Dear Resident,

I am pleased to continue as Leader of Bromley Council and proud of our work so far to ensure the borough is a good place to live, do business and relax.

We are determined to build further on our work to ensure our town centres and local businesses thrive. We have secured multi-million pound funding for improvements in Beckenham and we are developing a new library for Penge, building on our state of the art facilities in Orpington and Biggin Hill. Work is well underway in Bromley South to bring a landmark £90 million development to the town centre including a nine-screen cinema, restaurants, retail and high quality housing. It’s good that the cinema-led development in Orpington is now under way. It will bring benefits to local residents as well as the local economy.

Bromley North is undergoing a major facelift and we are working with a development partner to bring a four star boutique hotel to the Old Town Hall site. In addition we are actively supporting the case for a health and wellbeing centre in Orpington, while also working with partners to secure the future of Orpington Hospital.

Also, during this year of commemoration of the First World War, we will take part in many poignant events to mark the 100th anniversary and I am pleased we have identified £25k to restore our war memorials as a fitting tribute.

Councillor Stephen Carr
Leader, Bromley Council

Glades cinema development gets approval

A plan to develop a new cinema and restaurants in Bromley town centre was approved by the Development Control Committee on 9 July 2014.

The decision includes permission for a five screen boutique cinema, new restaurant units and leisure facilities in the Glades shopping centre. The development, which will also be subject to conditions, will follow other improvements to the existing shopping mall.

“This is a high quality, upmarket scheme which will provide increased leisure facilities in the heart of Bromley town centre. We recognise the potential for the enhancement of amenities for residents and visitors and this development will benefit the local economy with the addition of jobs and investment and further promotes our vision to create vibrant and thriving town centres”, said Councillor Peter Dean, Chairman of Development Control Committee.

Councillor Nicola Dykes, Vice-Chairman of Development Control and Bromley Town Ward Councillor added: “This development demonstrates the investment confidence in Bromley town centre. This is a very exciting time for Bromley with the St Mark’s Square development, Bromley North Village improvements and plans for a boutique hotel at the Old Town Hall. The scheme will add to Bromley’s night-time economy and increase footfall, expanding on our vision to Build a Better Bromley.”

In addition to the 50 seats per screen cinema, the application includes plans for 12 restaurant units, two further refreshment areas and an additional retail unit within the shopping centre. The plans will also include any changes to the Elmfield Road entrance to the shopping centre.

For further information visit www.bromley.gov.uk/planning
Don’t wash raw chicken

Bromley Council’s Food Safety Team aims to reduce the number of people falling ill by raising awareness of the food bacteria ‘Campylobacter’, often found in raw chicken, and currently the most common cause of food poisoning in the UK.

One of the main ways Campylobacter is spread is through cross-contamination. Washing raw chicken can spread the bacteria by splashing it onto hands, work surfaces, clothing and cooking equipment. It is destroyed by cooking but if left behind in sinks and on work tops, it could be transferred to other foods and make you ill. So the message is don’t wash raw chicken before cooking!

www.food.gov.uk

Bromley North Village project progressing well

The £5.5m major improvement works in Bromley North Village are well under way and are progressing on schedule in the pedestrianised area of Market Square and in the High Street.

The project to improve and provide an economic boost to the historic area has been completed in East Street, White Hart Slip and Naval Walk with brand new granite paving, lamp columns and trees.

Thames Water works to replace the water main are almost complete on the final section in Market Square. The scheme is due to be completed on 30 November 2014 in time for the important Christmas trading period.

Care Directory

The new care services directory for Bromley 2014-15 is now available. The directory contains useful information about care options and includes comprehensive listings of providers for residential care or care in your own home.

Visit Bromley Care Directory or to receive a printed copy call Care Choices on 01223 207770.

New library for Penge town centre

Building work is now well under way at the site of the new library in Penge. Expected to be open at the end of August, the new and improved library will be located on Green Lane in the heart of the town centre. The new building will provide more modern facilities, community space, additional computers and a wider selection of books. The new, modern library with increased floor space and incorporating extra Council services will replace existing facilities in Penge and at Anerley Town Hall. This follows consultation with users.

The new building will create an attractive and welcoming atmosphere and will include Wi-Fi and plenty of reading space. It is serviced by good public transport with parking within a short walk.

Existing facilities in Penge and Anerley will close to the public two weeks earlier to enable removal of items to the new library. Options to continue a service in Anerley Town Hall are being investigated.

www.food.gov.uk

Report, apply, pay at www.bromley.gov.uk
Get moving, get active, get healthy

With summer here what better time to get active. Exercise can help conditions or improve the health of those with conditions such as coronary disease, cancer and type 2 diabetes. That’s why we’re supporting our GPs in Bromley to prescribe exercise as a form of medication. And why we’ve worked with Mytime Active to set up The Exercise Referral Hub as a one-stop-shop so residents with a medical condition can find out about the exercise programmes available to help them get active. There are plenty to choose from including healthy walks, cycling, swimming, gym activities or programmes geared to older men and women and there’s information about diet and healthy lifestyles. So if you have a medical condition please ask your doctor about The Exercise Referral Hub.

And if you live, work or relax in Bromley and don’t have an existing medical condition there are loads of exercise activities available to you.

Find out more at http://bromley.mylifeportal.co.uk/exercise.aspx

Feeling hot, hot, hot

Most of us love a bit of sun but when temperatures soar it can be dangerous for some people if they get too hot - the elderly, people with heart and respiratory conditions, those with serious health problems, and children and babies are particularly at risk.

For top tips on keeping cool and advice on how to identify and help those at risk visit www.bromley.gov.uk

Check it out

Free NHS health checks are available for all adults aged 40-74 who don’t have a pre-existing condition. You can expect to receive a letter from your GP inviting you for your free NHS check which will cover your circulatory and vascular health and what your risk of getting a disabling vascular disease is. If you haven’t had your letter yet, don’t worry, take a look online to get advice on what to do and how to keep healthy.

http://bromley.mylifeportal.co.uk/nhs-health-checks.aspx

Walk this way

Walking is another great way to get fit. Bromley has many formal and informal walks taking place across the borough. Right now we’re working with Bromley Healthcare to recruit volunteers to help lead some of these walks or to support existing walk leaders. If you’re interested in knowing more you can download information about attending a one day training session.

More information: BromleyMyLife Walking

Report, apply, pay at www.bromley.gov.uk
Fostering – a flexible career

Bromley’s foster carers do an incredible job whether as a short term or long term carer or by caring for a disabled child to enable families to have a little time to do things which are not possible in a normal day.

At any one time in Bromley, some 265 children and young people become ‘looked-after’ children through relationship breakdown, parents unable to cope for a period, bereavement or other reasons. They need caring people to look after them.

The rewards are good, so could you fit the bill? Or do you know someone who might be interested?

Find out more, or apply at www.bromley.gov.uk/fostering

Summer Fun

Bromley’s parks programme of activities for young people is taking place again – it aims to be even bigger and better than last year and it’s still free.

There are all the favourite activities for young people between the ages of 10 and 19 or up to 25 for those with a disability. Choose from popular sports to DJ-ing, arts and craft to dancing and nail art, as well as climbing walls, bouncy castles, laser tag and zorb balls. Plus this year there will be two special Saturdays for ‘older’ young people aged 12+ on 2 and 23 August.

Come rain or shine our Youth Support Team look forward to seeing you in our parks this summer. Why not bring a picnic and stay for the afternoon.

Find out what is on in each park at: www.facebook.com/bromleyyouthactivities or www.bromley.gov.uk/youthactivities

Good for the Garden – and you!

Frequent gardeners – this is the service for you! If you are unable to compost large amounts of garden waste, our Green Garden Waste wheelie bin collection is perfect.

And if you garden less frequently or have a smaller plot, why not share a bin with a neighbour? At £1.15 a week, – that’s £60 a year – you will receive a large 240 litre wheelie bin to share for your green garden waste and the benefit of regular collections; such a convenient way to dispose of garden waste.

For membership and full details call 0300 303 8658 or apply online www.bromley.gov.uk/gardenwaste

Museum commemorates First World War

During this 100th anniversary year of the First World War, you may like to visit Bromley Museum’s special exhibition which looks at the impact of the war on local life in Bromley. The exhibition is free and runs until 26 September, 2014.

Call or email for more information 01689 873826 – bromley.museum@bromley.gov.uk

Bromley Museum, The Priory, Church Hill, Orpington, BR6 0HH.

Check opening times at www.bromley.gov.uk/bromleymuseum

Friends indeed

The Friends’ Forum is an umbrella group for all our Friends of Parks groups which celebrates successes and shares information and good ideas. The forum’s recent ‘Working Together’ conference covered the borough’s green spaces, both urban and rural parks and woodlands as well as common land. Why not take a couple of minutes to look at the forum’s website to see just how comprehensive their work and support is and how you can get involved, if you haven’t already!

www.bromleyfriendsforum.org

Conference speakers and Friends Forum Committee, from l to r: Tony Leach, Chief Executive London Parks/Green Spaces Forum, Peter Woodward, Chairman Bromley Friends Forum, Councillor Peter Fortune, Health and Wellbeing Board Chairman, Larry Herbert, Vice-Chairman Bromley Friends Forum, Darren Russell, Secretary of Friends Forum

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