



London Borough of Bromley News Release

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For immediate release

News from the Safer Bromley Partnership

Firefighters given commendation for saving life

Quick-thinking Bromley firefighters who used their training and first aid equipment to save a man's life outside their station were awarded a commendation certificate by London Assembly Member James Cleverly and Safer Bromley Partnership Chairman Cllr Tim Stevens at a short commendation ceremony at the Civic Centre on Friday 30 November.

Mr Stephen Gowler, a major with the Salvation Army was passing the fire station in South Street when he collapsed and eagle-eyed firefighters from Blue Watch swung into action to use a defibrillator. He attended the commendation ceremony with his wife and gave an emotional speech outlining events that he had enjoyed recently, such as his wedding anniversary, which he would have missed had it not been for the intervention of the fire team on that particular day.

Before presenting the certificate, James Cleverly spoke to the local fire team: "What I prize in the Fire Service is your flexibility and commitment and you demonstrated this hugely by the way in which you reacted so quickly in coming to the rescue of Mr Gowler." He thanked the team and joked with Mr Gowler that he was grateful for his input into the training of his Fire Officers."

Cllr Tim Stevens said: "I was very touched by Mr Gowler's story and want to thank the fire team personally. I am proud of the service they give here in Bromley and for their commitment to partnership working."

Picture shows: (Front row ltor) Cllr Tim Stevens, Mr Gowler, Crew Manager Paul Digby, Mrs Gowler and James Cleverly pictured with station manager Terry Gooding (second row third from left) and firefighters from Blue Watch.

Notes to editors:

- The Safer Bromley Partnership is committed to continuously improving safety in Bromley. We want a borough where people can live, work, play and learn safely. Our members include Bromley Council, Bromley Police, Health, Probation, Fire and London Ambulance Services, Affinity Sutton and other Housing Associations.

For media enquiries, please contact Susie Clark in Corporate Communications, on 020 8461 7911 or email susie.clark@bromley.gov.uk