

saferbromley news

Your update on the Safer Bromley Partnership

Spring 2015

sponsored by Bromley Safer Neighbourhood Board



Tackling your concerns

Spring and lighter evenings are almost here. It's comforting to know that local Police, Council and other partners are always working away behind the scenes to keep Bromley a safe and pleasant place.

Who would have thought, though, as we continue to fight against alcohol and drug related crime, that a new scourge would rear its head. Causing danger to young people and antisocial behaviour by their users, so called 'legal highs' have left their mark on at least one part of the borough. The Safer Bromley Partnership acted quickly in response to complaints from local communities by confiscating products from a shop in Orpington.

It just goes to show we rely on local people to let us know what is going on – remember that you understand your neighbourhood and if something doesn't seem right, is causing concern or seems suspicious, then you are best placed to know. Always report concerns to the Police or, in the case of suspected scams and rogue traders, you can call the Trading Standards rapid response number. You, the people of Bromley, are remarkable – we've 600 Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators across the borough, as well as numerous Safer Neighbourhood Panel members and more than 8,000 volunteers associated with our highly successful Friends Groups. Need I say more? Together we can help keep our communities attractive, safe and sound and help drive down crime and antisocial behaviour.

Cllr Tim Stevens
Chairman Bromley Safer
Neighbourhood Board

Who to contact? See back page.



Crime Update

Crime in Bromley is still falling overall with a five per cent reduction since last April in the seven major crimes measured by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime. This means there have been 500 fewer victims of crime across the borough.

Police Borough Commander Chris Hafford said: "It is good news for residents, businesses and the whole community that crime continues to fall in Bromley. We are on track to meet the 20 per cent reduction across the seven key crime types by March 2016, but there are some challenges for us to meet after consistent reductions in previous years.

"Our performance is strong regarding burglary with 526 fewer victims, while there were 198 fewer robberies, as well as 301 fewer incidents of theft from motor vehicles.

"While things are looking good in most areas, we are not without our challenges

in the borough as violence with injury offences have grown by 274 and criminal damage is up 263 offences.

"We don't concentrate solely on these crime types. I am also keen to continue addressing those issues of concern to residents that fall outside of them.

"Antisocial behaviour in particular has been a real focus for my Safer Neighbourhoods teams who are committed to working with their communities and partners to stop it. We constantly review how we deploy our forces to ensure we are targeting the right areas and focusing on the right people."

See back page for Safer Bromley advice.

Bromley Safer Neighbourhood Board is responsible for engaging with residents to establish local policing priorities, monitor police performance and confidence, and other safety functions. The Board has already held a number of public meetings across the borough as well as the popular annual Crime Summit.

Diary Dates The Board's next Public Meeting will be in Orpington on **7 April** and the annual Crime Summit at the Civic Centre is planned for the morning of **19 September**. For more details email kate.lymer@gmail.com

Mentoring has big plans

Bromley's mentoring programme now has 103 volunteer mentors from all walks of life helping young people through difficult times in their lives. The young people benefit and mentors also report positive self-development and better people skills, useful in and out of the workplace.

Head of Mentoring for Bromley Jane Belding explains: "The team has had considerable success matching mentors to young people. It is marvellous to see the recognition from a young person when they realise their mentor has had similar life experiences to their own and the young person can see they have become happy and successful."

Now, the mentoring programme is widening its net to work with charities and other organisations which offer mentoring solutions such as the one being piloted by the Bromley Churches Mentoring scheme, based on the mentoring model



developed by XLP, an organisation at the cutting edge of youth work.

Other partners include charity JusB, a community-based centre working with young people reaching independence.

"As we move forward with this work," said Jane, "the thing we need most is plenty of volunteers and particularly those who can be available in the daytime." Why not get involved. Contact Jane for a chat 020 8461 6240. More information: www.bromleyebp.org.uk



Skunkworks raid

Bromley Police and local authority officers confiscated a considerable quantity of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), commonly referred to as 'legal highs', from a shop called Skunkworks in Orpington as part of an ongoing investigation into the safety of these substances.

Local Police teams had raised concerns about the number of young people found in possession of NPS and the number of medical emergencies relating to their use. Working in partnership, the Police and Council have issued a warning to the business under new legislation to stop selling NPS in an effort to protect the local community and stop young people buying the product.

Watch word



Jim Maddan, Chairman of the London Neighbourhood Watch Association, of which Bromley is a leading member, was awarded an OBE

in the Queen's New Year's Honours in recognition of his services to the community.

He played a key role in the successful relaunch of the nationwide group Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network of England and Wales and has been Chairman since 2010. Jim spent more than 30 years as a Metropolitan Police Officer before retiring in 1999.

Bromley has more than 600 Watches covering 32,500 homes across the borough and an email database for regular updates including *Safer Bromley News*. Residents are welcome at the AGM on 9 April at Bromley Football Club, where key speakers will be Cllr Tim Stevens and Police Borough Commander Chris Hafford. www.ourwatch.org.uk

**BROMLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD
WATCH ASSOCIATION**



Tackling keyless car crime

Last year more than 6,000 cars and vans in London were stolen without the owners' keys, often using key-programming devices. That represents 42 per cent of all thefts of cars and vans.

Thieves use a device which bypasses the vehicle's electronic information as the owner locks it, or they break into the vehicle and connect a device to the OBD port, downloading the vehicle's information onto a blank key. The new key is then compatible with the vehicle, so it disables the alarm and the vehicle can be driven away.

Police advice includes:

- Using a steering wheel lock or a gear stick lock
- Consider getting an on-board diagnostics lock (OBD) professionally fitted
- Park in well-lit areas, a garage, a staffed car park or where there is CCTV
- Check the vehicle is locked when leaving it, even for a moment
- Consider purchasing a tracking device.



Beckenham safe and sound

At the end of last year, Bromley Council and Police took a stand around Beckenham Junction against unacceptable drunken and violent behaviour by a selfish minority.

The Partnership brought together Bromley Council's Licensing Team, the Police and local businesses to reinstate a friendly and safe environment for law-abiding customers visiting local bars and restaurants.

More Police officers in the area greeted people enjoying a night out and worked

with the Council to conduct visits to licensed premises to support door staff throughout the evenings. A Closure Notice was served on a premises after several incidents in one evening, which meant it was unable to open on a Saturday night with a financial impact as a result. Police and Council will use this power again to ensure premises take their responsibilities seriously. It is a stage on the journey to a Licensing Review, which could result in a licence being taken away.

Staggered closing times minimised crowds on the street, cut numbers outside popular locations such as takeaways, and made queues for taxis more manageable.

Scammers will do anything to get your cash

A retired doctor has been conned out of £5,500 after being contacted by the non-existent 'Fifa Euromillions International Postcode Lottery.'

The 70-year-old Bromley resident received a letter saying she had won £700,000, shortly followed by another letter from Switzerland purporting to be from the 'International Clearance of Fund Monitoring Unit of the United Nations Organisation' demanding a fee of one per cent of her winnings to receive the prize. Over the next couple of months the resident sent off £5,500 in Western Union money transfers.

A further letter declared she had actually won £1,900,000, meaning insufficient funds had been paid to release the win,

so more money was required. Fortunately Halifax, her bank, did not oblige when she tried to send a further £2,500, suggesting it may be fraudulent. Luckily the consumer then picked up the new Trading Standards Scam Alert leaflet from a local church and contacted Trading Standards, at least saving a further loss.

The 'Fifa Euromillions International Postcode Lottery' does not exist, it is a scam run by fraudsters to con people out



of money. It is nothing to do with legitimate lotteries with similar names and absolutely nothing to do with Fifa.

Warn your family, friends and neighbours! More scams advice is at www.bromley.gov.uk/scams



Illegal tobacco seized by Trading Standards

Officers from Trading Standards in Bromley seized 5,000 cigarettes from a shop in the borough following a joint visit with HMRC.

The tobacco products are suspected to be imported from Eastern Europe and have failed to comply with safety regulations requiring them to display health warning labels. The cigarettes have an estimated value of £1,750.

Illicit products not only encourage people to keep smoking, and young people to take up the habit, but they also undermine the local economy through tax evasion. Investigations are being conducted with the owners of the business.

New fire station to open this year

Orpington's new fire station is due for completion in May and what a welcome addition it will be to the community. Not only will the station get an additional fire engine which will greatly improve response times in Bromley, but there are many other benefits too. The station will have areas the public can visit to get up-to-the-minute fire safety information and advice on topics including smoke alarms, kitchen safety and how to use candles safely in the home. There will also be a community room that will be available for bookings. Find fire safety advice at www.london-fire.gov.uk



MOPAC Roadshow

The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime Roadshow at the Civic Centre, hosted by Council Leader Cllr Stephen Carr, attracted an audience of residents who heard how the Local Policing Model was faring in Bromley. They asked questions of the panel which included the Met's Assistant Commissioner Helen King, Deputy Mayor Stephen Greenhalgh, Bromley Police Borough Commander Chris Hafford, and Cllr Tim Stevens covering various topics including communication and police visibility. The Partnership was pleased to note local Police received praise from the audience around current policing performance.

Don't give the burglars a chance

Police are cracking down on burglary in the borough, but you can dramatically reduce the chances of it happening to you by taking a few simple precautions

Safer Bromley Advice:

- Make sure that you lock up properly
- Mark your property.

Windows:

- Close and lock windows, even if you are only going out for a few minutes
- Windows in accessible areas should be toughened glass or double glazed
- Fit appropriate window locks
- Avoid leaving valuables, house or car keys near windows.

Doors:

- Fit external doors with a five-lever mortice deadlock
- Ensure the frame is strong enough to support door, hinges and locks
- Make sure the door is suitable for external use
- Letterboxes should have an internal cover plate and you could also fit a spy hole and door chain
- Don't leave house keys near doors or windows.

Garden:

- Secure your shed door with at least one heavy duty hasp and closed-shackle padlock
- A useful addition to security can be exterior lighting, either switched on manually or automatically operated.

If the worst happens, call the Police and don't touch anything - there may be crucial forensic evidence. More advice: www.met.police.uk



Food for thought

Bromley Council's Food Safety Team inspects thousands of food premises in the borough to ensure they are following correct food hygiene procedures so everyone shopping or eating there stays safe.

Most shops and restaurants are more than happy to follow the rules, but a minority flout the law and the team has to take action. Last year a Chinese takeaway was closed for a period and the business and owner were fined nearly £14,000 in total when their premises proved to be rodent infested.

More recently, the kitchen of a leisure club was closed for a period when the kitchen was found to be affected by foul water from a blocked drain.

Why not check your favourite 'eatery' at www.scoresonthedoors.org.uk



Who to contact and where to get more information

Bromley Police

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

For less urgent matters, call the non-emergency number, 101.

Certain incidents can be reported online as long as an urgent response is not required.

Visit: www.met.police.uk

Find your Neighbourhood Policing Team's telephone and email at www.met.police.uk

Bromley Council

Report problems, apply and pay online www.bromley.gov.uk

Register for your new MyBromley Account www.bromley.gov.uk/MyBromley

Trading Standards

Report rogue traders and scams immediately on the Rapid Response number 07903 852090 www.bromley.gov.uk/scams

Bromley Fire Brigade

Fire advice and fire safety visits www.london-fire.gov.uk

Neighbourhood Watch

Find safety tips and how to get involved www.bnwa.co.uk

saferbromley partnership

The Safer Bromley Partnership includes Bromley Council, Police, Fire Service, Health, Probation and Housing Associations working together to keep Bromley safe.

Sign up for Safer Bromley News at community.safety@bromley.gov.uk

Follow us on [Twitter@saferbromley](https://twitter.com/saferbromley)