

MS SUSAN SULIS MA CMLI.
Tel. Email:

**Councillor Robert Evans
Portfolio Holder for Care Services and Public Health
London Borough of Bromley.**

2nd July 2014

Dear Councillor Evans

RE: PETITION TO SAVE ORPINGTON'S FOODBANK

We enclose this petition in support of the retention of the Bromley Borough Foodbank's Orpington Distribution Centre at 111, Cotmandene Crescent, on the St. Paul's Cray Estate. Over 1,100 people have signed the petition, which we wish to present to the full Council on Monday, 21st July 2014.

Between April 2013 and March 2014, Bromley Borough Foodbanks fed 3,293 adults and 2,907 children. We know that the Council has assisted the BBF in the past, and considers that it should now be independent. Our reason for asking you to reconsider this decision is that BBF is in a different category to other charities, in that it performs an essential service for borough residents, but has no contract with the Council or the NHS to do so, unlike many other local charities, eg Age Concern; Community Links; Carer's Bromley; Mission Care; Bromley Mind; Bromley Mencap etc. Unlike other charities which rent a shop, BBF does not generate an income from the shop selling donated goods, but uses it solely as a food distribution centre.

The Orpington Centre is located in a small parade of 1950's shops, on the St. Paul's Cray Estate, in a ward which is rated as one of the most deprived in the borough. Its loss would cause significant harm and hardship to the residents affected,

particularly the most vulnerable, including children, pregnant women; nursing mothers; the elderly frail and the chronically sick and disabled.

The impact of health inequalities and loss of well-being caused by hunger and malnutrition is the driver behind our request for the Council to investigate the position of food poverty for Bromley residents. The effects of food poverty and malnutrition also have cost implications for Public Health, the NHS, and Social Care.

For these reasons, we have addressed the petition to you, as Portfolio Holder for Social Care and Public Health. We ask you to liase with Councillor Graham Arthur, the Portfolio Holder for Resources to resolve this problem, and remove the barrier of the annual commercial rental of £8,400 a year, which is impeding the dedicated work of the BBF's volunteers, and the generosity of local churches and food donors.

Yours sincerely

Susan Sulis

Secretary, Community Care Protection Group.

c/o

(Head of petition)

Cc Cllr Graham Arthur, Resources Portfolio Holder