

# Bexley Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association Newsletter

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2015

**Patron:** James Brokenshire (MP for Old Bexley & Sidcup)  
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## BIKEWATCH



Working closely with Gallions/Peabody Housing, SNT's and Bexley Community Safety Partnership we have set up a new scheme called BIKEWATCH, which is aimed at reducing bike crime and bike nuisance in the Borough.

Some areas of Bexley have been blighted by the constant noise of youngsters riding around in groups on motorbikes, as well as late night crime committed by similar bike gangs.

In an effort to try and target police towards these offenders this new scheme will enable residents to report incidents directly to NW by signing up as members where they will be able to receive updates on offenders and what action has been taken against them.

Also being offered is the option of being able to report incidents anonymously by reporting directly to us at Neighbourhood Watch and we will pass this on to the relevant Police Teams (SNT's).

Either way it should see a significant reduction in bike nuisance and crime in the Borough, but it will only work if residents in the areas where recruitment is targeted decide to report all such incidents to us.

If you are interested in being part of this scheme or you would like us to pass on information to police teams please contact us directly at: [bexwatch-office@btconnect.com](mailto:bexwatch-office@btconnect.com). We will email you back or send you membership cards that include an area for information to be included on offenders.

*Registration Cards for residents are available from our office upon request.*



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thank you to all those coordinators that were able to attend our AGM on 23 June 2015. We were pleased to have 120+ attending and they will have enjoyed a talk by two officers from the MET on telephone fraud which included some humour but also hit on the important points. Our former Mayor and NW Coordinator Howard Marriner spoke on his year as Mayor and our new Borough Commander, Jeff Booth although a little late, offered his support for BBNWA as well as answering questions from our members.

Our Patron the RH James Brokenshire was unable to attend in the end due to late sitting in Parliament and he sent his apologies and echoed his continued support of NW saying that he was proud to continue as our Patron.

### FUNDING

As you may be aware we are short of funds and would ask if you had any thoughts on how to raise monies for NW either through fund raising, sponsorship, or personal donations. Additionally, if you have any surplus stationary such as envelopes, pens, laminate pouches, paper etc. we would welcome them in our office.

### LEGAL HIGHS

These are small gas canisters of nitrous oxide that are emptied into balloons and then inhaled making the person taking it high; they are otherwise known as legal highs.



If you see evidence (empty canisters) in and around your area please email us and we will pass it on to your local police team or inform them directly.

## ID THEFT INCREASING

Please remove your address and any other details from ALL postal correspondence prior to disposal. The best thing to do is to shred all information. ID theft is on the increase in Bexley with nearly every road in the borough recording at least one incident. Don't wait to get stung, be careful NOW.

Outside postal boxes are easy targets. If you have one, please make sure it has a good strong lock.

## MET-TRACE SCHEME



This "Smartwater" marking service is going to be offered to victims of burglary in Erith and North End for the first year of a 2-year trial, and those residents that are offered this service for free will also have an option to set up a NW in their area at the same time if there is not already one registered for their area/road.

Police officers will visit and "mark-up household valuables" of those residents that say they want to be part of this scheme, and those that say yes to NW will receive a call from us and relevant paperwork for their registration if they say they want to continue and join us.

As there are 887 kits allocated to Bexley at a reduced rate via MOPAC (Mayors Office) for the first year and 511 for the second year, this could potentially give us that number; or more realistically even at a 50% yes rate, we could gain 440 new NW Coordinators in year one and 255 in year two.

We look forward to working with police teams and being part of this scheme, which was launched 27 July 2015.



**Bexley Borough**



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**NATIONAL PERSONAL SAFETY DAY  
WEDNESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**

Neighbourhood Watch, who support National Personal Safety Day, hope to have stands in the morning around Bexley Borough in Sidcup, Crayford, Belvedere and Welling.

**THIS YEAR'S THEME**

This year, Suzy Lamplugh Trust is urging young men, throughout the UK to 'Keep It REAL', by making themselves aware of the dangers and taking steps to ensure their own safety.

Keep it:            R is for **READY**  
                          E is for **EDUCATE**  
                          A is for **ALERT**  
                          L is for **LEGAL**

Young men are encouraged to be READY in case an incident occurs. EDUCATE yourselves about the dangers you could come into contact with. Be ALERT to danger - it may happen when you least expect it. Above all - stay LEGAL.

Carrying a knife for self-defense not only endangers yourself and others, but also carries a sentence of up to 4 years in prison.

**COORDINATORS EMAIL ADDRESSES**

*Neighbourhood Watch Office is aware that some coordinators are not getting NW updates. This could be due to the office block address system being spammed, which is being checked and dealt with as a priority, or simply a change of email address. If you have changed your email address could you please let our office know ASAP.*

*To help rectify the situation, if you know other coordinators in your area could you please check with them to see if they are receiving NW alerts/updates and Newsletters.*

*Thank you for your co-operation.*

**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH MEMBERS HELP TO  
COMBAT THE INCREASE IN ARSON IN BEXLEY**

In the areas where there has been a huge increase in the deliberate starting of fires NW, working with Bexley Fire Brigade and Bexley Community Safety Partnership are asking members to be alert for such crime. Additionally we together with Bexley Police are working to increase HoundWatch membership as another way of trying to weed out these "Firebug Criminals" who are causing serious damage in some areas of our Borough.

***Dog Walkers wishing to join HOUNDWATCH should email our office at the address in the heading.***



Action Fraud is not an emergency service  
dial 999 if you are in immediate danger.

**Royal Mail Email Scam**

A scam email is currently being sent to victims fraudulently claiming to be from the Royal Mail. Attached to the email is the CryptoLocker virus.

The victim receives an email purporting to be from the Royal Mail stating that they are holding a parcel/letter for the victim. The victim is then required to contact the Royal Mail to arrange for the item to be re-sent collected.

By following the instructions within the email the CryptoLocker virus is subsequently downloaded to the victim's computer. This virus encrypts files on the victim's system and requests a ransom be paid in order for the files to be decrypted.

Additional incentive is added for early repayment as the RansomWare states that the cost of decrypting the files will increase the longer the fine is outstanding.

Protect yourself:

- Look at who the email is addressed to. Is it generic or specifically addressed?
- Look at the quality of the images included on the email. Are they of sufficient high quality that they could come from Royal Mail?
- Do not open attachments from unsolicited emails regardless of who they are from.
- Do not click on the link supplied. Instead, go to the relevant website and log in from there.
- Check the address of any email received to see if it appears legitimate.



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**Crimestoppers warns public against scammers  
impersonating their charity**

Crimestoppers has been alerted to a small number of calls where scammers have been impersonating their call handlers and asking for personal information, including bank details.

The charity has been warned about a group of scammers who have 'hijacked' the 0800 555 111 number. The scammers are calling people, saying they are "Crimestoppers at the Home Office" and directing them to our website to clarify our number. They are then asking for personal details.

Crimestoppers has never, and will never, make cold calls to members of the public asking for any personal details, so if anyone does receive a call from someone asking for personal information and claiming to be from Crimestoppers, please report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH