



Bexley Borough Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter

Spring 2018

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

Chairman: Dana Wiffen, **Vice Chairman:** Grant Murrell

Secretary: Claire Tack, **Editor:** Pam Bartle

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**2018 is a significant year for Bexley Borough Neighbourhood
Watch Association as we are celebrating our 20th year in
existence as an Association.**

From the early days with just a few members our membership known as 'Street Coordinators' has grown to over 1,100, covering over 42,000 homes. Areas covered by NW Coordinators (you) are known as Watches. We also have a pro-active team of office volunteers and committee members who give up their time to support us. These are some of the things covered by our great band of helpers, which includes you.

1. Give talks to other groups.
2. Attend various partners meetings.
3. Produce our members' quarterly newsletter.
4. Write the NW column for the Bexley Magazine.
5. Collate our weekly report information from Police teams/residents and our members to inform NW Coordinators of the crime in their wards.
6. Help out in our busy office.
7. Arrange fund raising events.
8. Put up our street signs right across Bexley Borough.
9. Distribute our new member packs to addresses across the Borough.
10. Improve our communication and improve our computer systems.
11. Meet the public from our stands, which we have at the various events in Bexley during the spring, summer and autumn and indoor events during the winter.
12. Warn residents of crime in their covered area and meet with local police teams known as DWO's (Dedicated Ward Officers).
13. Increase membership from stands and in concentrated areas around burglary.
14. Support our membership offering assistance where needed.
15. Complete our Association's annual returns and keep accurate accounts.

We thank you for your hard work and support by making residents vigilant. Several arrests have been made recently due to residents contacting the police. This has helped bring down burglary figures, which is our main aim.

AGM: Friday 8th June 2018. (Time & Location to be advised)

We hope you can attend.



LATEST MEMBERSHIP STATS

ShopWatch = 514

HoundWatch = 448

FaithWatch = 57

PlotWatch = 65

HorseWatch = 10

Residential Coordinators = 1,141

Homes Covered = 42,758

CLUSTER MEETING – 21st November 2017

The meeting was well attended by co-ordinators from Christchurch, Blendon & Penhill, Blackfen & Lamorbey, Longlands, Sidcup, East Wickham, St. Michael's, Danson, Falconwood & Welling, Cray Meadows and St. Mary's wards. Inspector Gary Allen gave a crime report for each ward and took questions from the floor. Co-ordinators had the opportunity to speak to seven other attending officers. Trading Standards were represented by Julie Powell who gave a presentation about becoming a 'Friend against Scams' and explained all the different types of scams.





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Queen Marys Hospital Open 9th September 2017 Day



James Brokenshire visiting our stand at QMH. Seen here with NW Chairman Dana Wiffen and Secretary Claire Tack

2017 EVENTS HELD FROM OCTOBER TO DECEMBER

SEPT-9th QMH OPEN DAY- (Inc. Petition signing save Bexleyheath Police Station)
SEPT-19th DOG CHIPPING EVENT-Danson Park - (Inc. Petition signing save Bexleyheath Police Station)
SEPT-29th OLDER PEOPLES FORUM-Civic Offices
OCT-5th NPSD-National Personal Safety Day-Bexleyheath Mall Shopping Centre-
OCT-14th AGEING WELL EVENT - Civic Offices
OCT-17th Petition Presentation at City Hall-to Assembly Member Gareth Bacon
OCT-17th DOGS TRUST COMMUNITY EVENT-East Wickham
OCT-23rd ZUMBA FUND RAISING EVENT-Welling
OCT-25th+26th CORY's PUBLIC OPEN DAYS-Cory's Belvedere Plant
OCT-28th SLADE GREEN COMMUNITY DAY-Community Centre
NOV-7th NORTH CLUSTER COORDINATORS MEETING-Bexleyheath
NOV-21st SOUTH CLUSTER COORDINATORS MEETING-Bexleyheath
NOV-25th ASIAN GOLD THEFT MEETING-Danson Youth Centre
DEC-1st RESIDENTS MEETING FOR BLACKFEN & LAMORBEY & BLENDON & PENHILL WARDS WITH JAMES BROKENSHERE at Blackfen Library



Bexley's Mayor & Mayoress also showing their support for BBNWA at QMH.



Zumba Fund Raising Event held in Welling on 23rd October 2017



Dogs Trust Dog Chipping Event on 19th September 2017 in Danson Park where there was also recruiting for HoundWatch and collecting signatures to save our police station.

High levels of burglary continue into the New Year

The usual burglary spike that we had in the run up to Christmas, which was unusually high in 2017, did not reduce in January. Bexley has had around 30 burglaries each week in January, which is a high amount. Those of you that receive our weekly report and read it will already be aware of this.

BBNWA & DWO's have been working together to try and bring these numbers down and we urge you to be vigilant and to report anything or anyone you see that appears to be suspicious.

All information is vital to catching the thieves who continue to blight the lives of law-abiding residents. If you witness a burglary taking place ring 999, if you think you are observing suspicious persons or vehicles parked with suspicious person in them, ring 101, your ward team's direct number, or pass the information to us and we will ensure it goes to the relevant persons.

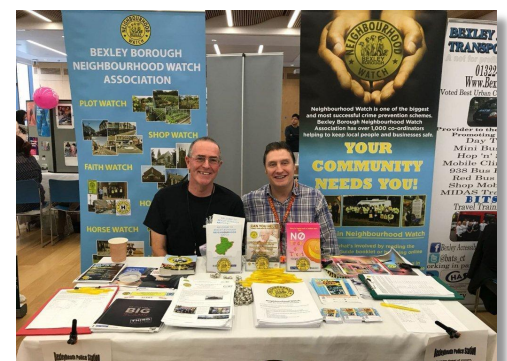
Already observant residents have reported people trying to gain entry to nearby properties and this has seen several arrests made by police.

Don't ignore loud noises during the night and if you hear a motorbike outside in the early hours look out as burglars often arrive by motorbike. The rider and pillion passenger then will attempt to break into a property through the front door. They will then look for car keys and the pillion rider will make off with a car from the drive.

Burglary is around 30 per week, but we still ask everyone to be vigilant and to make sure your cars and homes are locked and secure.



Grant Murrell & Olwyn Sinclair at the Slade Green Big Local Community Day on 28th October 2017



Grant Murrell & Dave Potter at The Older Persons Welfare Event held On 29th September 2017 at the Bexley Civic Offices



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Petition Presentation at City Hall to Gareth Bacon Assembly Member on 17th October 2017

People power does sometimes work. A **BIG THANK YOU** to all those that signed either the online petition or the hard copy. The photo shows 10 Neighbourhood Watch members with the Safer Neighbourhood Chairperson along with our London Assembly Member when we presented him with our petition of 8,000 signatures.

Not long after our visit we heard the great news that our police station had been saved.

This is great news for Bexley with rising crime across London. The closure of this important central base for the police would have resulted in massive problems for our residents.



Dogs Trust Community Event – East Wickham 17th October 2017



On the same day as we presented the petition at City Hall, Maria Rodrigues, Committee Member, was at the Dogs Trust Community Event in East Wickham. Maria is seen here with two of East Wickham Police Teams and two members of the Dogs Trust.

SOME ADVICE TO HELP STOP FRAUD

Help Stop Fraud is part of the national campaign from Financial Fraud Action UK and the Government, backed by the banking industry coming together to tackle fraud.

The advice being issued this week is **really simple** but it can stop you becoming a victim of fraud.

1. A **genuine** bank or organisation will **never** contact you out of the blue to ask for your PIN, full password or to move money to another account. Only give out your personal or financial details to use a service that you have given your consent to, that you trust and that you are expecting to be contacted by.
2. Don't be tricked into giving a fraudster access to your personal or financial details. Never automatically click on a link in an unexpected email or text.
3. Always question uninvited approaches in case it's a scam. Instead, contact the company directly using a known email or phone number.

Crime rises to highest level since 2007. According to the latest figures from the ONS, more than five million crimes were reported to police last year,

Police forces across England and Wales recorded 5.2 million offences in the year to the end of June, which was up by 13% on the previous 12 months and returning to levels not seen since 2007.

There was a 19% increase in the number of sexual offences recorded in England and Wales, up to 129,700. There was a similar rise in the number of violent crimes, which rose from 1,033,719 cases the previous year to 1,229,260 cases this year.

There has been a rise in crimes of many kinds as the number of offences reported to police rose past 5 million over the last year. Sexual offences and violence are up 19%, burglary 6%.

Office for National Statistics (ONS) data reveals the rise in violence was driven by increases in the violence without injury (21%) and stalking and harassment (36%) sub-categories.

There was also a 10% rise in the violence with injury category, which was mainly down to a jump in recorded assaults.

The ONS report said: Most of this volume increase was thought to result from improved recording practices but it is likely that rises in the most serious categories reflect genuine rises in violent crime. The lower volume but serious offences are well recorded by the police.

Police recorded an 11% rise in the number of thefts, with the crime continuing to rise over last two years.

Forces also logged 664 homicides in the 12 months from July 2016, which was a 2% fall compared with the previous year.

DO YOU KNOW YOUR DWOS?

DWOs are your Dedicated Ward Officers of which there are normally 2 PCs and 1 PCSO. All Coordinators should know their DWOs and we appreciate that some do and some don't. We, together with Bexley Police, are working to encourage DWOs to visit our members especially when they are cocooning around a burglary in your road/area. We also ask if you could try to introduce yourselves. Your DWOs often hold a surgery in local places like libraries. Why not visit them. Our office can give you the names and contact details of your team and our Weekly Report also carries this information. If you are not getting this report please let us have your contact detail as soon as possible.

Please let us know how it goes.



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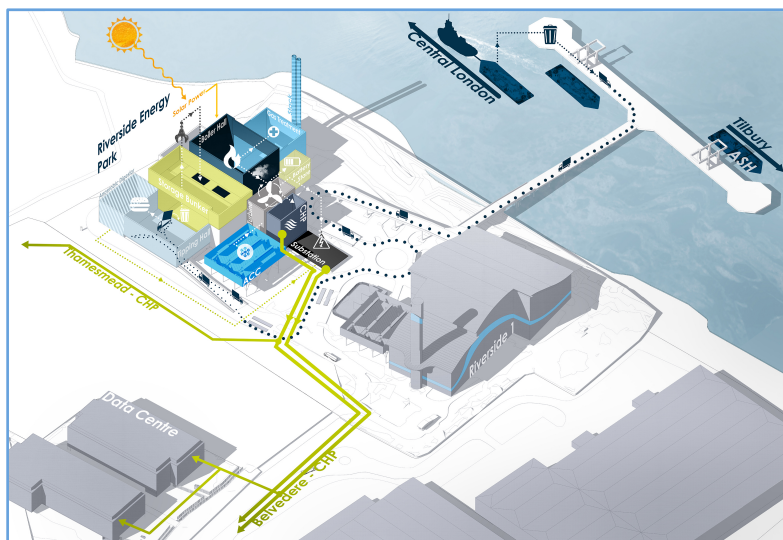
Cory Riverside Energy reveals plans for new energy park in London

Cory Riverside Energy has revealed plans to build an integrated, low-carbon energy park at its site in Belvedere.

The energy park would complement Cory's existing Riverside Resource Recovery Facility (RRRF), and comprise a range of technologies, including waste energy recovery, anaerobic digestion, solar panels and battery storage.

Cory will consult with the local community before formally submitting its planning application (known as a Development Consent Order) to the Secretary of State. Public exhibitions will be held in the summer of 2018.

If development consent is granted, then construction is targeted to begin in 2021 and the Energy Park is expected to be fully operational by 2024.



Alongside the existing RRRF, Cory forecasts that the new Riverside Energy Park would generate up to 96 megawatts (MW) of low carbon renewable electricity. Combined with the output of RRRF, this would be enough to power around 300,000 homes across London.

Cory also forecasts that Riverside Energy Park will divert a further 650,000 tonnes of residual waste away from landfill and create over 100 new full-time jobs when it becomes operational. The proposal would use Cory's existing river-based infrastructure on the River Thames to allow a further estimated 80,000 truck journeys to be removed from the roads.

For further information, please contact info@riversideenergypark.com or phone 0330 838 4254

BOUNDARY CHANGES

From the 1st May 2018 our new wards will come into effect as per map opposite. Some residents will find they will now be under new wards as boundaries have moved and others their ward name has changed. Additionally, some wards will have 2 Councillors only, while others still have 3. The number of Councillors has reduced from 63 to 45 and the Wards from 21 to 17.

Policing teams and the way NW operate to cover the Borough will change accordingly.

