

saferbromley news

Supporting Safer Bromley Partnership

Spring 2019



Trading Standards help protect against fraudsters and scammers.

Beware of fraudsters

The Trading Standards team often deal with criminal offences committed by doorstep callers, working closely with Bromley Police and the Borough Safer Neighbourhood Teams.

In a recent incident, police and Trading Standards were called to the house of a vulnerable elderly gentleman. Workmen had taken him to a cashpoint when attempting to overcharge for roof repairs but in this case, Trading Standards negotiated a fairer price which was agreed, resolving the matter.

If you have vulnerable family or friends, make sure they don't fall victim to this

type of doorstep crime. Rogue traders like the 'roofers' are usually uninvited cold callers who often prey on older, trusting homeowners, carrying out shoddy work for extortionate prices.

If you or somebody you know is affected by rogue traders or a scam, get advice, support and assistance by calling the Rapid Response team on 07903 852090.

Making a difference

Living and working in a neighbourhood that is safe and clean is vital to many of our lives. That's why we're working with multi-agency partners on Community Impact Days with the aim of reducing or stopping crime and the negative impact it has on the neighbourhood.

The initiative is supported by the Council and Safer Bromley Partners including Metropolitan Police, London Fire Brigade and Clarion Housing with funding from the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC).

Teams work side by side to reduce anti-social behaviour such as fly-tipping, graffiti and abandoned vehicles, unlawful benefit claims, property theft and other criminal activity.

This multi-agency, co-ordinated approach will continue to benefit the local community while also sending a clear message to those committing these crimes.

Welcome to Safer Bromley News



This safer bromley newsletter highlights the positive impact of partnership working and our Community Impact Days would simply not have

the same impact or success without partners working together.

I would like to thank the Police, the London Fire Brigade and Clarion Housing for the way they have worked with the Council, helping to ensure that the initiative has been successful. The safer bromley partnership brings a number of organisations together to help bring about a co-ordinated response to various issues.

Safety underpins so much of what the Council does – it includes issuing various licences in line with legislation, to inspecting food premises and protecting consumers, particularly vulnerable residents from rogue traders. Some of this work also involves enforcing legislation and although prosecution is very much a last resort, the Council will not hesitate to prosecute, with our ongoing zero tolerance approach towards flytipping and blue badge misuse being two examples. Find out more about the Council's enforcement role by visiting www.bromley.gov.uk/enforcement.

We all have a role to play in helping to ensure that our Borough is as safe as possible. Reporting problems to the Council or the relevant authority really helps, as does being a witness if you have seen some sort of incident. Thank you for your support – Bromley remains a safe and low crime borough and we are working to make sure this continues to be the case.

Councillor Kate Lymer

Executive Councillor for Public Protection and Enforcement

Paw excuse



In addition to legislation requiring the sale of alcohol to be licensed, a range of other activities also require licences, including those relating to animal welfare.

Licensing exists to protect both individuals and animals which is why anyone who wants to keep a wild, dangerous or exotic creature must meet strict conditions before we issue the licence.

Tight rules apply for the construction of the animal's accommodation which must be inspected by a veterinary officer, and special diets and needs must be met. Anyone found keeping a listed animal without a licence risks prosecution and confiscation of the animal.

Recently, a wild, Serval cat was seized as it was unlicensed and thought to have been illegally bred or imported. Police, working in partnership with Bromley Council seized the animal when the

council's contractor, the City of London Veterinary Team, confirmed it was listed as a dangerous, wild animal. The Serval cat was confiscated under section 4 (1) of the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976. You can read more about this press release on our website at www.bromley.gov.uk

If we do issue a licence, the conditions must be met as the animal's welfare and public safety is paramount at all times. Listed animals may include wild cats, primates, wild dogs, certain pigs and marsupials but the full list and further advice can be found via the council's website www.bromley.gov.uk/licences

Working together, improving lives

We all want to live in a safe, pleasant place so reducing environmental nuisance, arson and other concerns, is vital.

That's why we've joined forces with partners to work together on Community Impact Days while the long term aim is to reduce or stop crime and the negative impact it has on the community.

Bromley Fire Borough Commander Terry Gooding said "We fully endorse and support the approach of the Community Impact days. Through

working closely with our partners, we have been able to adopt an intelligence-led approach to all aspects of anti-social behaviour. This has resulted in targeting specific areas so we can be more effective."

Teams from across agencies, including Clarion Housing, work together to reduce all kinds of anti-social behaviour and problems including unsecured garages – which sometimes might be used to store stolen items – while fly-tipping, graffiti and abandoned vehicles, unlawful benefit claims and other criminal activity is also tackled.

Stay safe over summer

With summer fast approaching this is a great time to think about how you keep your home and any outbuildings safe in the summer. There are simple steps you can take to keep your home secure and lower the chance of being a victim of crime. These are:

- Close and lock all your doors and windows, even if you are only going out for a few minutes and don't leave car keys or valuables near a door or window
- Use timers to turn lights and radios on, fit alarms, make sure homes are properly locked
- Mark or etch your property with your postcode and photograph it
- Fit a mortice lock to your front door and other external doors. Consider installing a burglar alarm
- Check who is at the door and don't open it if you will if you feel anxious.

Speedy getaway

Most of us will have watched news footage, read articles or seen video clips on social media about the increased use of mopeds to commit crime. This anti-social behaviour has been linked to robbery, burglary and mobile phone theft with stolen mopeds and scooters being used as getaway vehicles.

Now, working in partnership with the Metropolitan Police, we're tackling this head-on through Operation Lexington. This joint initiative centres on gathering information from the community, intelligence from police systems and CCTV images.

This approach means more efficient deployment of police and council resources in targeting offenders which assures local residents' the issue is being addressed.





Police partnership

Working with partners and agencies means sharing information and achieving more which benefits the local community. The police work with us on Community Impact Days in targeted areas, and find they are a great success for all.

“The Community Impact Days provide an excellent opportunity for Police to work with a number of partner agencies, sharing intelligence and target defined areas and individuals intent on criminal activity or causing anti-social behaviour in the community. We use a variety of tactics of enforcement, education and engagement opportunities to improve the

quality of life and surroundings in the local area. This coordinated approach sends out a clear message to anyone committing crime, being a bad tenant or unlawfully claiming benefits that such behaviour will not be tolerated and you will be caught” said Metropolitan Police Inspector Gary Byfield.

How safe is your area?

There are often discussions online in community forums about local crimes taking place and whether these crimes are becoming more or less persistent. By visiting the Met Police website you can enter your post code and find out what is happening in your local area.

This is a great way for residents to remain aware of the local crimes taking place, and be vigilant towards what may be happening in their local area. These crime statistics should also serve as some reassurance that the chance of being a victim of crime in Bromley remains low.



Sound of silence

In the warmer weather many of us leave windows open without realising we’re inflicting our noise on neighbours.

Although noise is part of everyday life, excessive noise can be a real nuisance and affect peoples’ quality of life and have an extremely negative effect. Be considerate and think about how the noise you normally make might seem excessive to others, especially late at night or with the window open.

If too much noise is affecting you, it might be worth having a word with the person and resolving amicably – after all, they might be completely unaware that they’re causing an issue. If that doesn’t work, contact us at the Council if you’re affected by noise nuisance and our team will investigate your noise complaint. Noise nuisance isn’t usually a matter for the police but if it seems like it may get heated or violent as a result of the noise they will intervene.

The Council deals with around 4000 noise complaints each year ranging from loud music, car alarms and barking dogs to pubs and clubs and construction noise. Find out more and how to report noise problems on our website at www.bromley.gov.uk/report

Could you be a Meerkat?

Neighbourhood Watch encourages groups of neighbours to join together to help reduce local crime and protect their home and local environment.

Bromley’s Neighbourhood Watch is a partnership that involves organisations like the Police, the Council and individuals who want to make their neighbourhoods better places to live. It aims to help people protect themselves and their properties and to reduce the fear of crime by improved home security while reporting suspicious incidents and encouraging a community spirit.

It relies on volunteers and is always looking for more to join. If this is something that appeals to you, join or find out more from www.bnwa.co.uk





It's our duty

Living in a safe, clean borough is something we all want and deserve but each of us has a responsibility to help keep it that way. Make sure you abide by your duty of care and dispose of all your waste legally and responsibly, without being hazardous to health or harming the environment.

Something as simple as making sure you only pay and give your waste to a licensed Environment Agency waste carrier could help reduce the amount of fly-tipping. Unscrupulous, unlicensed waste carriers often dump the rubbish to avoid paying disposal costs and if we trace it back to you, you could be fined! Find and check waste carriers at www.bromley.gov.uk/wastecarriers

If you witness fly-tipping or other enviro-crimes occurring, always report to the Police and give us the details too, including useful information such as a description of the offender, a vehicle registration or photo if you have one. Any information that helps us successfully prosecute an offender means you could receive up to £500 as a thank you. Report confidentially at www.bromley.gov.uk/envirocrime

We're trying to stamp out fly-tipping and our campaign, 'Fly-tippers – we're watching you' aims to tackle all kinds of dumped rubbish issues. Anything from a single bag of rubbish left in the street to a lorry load of construction waste dumped in a country lane.

Although we often prosecute fly-tippers, we use a range of other methods, too. Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) might be issued, CCTV surveillance, vehicle 'stop and search' operations, we could seize vehicles from those involved in fly-tipping and from those unable to prove they are legitimate waste carriers, too.

Facts and figures

Since operations began in April 2017, there has been:

1703	square metres of graffiti removed
360	fire safety installations carried out on residents homes
317	summonses and Fixed Penalty Notices
229	multi-agency visits regarding anti-social behaviour complaints
135	tonnes of fly-tipped rubbish removed
89	traffic offences
41	illegal vehicles seized
33	arrests
14	acceptable behaviour commitments
5	weapons recovered

Food safety advice

If you are having a barbecue, make sure it is remembered for all the right reasons.

Avoid cooking food too quickly – your guests won't thank you if they get food poisoning from meat that is burnt on the outside but not cooked right through. The easiest and safest way to check that it's thoroughly cooked right through to the middle is by using a temperature probe. You should cook to a minimum temperature of 75°C and take the temperature at the thickest part of the meat.

Make sure that there isn't any pink meat left in chicken, sausages, burgers, pork and kebabs, and that any juices run clear. This advice not only applies to individuals cooking al fresco, it relates to all food-catering and events businesses as well.

The Council is responsible for checking food hygiene at around 2500 food premises across the Borough. Including targeting the higher risk premises, last year, we carried out 1295 inspections. Whilst we will work with and advise businesses, thereby helping protect members of the public, we will also take enforcement action, including prosecuting or even closing a food business.

For advice and information about food safety, including advice for businesses and to check food hygiene ratings, visit www.bromley.gov.uk/food.

Report it!

Did you know that you can now report a crime online?

The Met Police website now has an option for you to report crime online, so there is no need to get to your local police station. More information on how to report a crime online can be found at www.met.police.uk. You can also find details on this website of your local police team officer, contact details and forthcoming local engagement events taking place.

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

Contact us at:
community.safety@bromley.gov.uk
 Follow us on [Twitter@saferbromley](https://twitter.com/saferbromley)