

# Bromley Borough Commander's Newsletter



January 2015

## Welcome to the first newsletter of 2015.

Happy New Year to you all, I hope that you were able to enjoy the Festive period with family and friends. After a break of almost ten months and due to popular demand, I'm re-introducing our monthly Borough Commander's Newsletter. I can't promise to match the literary talents of my predecessor, Detective Chief Superintendent Steph Roberts but I am committed to providing you on a monthly basis with operational news, crime prevention advice and contact details for your Safer Neighbourhood Teams.

### Crime Update

You will be pleased to hear that the levels of crime in the Borough continue to decrease. Across the key seven crime types that the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) hold me to account for, there is currently a 5% reduction which means over 500 fewer victims of crime. Our performance is strong in relation to burglary with 526 less victims (-16.8%), robbery with 198 less victims (-34.4%) and theft from motor vehicle where there have been 301 less victims (-15.3%). We have been facing some challenges with our violence with injury offences which are up by 274 offences (+16.2%) and criminal damage which is up by 263 offences (+12.9%). Please be reassured that we are constantly reviewing our deployment plans to ensure we are targeting the right areas and focusing on the right people.

### Operation Equinox

Since October I have focused more officers on preventing and detecting violent crime. The increase I outlined above is a combination of both domestic abuse and public space violence and to some extent represents better standards of reporting and increased confidence of communities to report offences - but does also demonstrate an increase in violent crime in some areas. Many of you will have seen the additional officers on foot patrol in some key locations, such as Bromley town centre, Orpington High Street and Beckenham junction on Friday and Saturday nights. We have been working with Bromley Council and other stakeholders to reduce the number of alcohol related incidents and I'm pleased to report we have had some success. Door staff at some pubs and clubs are now assisting to marshal taxi queues and to take responsibility for behaviour of their clientele outside their premises. On Saturday we served a Closure Notice on one venue that prevented them opening for 24 hours as a result of several incidents the night before. This should serve as an example to others.

### Operation Bumblebee

After leading the London-wide burglary operation last year, I've been pleased to support it again this year as your Borough Commander. Although we are currently reducing the number of burglaries that occur on the Borough, we can't be complacent. Our approach is to use intelligence to predict the areas likely to be targeted by offenders and ensure we patrol them with both uniform officers and covert officers in unmarked cars. My Safer Neighbourhood Teams have been distributing crime prevention leaflets, undertaking property marking initiatives and visiting properties near to reported burglaries to advise occupiers that the offence has taken place and to offer specific advice to target harden premises.

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## Operational News

### • **Market Square incident**

At around 4:30am on Sunday 25th January police were called to reports of a fight in East Street, Bromley. As officers were attending Bromley Council CCTV operators observed that one man appeared carrying what looked like an assault rifle. The group fighting dispersed before officers arrived at the scene, but excellent work by the CCTV staff traced the suspect to a nearby address. Firearms officers entered the address and several men were arrested and three weapons seized. The weapons were subsequently found to be imitation weapons and were not viable firearms, although clearly this couldn't be confirmed immediately. One man has been charged with an offence relating to having an imitation firearm in a public place and appeared at Bromley Magistrates Court. A further local man is currently on police bail.

### • **Petts Wood armed robbery**

During an armed robbery in Petts Wood, four members of the public gave chase and detained the suspect who was escaping from Lloyds Bank. This was captured by Council CCTV staff and others who called us via 999. He was struggling violently and trying to escape and was believed to still have a firearm. This was an outstanding example of civic duty and featured in the national and local press at the time. The suspect was charged with a number of armed robbery offences all over South London.

### • **Courier Fraud offences**

My CID have done a fantastic job recently when investigating a series of courier frauds where victims are cold-called by someone, sometimes purporting to be from the victim's bank or even a police officer. They are then persuaded to give their bank card and pin to a courier who attends their address. A suspect was initially charged with eight offences and was remanded in custody but the investigation continued by a very determined officer who recently attended HMP Highdown and charged him with a further 34 similar offences. This is a great job because he preys on the vulnerable and elderly and is now where he belongs, behind bars!

### • **New Year's Eve Rave**

This year, I put extra police officers on local patrols to address licensing related activity over what is traditionally a very busy night for the police. We received some information during the day that there was a rave being organised on an industrial estate in SE20. We sent one of our teams to search the industrial estate and identify the premises. They found a sound system, bar and preparations being made for the rave to start around midnight, and due to last many hours (sometimes they last for 24-48 hours). My officers seized the equipment, ensured the premises was made secure and spoilt the party for the expected revellers. What was also prevented was noise, criminal offences and vulnerability for those attending and those living nearby by the quick and effective action taken.

### • **MOPAC Roadshow feedback**

December saw the MOPAC Roadshow event at the Civic Centre, hosted by the Leader of the Council, Stephen Carr. This was a presentation to the public by the Major's Office and ourselves about the Local Policing Model and how we are doing. Members of the public were able to ask questions of the panel with AC Helen King, Stephen Greenhalgh, Tim Stevens and myself answering questions around police visibility, communication, road safety and the use of technology it was good to note that we also received praise from the audience around our current policing performance.



**Chris Hafford**  
Borough Commander

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## Contacting the police in Bromley

There are a number of ways that you can contact the police.

**If a crime is currently taking place and you are in immediate danger, please always dial 999.**

If you wish to contact the Metropolitan Police Service and it is not an emergency, please call our non-emergency number, 101. You can request a visit from a local officer within 48 hours via this number too.

Certain categories of crime or incidents committed in the London area can now be reported over the internet, as long as an urgent response is not required. Please visit the MPS website for further information – [www.met.police.uk](http://www.met.police.uk)

You can also contact any of our Neighbourhood Policing Teams by telephone or email – visit the MPS website [www.met.police.uk](http://www.met.police.uk), type your postcode into the team finder and you'll be directed to your local team's webpage which contains their contact details.

In non-emergency situations you can visit any Front Counter:

- **Bromley Police Station**, High Street, Bromley, BR1 1ER has a front counter open 24 hours a day
- **Penge SNT base, Maple Road, Penge**, SE20 8RE is open:

Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) between 11 am - 7 pm (closed 3pm- 4pm).

- **West Wickham SNT base**, 9 High Street, West Wickham, BR4 0LP is open:

Monday and Thursday:	1pm - 4pm
Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday:	10am - 1pm

There are also currently three Contact Points across the Borough. Contact points provide a convenient opportunity to speak to the local police face to face. They are an alternative to visiting a police station front counter for non urgent issues. These are:

- **Biggin Hill SNT base**, 192-194 Main Road, Biggin Hill, TN16 5DT
- **Cray Valley SNT base**, 43 - 45 High Street, St Mary Cray, BR5 3NJ
- **Green Street Green SNT base**, 49 High Street, Green St Green, BR6 6BG

Their opening times are:

Wednesday and Thursday evenings:	7pm - 8pm
Saturday afternoons:	2pm - 3pm



# Bromley Borough Commander's Newsletter



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A/Inspector Andy Buckley

**Contact numbers for Safer Neighbourhood Teams in  
the North East Neighbourhood**

Bickley	020 8721 2610
Bromley Town	020 8721 2859
Chislehurst	020 8721 2612
Mottingham & Chislehurst North	020 8721 2889
Plaistow & Sundridge	020 8721 2613



Inspector Ian Brown

**Contact numbers for Safer Neighbourhood Teams in  
the South West Neighbourhood**

Biggin Hill	020 8721 2820
Bromley Common & Keston	020 8721 2607
Darwin	020 8721 2603
Hayes & Coney Hall	020 8649 3548
West Wickham	020 8721 2608



Inspector David Antoine

**Contact numbers for Safer Neighbourhood Teams in  
the North West Neighbourhood**

Clock House	020 8721 2615
Copers Cope	020 8721 2772
Crystal Palace	020 8721 2604
Kelsey & Eden Park	020 8721 2616
Penge & Cator	020 8649 3541
Shortlands	020 8721 2614



Inspector Toby Noar

**Contact numbers for Safer Neighbourhood Teams in  
the South East Neighbourhood**

Chelsfield & Pratts Bottom	020 8721 2605
Cray Valley East	020 8284 8113
Cray Valley West	020 8721 2611
Farnborough & Crofton	020 8721 2606
Orpington	020 8721 2729
Petts Wood & Knoll	020 8721 2609