

# Bromley Borough Commander's Newsletter



June & July 2015

## Introduction

Welcome to the delayed Borough Commander's newsletter. I am sorry that I was unable to complete a June edition, but a number of issues arose that prevented me from having sufficient time to undertake the task. I hope that you are all enjoying the summer, whether at home or on holiday. It has been a busy time for your police officers and PCSO's in recent weeks and I'm sure this will continue with long days and warm evenings. Next month I will be welcoming a new Superintendent to Bromley, Trevor Lawry. He will be taking over from David Tait who has temporarily been in the role for almost six months and has done a fine job. I will formally introduce Trevor to you in the next edition.

## Crime update

Although I will give a more detailed update on Operation Omega later in the newsletter, I do want to start with some good news regarding crime across the Borough. As of the start of August, MOPAC 7 crimes were reduced by some 3.9% which is a reflection of some excellent arrests and of deploying more officers to key locations at the right times. This is 400 less crimes and victims of crime compared to the same period last year. This compares well to the -2.2% reduction for the MPS overall and means we are now at a -16.5% for all seven crime types against the baseline figure in 2011/12 and moving towards the 20% reduction target by April 2016.

Some of the headlines within this figure are that burglary offences are down by over 500 offences (-17%) and the reduction is even higher for residential burglary at -23.4%. Robbery offences are 21.3% down (103 offences), theft from motor vehicle has reduced by 17.3% which equates to 319 less offences, theft from the person has declined by 17.6% (60 offences). The offences that are still showing an increase are violence with injury which is up by 9% (169 offences); although domestic abuse related violence is now stabilised as the same as last year. Criminal damage offences within neighbourhoods is currently 10.6% up which is 225 offences. In relation to both violence and criminal damage, our increases are lower than experienced across London as a whole and has shown consistent improvement in the last two months.

Of some concern is the increase in theft of motor vehicle, mainly two wheeled vehicles such as mopeds and scooters. We currently have the highest increase in London at 36.9% and this represents an increase of 202 offences. Our response to this is detailed within our Operation Omega policing activity and although we have had some success, we need more intelligence from the community regarding who is doing it and where the vehicles are being ridden or stored.

## Commissioner's Road Show feedback

Although I was unable to be there myself, I know that the Road Show with the Commissioner in June was relatively well attended, although not to the same level as some T&RA meetings I've attended. I'm hoping this is a reflection of your general satisfaction with the safety of the Borough and the activities of my officers and staff. Whilst not being complacent, Bromley is one of the safest Boroughs in London and by working together we can keep it that way. If anyone has feedback regarding the Commissioner's messages, please send them to me. He was open about the budget challenges facing the MPS and how this may impact on our structure and resources.

## What did you think of the BBC documentary

I would also welcome your views on the five-part documentary of the MPS. There was some honest discussion within the MPS on the programmes but generally our internal feedback was it reminded us of how proud we are to serve Londoners and be part of the best policing organisation in the world but what did you think?



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## Operational News

### • **Op Omega**

As I stated earlier, we are still decreasing most crime types and we are also increasing the number of offences we either charge an offender for or caution. But how is this actually happening and what does policing look like? On a daily basis, officers from across the whole Borough, uniform and detectives alike parade together to receive a briefing on where crime has happened in the last 24 hours, the targets for different crime types based on their home addresses and their offending history. We then deploy marked and unmarked officers and vehicles to the identified areas because that is where they are most likely to prevent crime happening and catch those who are, or would be responsible. The areas vary on a day by day basis which means we have to get a balance between being proactive and reactive. Of course we leave your Designated Ward officers and PCSO's on their wards and the Op Omega officers are posted in support of them and operations they are running.

There have been many excellent examples of my officers arresting offenders, often deploying to locations after receiving information from members of the community. As an example, and without mentioning names, we have five young offenders who commit motor vehicle offences and burglary. All of them were arrested this week for a variety of offences and not for the first time either! I'm hoping you will have seen officers on pedal cycles, motorcycles, on foot patrol and in marked vehicles in recent weeks as we are really maximising the officers who are visible on the street. If you've seen officers in covert vehicles, well, we'll have to look at our tactics and training or it may be you are just very vigilant.

Another key success of Op Omega has been the execution of search warrants, both for drugs and stolen property. Last week alone, my officers executed five warrants, seizing cannabis plants, herbal cannabis, nitrous oxide capsules as well as arresting several occupants. Your Safer Neighbourhood Teams are always involved and often take the lead in developing the intelligence and co-ordinating the operations.

### • **Licensing PDS and review**

Of some concern in recent weeks has been an increase in crime and anti-social behaviour in and around Bromley High Street. I would urge you to be aware of pick-pockets when shopping as there have been several incidents in the busier shopping areas. Although I have officers patrolling the High Street every day, they can't prevent every offence and by making sure your bag is fastened and your valuables are not on display, you reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim of crime.

I recently appeared before the General Purpose & Licensing Committee to highlight the increase of incidents linked to the night-time economy and licensing. Both the police and Council licensing teams presented examples where the use of alcohol in and around identified premises was impacting on the whole area. There was general agreement that we would work together to enforce licensing conditions and review premises where necessary. I am pleased to report that one premises was reviewed this week and whilst we await the result, it's clearly a positive step and one that other licensed premises will be aware of. We have an excellent example of how to address these issues with our response in Beckenham last year. By working with the interested parties, including the taxi office, street pastors and the licensees themselves, we can improve the area and make it an attractive area to visit as we all want businesses in the Borough to be successful.

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- **Operation Palazzo**

I know I have highlighted the work of my Crime Squad before but I wanted to update you on the above operation. This was a burglary investigation where a significant amount of property was alleged to have been taken by violent and armed intruders. After over 4 months, hours of meticulous detective work involving a considerable number of surveillance deployments, a vast telephone investigation and forensic work four suspects were arrested. Two of the robbers who entered the house, assaulted and tied up the elderly occupants pleaded guilty to the robbery at Court. An email from Prosecuting Counsel thanked our officers for their completely professional approach. The tenacity shown in acquiring evidence and use of the cell site evidence together with jury friendly graphics made the counsels task in prosecuting the case straightforward - and resulted in the conviction of serious criminals. Their sentences will be lengthy and well deserved.

- **The Sky's the limit!**

This week saw an excellent partnership venture with a Jobs Fair and Street Festival. The key partners, Bromley Council, DWP London Probation, the Youth Offending Service, RSLs and the police organised the event for young people to identify and assist working options and opportunities. This is a new and innovative way of signposting careers as well as engaging young people from all backgrounds. We had up to fifteen stalls made up of local support services and hiring employers, also providing a job zone for residents that needed assistance with career advice. As well as engaging with hard to reach young people we had live performers, entertainment from local youth organisations and activities for families. Local businesses were also present to support the event. It was a great day for all involved and I'm pleased to say it was well attended. It's too early to assess exactly how successful we were but by looking at the numbers that turned up, the day was a success and sure to be repeated.

- **Crime Prevention Advice**

I realise that I am probably preaching to the converted but it's always worthwhile to disseminate crime prevention advice whenever possible, so I have included our advice around deterring car thieves:

**Deadlocks** - These stop your door from opening and are set when you lock your car, even if a thief attempts to smash your window and open the door from the inside.

**Marking** - While you can etch your glazing with the vehicle identification number, a better way to mark your car is with a traceability scheme.

**Stereo security** - Make sure your stereo is pin-coded, vehicle specific (which means it won't work in another car) or multi-part - where the display is separate from the audio unit.

**Locking wheel nuts** - Especially important if you have alloys, go for locking wheel nuts with a laser-cut groove.

**Tracking devices** - Particularly relevant for expensive high-end cars - this is invaluable if the car is stolen, and works as an excellent deterrent.

**Locks** - Always lock your car doors and boot and make sure the windows are closed when you leave your car - even if just for a short time, such as paying for petrol.

**Immobilisers** - Most new cars are fitted as standard with an immobiliser. If you have an older car, consider having one retro-fitted or use a mechanical immobiliser.

**Number plates** - Number plate theft is more common than you think, and it means you could end up paying for parking and driving fines for offences you didn't commit. Consider buying theft-resistant number plates when the car is first registered.

If you would like further information or specific advice about crime prevention then please call 101 and ask to speak to a member of your local Safer Neighbourhoods Police team.

*Chris Hazel*  
**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 3BB
- **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



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A/Inspector Andy Buckley

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

<b>Bickley</b>	020 8721 2610
<b>Bromley Town</b>	020 8721 2859
<b>Chislehurst</b>	020 8721 2612
<b>Mottingham &amp; Chislehurst North</b>	020 8721 2889
<b>Plaistow &amp; Sundridge</b>	020 8721 2613



Inspector Ian Brown

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

<b>Biggin Hill</b>	020 8721 2820
<b>Bromley Common &amp; Keston</b>	020 8721 2607
<b>Darwin</b>	020 8721 2603
<b>Hayes &amp; Coney Hall</b>	020 8649 3548
<b>West Wickham</b>	020 8721 2608



Inspector Phyllis Rooney

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

<b>Clock House</b>	020 8721 2615
<b>Copers Cope</b>	020 8721 2772
<b>Crystal Palace</b>	020 8721 2604
<b>Kelsey &amp; Eden Park</b>	020 8721 2616
<b>Penge &amp; Cator</b>	020 8649 3541
<b>Shortlands</b>	020 8721 2614



Inspector Toby Noar

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

<b>Chelsfield &amp; Pratts Bottom</b>	020 8721 2605
<b>Cray Valley East</b>	020 8284 8113
<b>Cray Valley West</b>	020 8721 2611
<b>Farnborough &amp; Crofton</b>	020 8721 2606
<b>Orpington</b>	020 8721 2729
<b>Petts Wood &amp; Knoll</b>	020 8721 2609

