Dear Resident,

Visiting shops and restaurants in Bromley North over the Christmas period I was impressed, as I hope you were, to see the new look in East Street with its smart granite paving, lamp columns and trees. Though works were delayed a little due to unforeseen problems with the water mains in the high street, we are now well under way with the second stage of improvements. I have no doubt that the £5.2m investment in partnership with Transport for London will attract new businesses and provide a welcome boost to the local area.

I am also pleased to report that a landmark development to bring a four star boutique hotel into the town centre is planned by one of our development partners. We have entered into a conditional agreement to grant a long lease of the Grade II listed former Bromley Town Hall to the Cathedral Group which is planning to provide the town with a high quality hotel and wedding and conference facility with a restaurant.

We are fully committed to ensuring that Bromley maintains its competitive position, building on our rich heritage, as well as stimulating new and quality developments. The Town Hall site is a fantastic opportunity to provide the town with a high-class facility with many original features that will enhance Bromley’s offer to visitors, shoppers and residents.

This is an exciting time for the town centre with the Bromley South Central cinema development and Bromley North Village improvements currently under way and yet more to come.

Cllr Stephen Carr
Leader, Bromley Council

Bromley North back to work

Work to revitalise Bromley North Village has restarted after a break for Christmas trade. The £5.2 million scheme to improve the public realm has started its next stage in East Street and the pedestrianised area of Market Square. The first section of the area was successfully completed before Christmas. The project will improve and provide an economic boost to the historic area and builds on other long-term developments in the town. Thames Water mains replacement works started in the northern section of the High Street from Monday 13 January, with the public realm improvements being carried out in conjunction with this work. Businesses will be open as usual with suitable pedestrian access maintained throughout the project.

Beautiful borough!

The Council has started a new initiative to crack down on fly-tippers, litter louts and irresponsible dog owners. Help us to help you keep the borough spick and span by not overfilling bins, taking rubbish home and clearing up after your pet. Use the ‘report it’ section of our website to let us know if there are problems in your part of the borough.

www.bromley.gov.uk/report
Cycle Safe
Make sure you and your family ride safely and don’t hide when out cycling, especially in the dark. Always use high visibility gear and make sure that lights are in working order. Bromley Council’s Road Safety Unit offers advice.
www.bromley.gov.uk/roadsafety

Bromley Cares
We are joining forces with the Care Quality Commission, Carers Bromley and Healthwatch Bromley to hold a ‘Bromley Cares’ conference. This is for families of residents in care homes for older people, their friends, their advocates and those involved in providing care to talk about expected standards and how to raise concerns. This will include learning about the role of the Care Quality Commission, the Council and other agencies in making sure our residents receive good quality care in the borough’s care homes. Places are limited, so if you want to join us, register your interest on 020 8461 7777.

Man Talk
The recently published Top Body, Top Mind is Bromley’s Annual Public Health Report that focuses on men’s health and the issue of inequality when compared to women’s. Those at the launch heard how men are worse off in terms of heart disease, cancer, respiratory disease, obesity, suicide, smoking, alcohol, drugs and accidents. The report highlighted this was an international, national and local issue with life expectancy for Bromley men four years less than women. The next steps will be to share the report with those who have responsibility for men’s health and well-being, to support services to communicate with men better, and look at ways to encourage men to increase their social support networks. Read the report at http://bromley.mylifeportal.co.uk/annual-public-health-report.aspx

Fraud Focus
There was no festive cheer for two residents convicted of fraud at the end of last year. Both failed to reveal income through their bank accounts which meant they had defrauded Bromley Council out of £22,469 and £23,796 of council tax and housing benefits respectively. Both faced costs of £550, are required to pay back the over payments and now have criminal records.

If you suspect benefit fraud call the Fraud Hotline in strictest confidence 0800 169 6975 or email audit@bromley.gov.uk

Bromley MyLife is changing...
Parents of children with special educational needs, as well as young people themselves can find information about services and how to access them at Bromley Local Offer http://bromley.mylifeportal.co.uk/lbb-local-offer.aspx.

Do you live in or around Cray Valley?
There is a new section on MyLife packed with information about the local community services, events and activities, local health services, training, employment and much more. http://bromley.mylifeportal.co.uk/cray-valley.aspx

Register to Vote
Don’t miss your chance to vote in elections – make sure you are on the register of electors. If not you may find it difficult to get credit or a mortgage, while failure to return the canvass form could result in a substantial fine. Find out what to do at www.bromley.gov.uk/elections

S’no Snow?
No snow yet, but we’ll be prepared! And our borough-wide Snow Friends groups will be ready and waiting to act. Why not join one, or if there isn’t a co-ordinated group in your area we can help you to set one up.

Snow Friends, supplied with snow scoop and salt, help support our snow clearance by focusing on local residential side roads which are not part of the Council’s snow clearance operation.

Find out more about Snow Friends or other volunteer groups at www.bromley.gov.uk/volunteering

Report, apply, pay at www.bromley.gov.uk