
Actual Bodily Harm
Common Assault
Disorder offences
(Drunkenness)**

Bromley Town Centre All Times

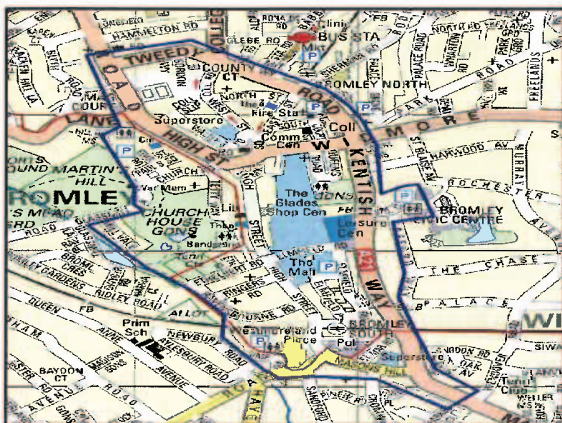
Crime Type	2006	2010
ABH	173	144
Common Assault	145	180
GBH	12	19
Public Order	171	130
Total	501	473

This Shows a Reduction in
Total Offences of 5.4%.

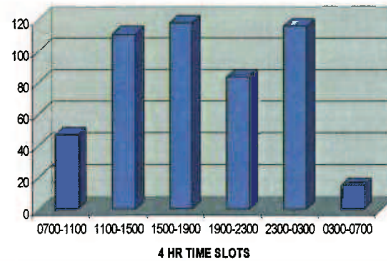
23:00 to 03:00 Hours

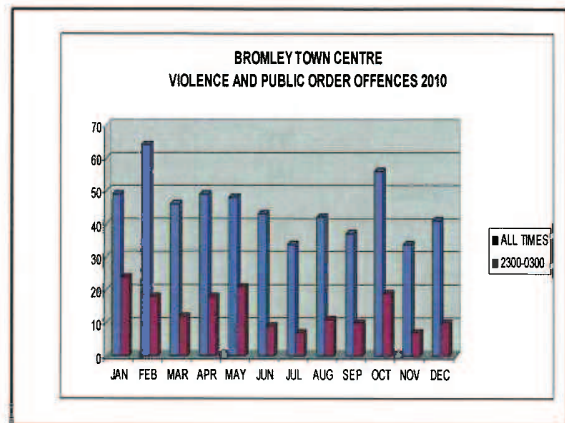
Crime Type	2006	2010
ABH	68	41
Common Assault	29	28
GBH	9	2
Public Order	61	45
Total	167	116

This Shows a Reduction in Total Offences of 30.5%



**BROMLEY TOWN CENTRE VIOLENCE AND PUBLIC ORDER
OFFENCES**





Beckenham Town Centre – All Times

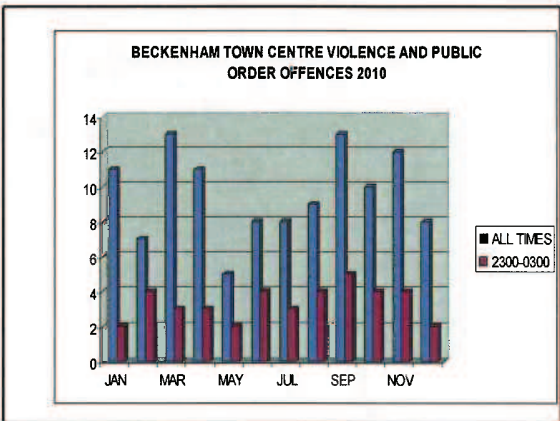
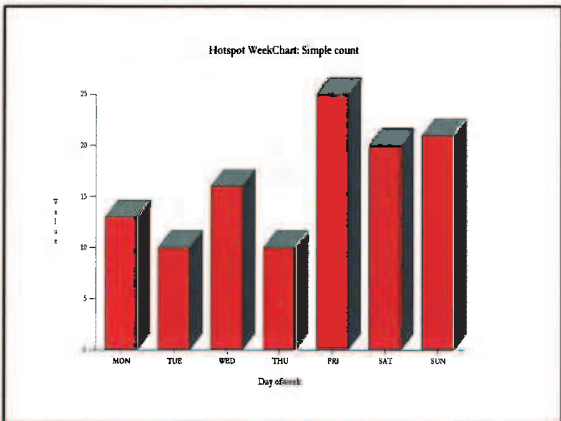
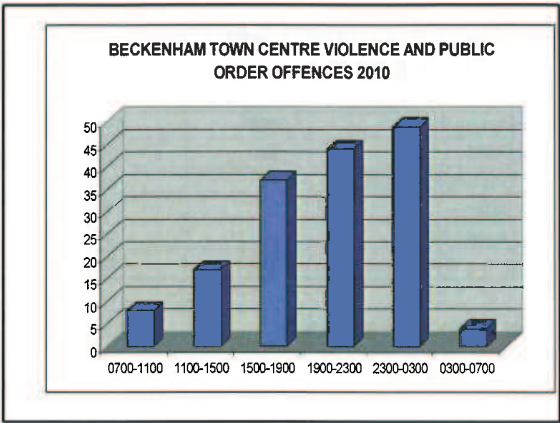
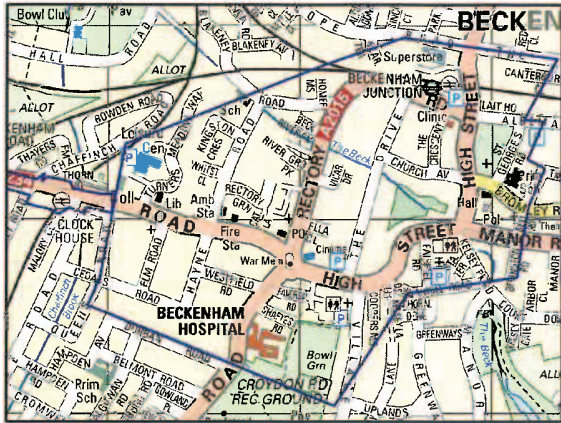
Crime Type	2006	2010
ABH	57	44
Common Assault	43	29
GBH	6	9
Public Order	53	28
Total	159	110

This Shows a Reduction of 30.8%.

23:00 to 03:00 Hours

Crime Type	2006	2010
ABH	23	20
Common Assault	8	12
GBH	3	4
Public Order	15	3
Total	49	39

This Shows a Reduction of 20.4%



Orpington Town Centre – All Times

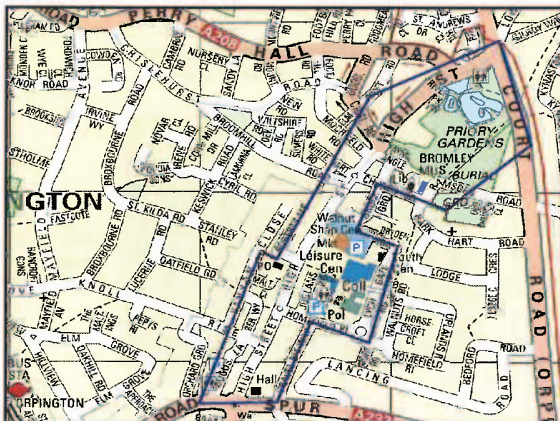
Crime Types	2006	2010
ABH	37	12
Common Assault	47	29
GBH	2	6
Public Order	22	36
Total	108	83

This Shows a 23% Reduction.

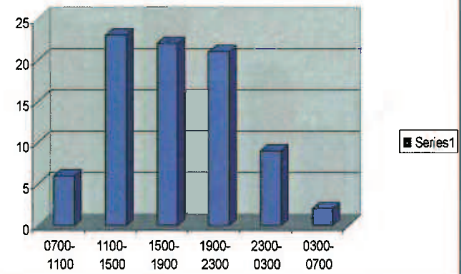
23:00 to 03:00 Hours

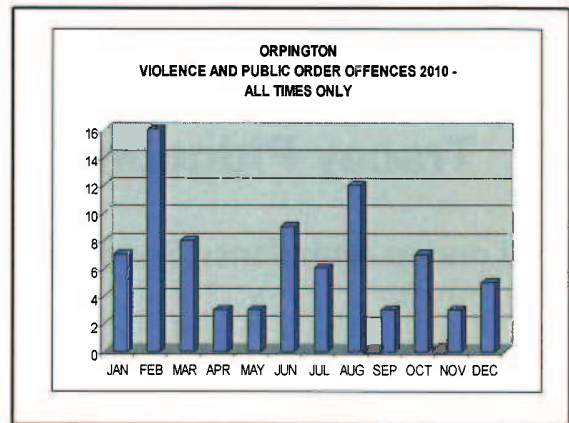
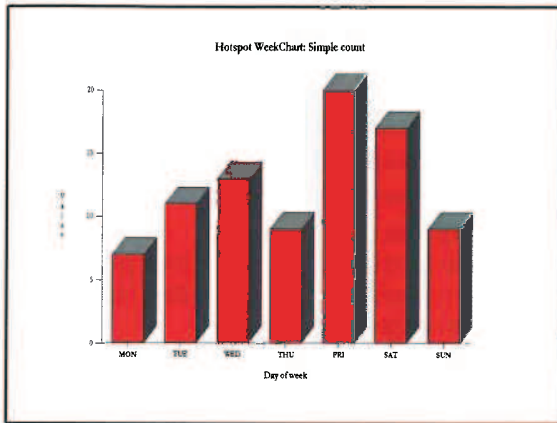
Crime Type	2006	2010
ABH	9	3
Common Assault	2	3
GBH	0	2
Public Order	1	1
Total	12	9

This Shows a 25% Reduction.



ORPINGTON HIGH STREET VIOLENCE AND PUBLIC ORDER OFFENCES 2010





How Did We Arrive At Where We Are?

- Partnership Working
- Police/Local Authority Licensing Units
- Licensees
- Door Staff
- Street Pastors
- Taxi Marshalls
- Police Shift Patterns
- Responsible Businesses

Considerations For The Future:

- More of the Same
- Vigilant of Change, Flexible in our Response
- Uniform Presence
- Early Intervention
- Transport Links – Crowd Dispersal
- Responsible Drinking (Education)
- Best Bar None

Tracey Pidgeon

London Ambulance Service

Alcohol Related Incidents in Bromley

January to December 2010:

- 1315 incidents (978 primary reason)

772 male / 530 female

Age range :

21-30 (259)	0-10 (9)
41-50 (253)	80+ (32)
31-40 (247)	

Alcohol Related Incidents in Bromley

- Time of Day – Midnight to 2am Sunday
- Saturday Highest but Fairly Consistent Across the Week
- No Clear Seasonal Trends
- Majority Went to PRUH
- 123 Declined Aid Against Advice

Alcohol Related Incidents in Bromley

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Ward /Postal Sector with Highest Incident Number | • Ward / Postal Sector with Lowest Incident Number |
| – Bromley Town (203) | – Darwin (7) |
| – Penge & Cator (97) | – Shortlands (20) |
| – BR1 1 (129) | – BR8 (8) / SE6 (3) / TN14 (7) |
| – SE20 7 (91) | |

Alcohol Related Incidents in Bromley

Borough	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Total
Bromley	1391	1352	1405	1357	1312	1315	8132
Kingston	984	1124	1205	1182	1038	1212	6745
Bexley	860	938	995	965	1003	1017	5778
Richmond	838	978	946	992	923	964	5641
Croydon	1865	1825	2100	2099	2373	2219	12481

Alcohol Related Incidents in Bromley

• No Borough Data

**2009 -10 350 Incidents
(168 Alcohol Related)**

**2010 -11 84 Incidents
(48% Alcohol Related)**

Andy Bawn

**Chairman
Bromley PubWatch**

Tracy Sickel

Street Pastors

**Questions &
Discussion**