

OUR Bromley

LONDON'S BEST BOROUGH

AUGUST 2026 | ISSUE 10



The new Walnuts is open!

£17m investment
in leisure centre

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Business support and
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Occupational Therapists
help residents live
their best life

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WEEK 1

with your recycling and
waste calendar PAGE 15

Opportunities to give back to your community



Shared Lives

Your Lives – Our Lives – Shared Lives

Become a Shared Lives Carer

If you have room in your heart and family home and want to make a positive difference to the lives of vulnerable adults in Bromley – why not try Shared Lives.

Join us in making a real difference by helping a vulnerable adult lead a more fulfilled life, giving back to your community, all while earning a rewarding income. Comprehensive training and support is provided.

Start your Shared Life journey today! Find out more, scan the QR code or visit our website



SUPPORT PROVIDED BY CARERS:

- ✓ Day support
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Approved Shared Lives Carers receive up to £650 per week plus tax relief allowances.

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www.bromley.gov.uk/sharedlives



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Dear Resident,

I very much hope that this magazine finds you well and that you are enjoying the fantastic summer weather. Happy memories of 1976 for many of us certainly, even if it has been tough going for our furry friends and gardens of late.

These have been exciting times at the Council in recent weeks as well, as we have seen two absolutely stand out red-letter events take place.

Firstly, the re-opening of the hugely enhanced Walnuts Leisure Centre in Orpington followed by a celebration weekend to mark the completion of Crystal Palace Park's regeneration works including the newly restored Dinosaurs, with both taking place in front of big crowds bathed in brilliant sunshine.

For parents of children of all ages, it really is worth making a trip to see the Dinosaurs if you can. There are timeless memories for life simply waiting for impressionable young minds to take in up there and it would be a great shame to miss out.

Moving forward, our much improved Waldo Road Reuse and Recycling Centre remains on schedule for opening later in the year and work continues apace on the rebuild of West Wickham Leisure Centre and the brand-new Bromley Central Library, so these remain busy times all round.

Less encouragingly, Council-Tax-wise, the gathering storm-clouds I have been warning about for several years, remain a source of heightened concern – but more about that inside.

For now, let's enjoy the good weather while it still prevails.

Kind regards,

Cllr Colin P. Smith

Bromley Council Leader

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Congratulations!

Fourteen Green Flags were awarded to parks or green spaces in Bromley this year with three receiving the award for the first time.

The Green Flag Awards represent an independent quality mark for Bromley's parks and are testament to the ongoing partnership work of Friends of Parks Groups with idverde and the Council. Here's just a selection of this year's winners.

The full list of sites awarded a Green Flag is below:

- Biggin Hill Recreation Ground
- Cator Park
- Chislehurst and Walden Recreation Ground
- Darrick and Newstead Woods
- Hayes Common
- High Elms Country Park
- Hoblingwell Recreation Ground
- Jubilee Country Park
- Kelsey Park
- Keston Common
- Queens Gardens
- Scadbury Park
- South Hill Woods
- Chislehurst Commons, which is managed by a Board of Trustees.

Community Green Flags were awarded at:

- Dorset Road Allotments
- Winsford Gardens.



Hayes Common



Biggin Hill Recreation Ground



Darrick and Newstead Woods



Keston Common



High Elms Country Park



Hoblingwell Recreation Ground

“Congratulations to everyone who has been involved in making this happen, and particularly to the parks team who worked hard to bring about such success and to our dedicated Friends of Parks Groups’ volunteers whose dedication makes our parks and green spaces that extra bit special.”

Councillor Josh Coldspring-White,
Executive Councillor
for Environment



News Round-up

The latest on our Borough - find out more at www.bromley.gov.uk/news
You can sign up for the Our Bromley newsletter - straight to your email inbox

Dinosaurs no longer at risk

The world's first full-scale reconstructions of dinosaurs, originally unveiled in Crystal Palace Park in 1854, are now off Historic England's Heritage Risk Register where they were placed six years ago due to severe cracking and lost parts such as teeth, toes and tails. Now the Grade I listed creatures have been restored to their former glory as part of the park's multi-million-pound regeneration which has just reached completion. *More on Crystal Palace Park's regeneration, page 22.*

Working it out

Young people from across the Borough met employers, training providers and education partners at the third annual Aspire, Inspire, Motivate (AIM) Job Fair in Orpington.

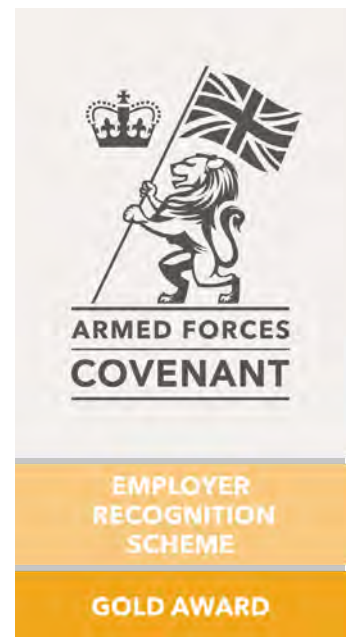
Thirty-five organisations took part, offering support to local young people as they forge the early stages of their career.



Armed Forces support gets Gold Award

Outstanding Support for the Armed Forces Community has gained the Council a prestigious Gold Award accreditation, part of the Ministry of Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS). This underlines

the Council's continued support following signing the Armed Forces Covenant three years ago, renewing the commitment made a decade before. This summer the Council hosted an Armed Forces Day celebratory event in Queens Gardens which saw local units and organisations come together to honour the Community locally. Just 10 of the 162 national 2026 Gold Award recipients are in Greater London, with three, including the Council, based in the Borough. Bromley FC Community Trust is one. *More about Bromley FC on page 25.*





Building a Picture

During the Walnuts Leisure Centre's major refurbishment, local care experienced young people took part in a project designed to help them develop new photographic skills by capturing the transformation over several visits. As well as making thoughtful pictures, they gained an insight into the construction industry, building their confidence through hands-on creative learning. The resulting photographs are showcased at the Centre. *See more Walnuts news on page 8.*

Boost your health and wellbeing

Discover what's happening near you with Simply Connect Bromley, managed and delivered by Community Links Bromley. Residents will find a wide range of local social groups, activities and events, as well as trusted advice and support on the site, helping everyone live well. Whether it's about staying active, meeting new people, or finding helpful services, it's all in one place. Start exploring today to see what Bromley has to offer.

**bromley.
simplyconnect.uk**



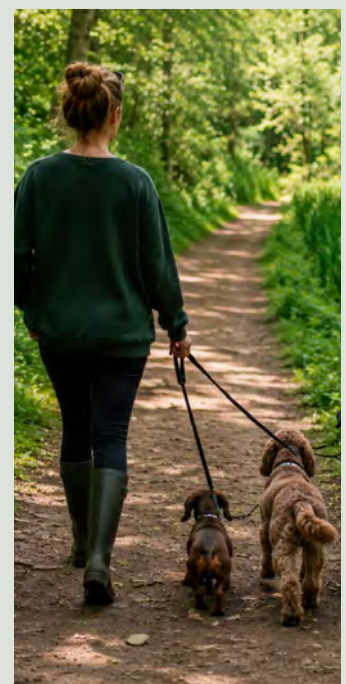
Highway News

A new contractor, FM Conway, has been engaged for highways and street-lighting maintenance following a £71 million tender process. The contract will cover both minor and major works across the Borough and will run until 2032. Bromley's highway network comprises 856 miles (1370 km) of footway and 552 miles (884 km) of carriageway. Good quality and well-maintained streets are important to the street scene appearance and to ensure streets are both safe and accessible for users.

Dog Controls should stay

Dog controls across the borough are recommended by the Council to stay in place for a further three years, in line with current legislation. Bromley's Dog Control PSPO promotes responsible dog ownership, supporting both dog and public safety. The rules forbid fouling, exclude dogs from play parks, require the use of leads, as well as limit how many dogs can be walked at the same time by one person. Consultation results on the extension will be known soon.

www.bromley.gov.uk/DogControl





Satisfaction Survey

Park visitors and residents can share views about parks and open spaces online in the annual park user satisfaction survey up until 4 September. Residents are encouraged to say what is important to them about their local green space. Last year's comments showed satisfaction with access and maintenance but residents wanted better plays areas. Thanks to fundraising with Friends of Parks and community groups, playgrounds at Hoblingwell Recreation Ground, Churchfields Recreation Ground and Shaftesbury Park have been refurbished. The Council's Jubilee Parks Fund supported improvements in another eight playgrounds in the last year. A partnership grant of £434k is enabling restoration of the Moated Manor in Scadbury Park, while work in Keston Common to improve a pond area is made possible by £600k of grants secured by the Council. www.bromley.gov.uk/parkusersurvey See Friends Forum on page 14.



Central Library frontage revealed

The wraps are off the new Central Library building revealing an eye-catching frontage adorned with attractive green tiles. It won't be too long before residents can enter into a library that uses space efficiently for an expanded children's section, modern study areas and accessible and changing places toilets. The eagerly awaited new Central Library follows eight library refurbishments across the Borough over the past few years. 'Pop-up' library spaces provide continuity while the Central Library is closed, and its vast collection of books transferred to the new site. www.bromley.gov.uk/newcentrallibrary

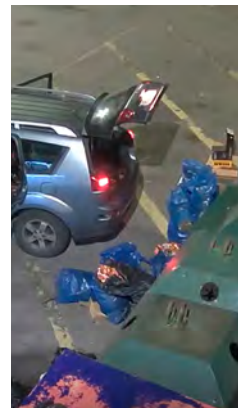
Understanding Loneliness

Residents are invited to spare 10-15 minutes to take part in research to better understand the factors contributing to loneliness. Bromley Council is partnering with Sheffield Hallam University to run an online survey that offers a unique opportunity for residents 16 and over to share their views, with the resulting anonymised data expected to be considered in future service development.



Know about Chislehurst Fly-tipping?

Witnesses are being sought regarding a series of fly-tip incidents. Anyone supplying information leading to a prosecution could be eligible for a £500 enviro-crime reward. CCTV footage taken near Chislehurst Recycling Centre appears to show two fly-tippers in a series of incidents in April. The dumped sacks were unloaded from a dark estate vehicle number plate 9547 FVG, which is not registered in the UK. Residents are reminded never to leave waste around recycling banks. On the rare occasion a recycling bank is full, please dispose of household waste at the next available location. Share evidence at www.bromley.gov.uk/envirocrime





Get exercising, swimming, having fun with friends – get along to the Walnuts Leisure Centre following its fabulous £17million transformation!

There's something for everyone at the beautifully transformed Walnuts Leisure Centre, which was officially opened by the Mayor of Bromley to the cheers of residents itching to get inside and explore the new state-of-the-art facilities.

The bright new reception and café welcome you to a host of new leisure offerings at the Walnuts, open once more for regular use through Mytime Active, the Borough's longstanding leisure partner.

Once the ribbon was cut, the strains of a New Orleans brass band heralded the excitement of what was

to come on entering the centre. The upbeat music and other entertainment provided by Orpington 1st BID

did residents proud. Acrobatic performers demonstrated a level of fitness that most can only dream about



but no doubt inspired many to get active at their own level.

Outside, market spaces were filled by various partners and leisure clubs providing interest while residents were invited to make a delicious drink on a smoothie bike, enjoy ice cream, marvel at Bromley FC's League Two trophy and polish up their own skills with football choreographer Mike Delaney. The celebrations continued with special sports related activities organised by Orpington Library for younger community members.

The Mayor of Bromley, Councillor Christine Harris said, "It was wonderful to

see residents coming together for the opening. Our leisure centres are so important for both improving our health and creating a sense of belonging."

Steve May, Chief Executive Officer at Mytime Active agreed, saying: "For Mytime Active, this is about far more than reopening a leisure centre; it's restoring a place that sits at the heart of the community."

Orpington 1st BID chairman, Gary Valentine, said, "We are delighted that this important local asset is back welcoming residents again, bringing more visitors to the town centre. It's great to see such a significant investment in Orpington."



It's all at the Walnuts

Fitness, swimming and family fun all under one roof. Different membership packages are available to suit everyone's needs. Get moving at

www.mytimeactive.co.uk/walnuts2026



What's inside?

- A new competition-length swimming pool and training pool
- Bright new reception and café areas
- Refreshed and newly marked sports hall
- A children's splash wall for more family fun
- News sauna and steam room for post-workout relaxation
- Expanded two-level gym, complete with a functional training area and brand-new fitness equipment
- State-of-the-art EGYM smart strength training equipment, allowing adjustable workouts and supporting rehabilitation
- Completely new heating system to ensure reduced running costs
- Improved pool accessibility with a Poolpod lift to allow swift and easy access to either pool for those who may find it more difficult
- New Changing Places and accessible toilets



"As a hub for regional sporting excellence and a welcoming centre for families and visitors, the refreshed Walnuts Leisure Centre in Orpington is a huge boost to the leisure facilities in the Borough. It's great to see residents enjoying the centre once more."

Councillor Yvonne Bear, Executive Councillor for Renewal, Recreation and Housing

FOSTER TODAY. CHANGE TOMORROW.

Every day, children
in our community
need a safe place to
call home.

Foster carers provide
stability, care and
belonging, helping
children build
brighter futures.

**Could you be the
difference?**

Right now,

340+

children are
looked after in
Bromley

Support that we offer:



Allocated
supervising
social worker



Full training
and
ongoing support



Generous
fostering
allowance



Inhouse
therapeutic
support service

**COULD YOU FOSTER
WITH BROMLEY?**

We'd love to hear from you.

📞 020 8461 7701

🌐 www.bromley.gov.uk/fostering

✉ fostering@bromley.gov.uk



Your Elected Representatives

New members of the Executive are pictured above with the Leader of the Council. From left to right: Cllr Colin Smith, Leader of the Council, Cllr Josh Coldspring-White, Environment, Cllr Jonathan Andrews, Children, Education and Families, Cllr Simon Fawthrop, Highways and Road Safety

The recent Local Elections are part of the four-yearly democratic process where residents elect 58 Councillors across 22 wards in Bromley

The Executive is the Council's main decision-making body, chaired by the Leader of the Council, Cllr Colin Smith. It makes decisions itself or Executive Members, Portfolio Holders, make decisions on matters relating to their specialist areas, following scrutiny at Policy Development and Scrutiny (PDS) committees which include a range of different councillors.



Cllr Colin Smith
Leader of the Council

Bickley and Sundridge Ward



Cllr Kate Lymer
Deputy Leader and Resources,
Commissioning & Contract
Management

Bickley and Sundridge Ward



Cllr Jonathan Andrews
Children, Education and Families

Darwin Ward



Cllr Yvonne Bear
Renewal, Recreation and
Housing

St Mary Cray Ward



Cllr Josh Coldspring-White
Environment

Hayes & Coney Hall Ward



Cllr Simon Fawthrop
Transport, Highways and
Road safety

Petts Wood & Knoll Ward



Cllr Angela Page
Public Protection and
Enforcement

Farnborough & Crofton Ward



Cllr Diane Smith
Adult Care and Health

Hayes & Coney Hall Ward



Full Council

The ultimate decisionmaking body, consisting of all elected councillors. It is legally required to set the annual budget and Council Tax, approve major policy frameworks, and adopt or change the council's constitution.

Asking Questions

Residents can ask questions at council meetings and contact their local ward councillors for advice on local issues.

Getting in touch

Don't forget: You can report routine problems online freeing up councillor time to focus on the more complex issues raised.

www.bromley.gov.uk/report

Ward Councillors represent the interests of each of the 22 wards across the Borough. As advocates for their local communities, ward councillors listen to and respond to residents' issues as part of their casework. Executive Councillors are also Ward Councillors. Details of your local representatives and how to reach them are on the Council website. Find your Ward Councillors and more information at

www.bromley.gov.uk/council-democracy



Creating Opportunities

Bromley Council can help you find work, start a business, grow an existing one or get training and skills support.

“Through Bromley Works, Opportunity Bromley and a range of partner organisations, there’s more support available than many people realise,” says Daniel Murray, Bromley’s Head of Economic Development. “Economic development isn’t just about attracting investment,” he explains. “It’s about creating opportunities for local people. Whether you’re looking for work, thinking about starting a business or already running one, there’s a wide range of support available through Bromley Council and our partners. We want more residents to know it’s there and to feel confident about making use of it.”

Seek and you will find

There’s support in Bromley to get back into work after a time out, or due to a disability or for returning mums and dads. For some it’s about helping build confidence and gaining skills to run their own business. For others is about identifying strengths and finding the right job or an introduction to a company willing to make some reasonable adjustments to make the seemingly impossible possible.



Opportunity Bromley

A business-led partnership helping more businesses choose Bromley, supporting local companies to grow and creating jobs for residents.

What makes Bromley such a great place to do business?

- Grade A office space
- Global connectivity
- 110,000-strong workforce
- Direct M25 access
- 16 minutes to London Victoria
- 28,000 established businesses
- Pro-growth council.

www.opportunitybromley.com

Business Support

Those thinking of starting a business or looking to grow an existing one can really benefit from Opportunity Bromley which provides a single point of access to a wide range of business support available across the Borough and beyond. It’s free online Business Support Directory on the Opportunity Bromley website brings together specialist advice, funding, mentoring, networking opportunities and expert guidance to help businesses at every stage of their journey.

Residents considering starting their own business can also access support from Start Up Bromley, which offers workshops, one-to-one advice, mentoring and practical guidance through Bromley’s library network.



“Bromley is great for business and with new initiatives such as our Charter Market pilot for entrepreneurs to test out products and Bromley Works supporting people in to work, we continue to innovate in support of the local economy”

Councillor Yvonne Bear Executive Councillor for Renewal, Recreation and Housing

Case history

Local firm loves Bromley

Econ Group was established in Orpington in 1982 and supports all 32 London Boroughs and the UK with enabling works which includes Asbestos Removal, Industrial Dismantling, Demolition and Land Remediation. Following a period of steady expansion, it experienced exponential growth from 2023/4 onwards.

“Opportunity Bromley has really helped us through the high growth networking to secure work,” says Commercial Manager, Stephen Ralley.

“Bromley is a good place to be, 30 minutes into London by train, there are good road links too, the M25 is 10 minutes away linking all around London.”

Recruiting New Staff

“The company could take on a number of staff immediately, but the lack of appropriate skills is the hardest thing we face in our industry,” says Stephen. “We are building a new Head Office and have plans for a training centre. It makes sense for people nearby, whether they come to work



for us or not.

“We are also liaising with the Council’s Bromley Works initiative to see if we can find people this way to train and recruit. We want to teach them the right and safe way to operate construction plant and so on. It will really benefit the community.”

Test Market Pilot helped entrepreneurs meet their customers

This pilot scheme offered businesses the chance to test products at Bromley Charter Market with an affordable low-risk opportunity to trial products and services in a real market environment. Growing businesses were able to talk to people about their product, better understand the market, learn and react to feedback with residents playing their part in product development too.

Case history

Charging Ahead

Entrepreneur Sheng Liu chose Bromley as his base when looking to move out of central London and set up his own business. Now his electric vehicle charging company, voltshare, has become a nationwide business with more than 800 clients.

“Bromley is an important base for our business,” says Sheng. Good schools and transport connections with easy access to London’s business ecosystems are some of the reasons my wife and I chose Bromley fifteen years ago - it’s a great place.”

“The business started in 2019 as a community-based network of home Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points, changing to its current focus on providing a pay-as-you-go charging solution for



the leisure industry - private clubs, guest houses and pubs.

Invaluable Support

“The support of the Council has been invaluable to us, especially being chosen as one of the local high-growth businesses. To have that recognition was very helpful as are the local networking sessions, meet-the-buyer events and the opportunity to talk to other high growth businesses.

“Promotion on the Councils’ blog and web pages has been helpful too as well as local introductions resulting in commissions within the Borough. Now we are liaising with the Council’s Bromley Works to see if we can recruit staff that way as we expand here in the Borough,” Sheng concludes.

www.bromley.gov.uk/business-support-advice

Bromley

Works is the Council’s employment and skills service, delivering specialist support to Bromley residents who are out of work or need additional help to move towards employment. Working with local employers, the service offers a range of programmes designed to help eligible residents build confidence, develop skills, and secure sustainable employment. To find out more about the support currently available, visit **www.opportunitybromley.com/bromley-works**

Making Friends

Bromley's beautiful green spaces are supported by an extraordinary network of Friends of Parks' volunteers, brought together through the Friends Forum

Larry has dedicated years to helping the Borough's Friends of Parks groups, first as a committee member and now as Chairman of the Friends Forum. The Forum acts as a link between the Council, idverde, Bromley's green space partner, and around 60 Friends of Parks Groups, representing some 1,000 volunteers who support local parks through gardening, litter picking and conservation projects.

"I joined the Friends Forum committee in 2012," says Larry. "My

IT background led me to enhance the Forum's website. Before long, I became Deputy Chairman and then Chairman, a role I've been re-elected to ever since."

The Friends Forum website is a valuable source of information and advice for volunteer groups across the borough.

As Chairman, Larry attends regular meetings with partners and stakeholders. These have helped deliver practical benefits, including joint fundraising initiatives and opportunities for groups

to recruit new volunteers. The Forum has a modest Council-funded budget for first aid training and small grants up to £500 for groups to buy items such as specialist tools, bespoke clothing, interpretation boards and signage.

Larry also chairs the Friends of Keston Common. "The Council has secured grants to restore one of the ponds creating new wetland habitats, improving biodiversity," Larry explains. "It's a good example of the Council, idverde and Friends Groups coming together to enhance our green spaces."

The Friends Forum

of Bromley Parks and Green Spaces works in partnership with the Council to create a better environment for all. Each Friends Group cares for a specific green space, helping to improve:

- conservation
- recreational facilities
- wellbeing of visitors
- natural history and biodiversity

www.bromleyfriendsforum.org

Why not become a Friend of your Park? Find out how at **www.bromley.gov.uk/parkfriends**



A Green Flag Award is a quality sign for parks and green spaces showing that a park is clean, safe, and well managed. This year, Bromley was awarded fourteen Green Flags and the Borough's Friends of Parks Groups' volunteers played a central role in helping to achieve these alongside idverde and the Council all working hard to gain such success.

Environment Matters

even more than ever

Thank you for your recycling efforts

Bromley has once again secured its position as London's leading recycling borough, marking the fourth year in a row at the top. This achievement is a result of the commitment and dedication of our residents, who do their best to recycle as much as they can.

In 2024/25, Bromley achieved a recycling rate of 49.9%, a figure that reflects the hard work of our residents and the effectiveness of our recycling initiatives. While this is fantastic, there is still more we can do to push towards even higher rates.

To order new boxes, please visit bromley.gov.uk/recycling



You can recycle

- ✓ Paper and cardboard
- ✓ Plastic bottles, tubs and trays
- ✓ Tins, cans, aluminium foil, empty aerosol cans
- ✓ Glass bottles and jars
- ✓ Food waste

Welcome

It is my pleasure, as the new Executive Councillor for Environment on Bromley Council, to be able to welcome you to the first Environment Matters since the local elections in May. I'd like to take this opportunity to assure residents that my colleagues and I are working hard each and every day to make our wonderful borough cleaner and greener, so you can be even prouder to call Bromley home.

One of the things that makes Bromley such a special place to live is our commitment to our environment – that's why it was fantastic to see us as London's leading recycling Borough for a fourth year running. Thank you for doing your bit for our community by recycling – in doing so, you are protecting nature for generations to come, whilst providing financial benefit to the Council.

I am pleased to confirm that we are now able to accept both plastic and metal tubes in your recycling collections, meaning that you can now put empty tubes of toothpaste or tomato puree in your recycling collection. Whilst these are relatively small items, it is a welcome improvement in what can be recycled. It still remains important to minimise waste where we can and our joint effort can make a real impact.

The collection of garden waste is also directly contributing to our overall recycling figures, with garden waste being composted. I know you will join me in thanking our Veolia recycling and waste collection teams. Despite multiple heatwaves this summer, they have continued to collect our waste in the efficient manner you rightfully expect. It's especially welcome to hear stories of residents providing them with water and ice lollies – in Bromley, we really are all in it together! Our precious green spaces have provided us with a much-needed reprieve during hot days – and I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting our brilliant Friends of Parks groups, as well as our Street and Tree Friends. Their commitment to our community is awe-inspiring, and I know I speak on behalf of all of you when I thank them for all they do to make Bromley an even better place to live.

With best wishes
Josh

Councillor Josh Coldspring-White
Executive Councillor for Environment



High-Viz Heroes

In Bromley, over 250 members of staff work tirelessly collecting recycling and waste, keeping the streets clean, and operating Reuse and Recycling Centres. They go out in all weathers to ensure high quality services are delivered. For these high-vis heroes, a smile and a wave can make their day and show your appreciation.



Batteries in your bin can cause fire

Throwing batteries, vapes or small electrical items in your rubbish bin can be dangerous. When these items enter the back of the collection vehicle, they are crushed. This causes items to overheat and ignite surrounding materials such as plastic, paper and cardboard.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOUR BATTERIES, VAPES AND ELECTRICAL ITEMS ARE DISPOSED OF CORRECTLY.

For more information on recycling electrical items, please visit recycleyourelectricals.org.uk



Nominate a Street Friend

Our street cleansing teams work to a schedule, as well as responding rapidly to ad-hoc requests. Alongside this, Street Friends are dedicated volunteers who go the extra mile to maintain the cleanliness of their neighbourhoods. Currently, more than 2,600 volunteers are actively litter-picking throughout the borough, working as part of an organised group or on their own.

Veolia is supporting Street Friends by supplying essential equipment including litter-pickers, bags, and arranging collections. If you'd like to join this community initiative, visit bromley.gov.uk/streetfriends to get started.

Do you know someone making an exceptional difference? We'd love to celebrate their efforts! Please nominate a Street Friend whose outstanding commitment has helped keep your local community clean. Please submit your nomination at bromley.gov.uk/streetfriends



As leaves start to fall

Over 36,000 trees will be losing their leaves soon and our contractor, Veolia, is prepared to collect them. Additional resources will be available to strategically remove leaves from roads with trees that lose their leaves earlier in the season.

Snow Friends

If you're not already a Snow Friend, don't wait until snow is forecast to join an existing group or start a group for your street or residents' association. Volunteers receive snow scoops and bags of salt, provided free of charge (subject to availability) to assist with clearing snow from pavements or along quiet residential roads. To find out more visit

bromley.gov.uk/snowfriends



Your Waste is Your Responsibility anti fly-tipping campaign reaches everyone

A borough-wide anti fly-tipping campaign launched in July. Using a combination of face-to-face engagement and digital messages will help us raise awareness about the issues and encourage more and more residents to:

- 1 DISPOSE OF THEIR WASTE RESPONSIBLY.** If you have any large unwanted items, book your slot to visit the Reuse and Recycling Centres at Churchfields Road or Baths Road Reuse and Recycling Centres.
- 2 REPORT FLY-TIPPING.** Visit bromley.gov.uk/report to report fly-tips in your area
- 3 HELP US TO PROSECUTE.** If you have seen an enviro-crime being committed please provide us with a description of the offender, vehicle registration, photograph or any other detailed information which could be used as evidence and may enable us to prosecute. If your information helps us successfully prosecute an offender, you could receive up to £500 as a thank you.

Bag it and Bin it

Dog owners have a responsibility to pick up after their pets during walks. Dog mess is unpleasant, spoils the environment and may carry infectious diseases that can harm people. Please remember to take a bag with you when you walk your dog. Bags can be placed in any litter bin.



Following the 4 Rs

The best way to deal with your waste is by following the 4 Rs



REDUCE, REUSE, REPAIR, RECYCLE



REDUCE - Avoid using single-use plastic. When you go shopping, choose loose fruits and vegetables to avoid plastic packaging.



REUSE - Old clothes, toys and books can be reused. Donate them to your local charity or even gift them to a friend or family member.



REPAIR - From footwear to electronics, repair any item that could last longer.



RECYCLE - There are many ways to recycle your waste. You can use your recycling collection service to recycle paper, cardboard, plastics, glass, tins, cans and food waste.

For a full list of items please visit
bromley.gov.uk/recyclingA-Z

FREE PAINT

available at Churchfields Road Reuse and Recycling Centre

If you're planning to redecorate your home, freshen up a garage, fence or outbuilding, or get creative with a school or community project, you can collect free paint from the Churchfields Road Reuse and Recycling Centre in Beckenham (BR3 4QY). A range of full and part-full containers are available, including emulsion, gloss and masonry paint – helping to save money and prevent usable materials from going to waste.

Please note that containers cannot be opened on site. You will need to book a slot in advance to collect paint at wastebooking.bromley.gov.uk.



Large Cardboard Boxes

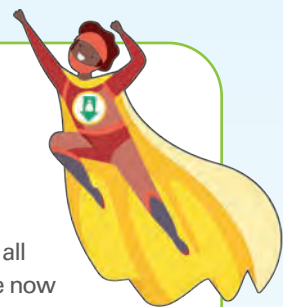
Please remove plastic and polystyrene before you flatten cardboard boxes. Boxes must be placed in your recycling box, or left in a neat 2ftx3ft bundle next to it.

Recycling Heroes

Did you know that over 50% of all primary schools in Bromley are now Recycling Heroes?

Recycling Heroes is a free, KS2 educational initiative designed to teach pupils about waste minimisation and the importance of the "4 Rs".

Don't miss out — sign your school up and become Recycling Heroes! Visit bromley.gov.uk/recyclingheroes for more information



Collection Calendar

This is your recycling and waste collection calendar starting from August 2026.

This is for residents living in houses only as there are different arrangements for residents in flats.

1

All waste and recycling **must** be correctly presented for collection by **7am on collection day**.

2

All waste must be contained securely and placed within arm's reach of the pavement, **but not on it**.

3

Leave your recycling and waste out for collection until **5pm** before you report a missed collection.

August 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31*						

September 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1*	2*	3*	4*	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

*Collections are made one day later than usual



Green week:

Tins, cans, glass and plastic containers | Food waste



White week:

Non-recyclable refuse | Paper and cardboard | Food waste

Sustainability Fund

Veolia's Sustainability Fund is now open! If your local community group is planning to develop a project which protects the environment or enhances biodiversity and social wellbeing, we may be able to help you. You can apply for funding of up to £1,000! To find out more and apply please visit veolia.co.uk/sustainability-fund



Waldo Road Waste Transfer Station Improvement Works Continue

Infrastructure improvement works are continuing at the Waldo Road Waste Transfer Station. The facility plays a key role in the borough's waste management service, bringing together and handling recycling and waste collected from across the borough before it is transported for treatment and processing. While these improvements progress, the neighbouring Reuse and Recycling Centre (RRC) remains temporarily closed. Residents can find the latest updates on progress and anticipated reopening dates at bromley.gov.uk/recycling-sites.

In partnership with **VEOLIA** **Bromley** THE LONDON BOROUGH

Green Garden Waste Service

Sign up and avoid a trip to the tip

bromley.gov.uk/gardencollections





Meet our new Mayor

Community Spirit is so important to Bromley's new Mayor

“When I found out I would have this huge privilege, my first reaction was to think back to the incredible celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee,” said Bromley's new Mayor, Cllr Christine Harris. “At that time, I was serving as Deputy Mayor and I will always remember the sense of joy and happiness I saw in every corner of the Borough. “I hope to use my Mayoral year to further strengthen resident engagement and help groups and charities to connect better with their local communities. I know from my time as

a councillor and 17 years as a governor of local schools, there are so many working to make Bromley a better place. Representing West Wickham as a ward councillor, previously Kelsey and Eden Park, from 2018, and on council committees, the Mayor has used her accountancy experience, gained throughout her working life, to help ensure the Council continues to provide the best possible value for money services for residents. “This year, as Mayor, I aim to play my part in supporting and championing our great Borough to help make a better and happier tomorrow,” she said. Christine settled in Bromley over 40 years ago, moving to work for a London Chartered Accountancy practice

before becoming Group Chief Accountant for a construction company and her two sons have established their own homes. The eldest, Elliot, will be by her side as Consort.



New Deputy Mayor

Councillor Dr Sunil Gupta was born in Delhi and has been a proud resident of Bromley for more than twenty years. He has dedicated his appointment to the memory of his late father, a school principal whose values shaped Sunil's character.

A Consultant Haematologist-Oncologist, Dr. Gupta has been Ward Councillor for Bromley Common and Holwood since 2022, playing an active role in shaping local healthcare. A health and yoga expert, councillor Dr Gupta is committed to improving the health of residents through the awareness of various preventative measures. Married and a proud father, he is also a sports enthusiast.

“I'm committed to serving the people of Bromley with warmth and integrity, seeking to make a positive difference in society,” he said.

www.bromley.gov.uk/mayor

The Mayor's charities

Madlani Cancer Support is based in Orpington and provides holistic support, community groups, complementary therapies and information to those affected by cancer; their families and loved ones.

Dyslexia Association of Bromley, Bexley, Greenwich, and Lewisham gives information and help to parents, teachers and professionals, including providing adult group meetings and a helpline service.

Stand out at a Mayoral event

Fancy your, or your company's, name on the programme of the Mayor's Ball or other charity event attended by key figures in Bromley and beyond? Check out the Affordable Sponsorship Packages and get in touch **www.bromley.gov.uk/mayorcharityappeal**





Staying Home

Bromley Occupational Therapists improve people's lives by helping them overcome the challenges of everyday tasks

“People generally want to stay in their own homes for as long as possible, and we enable them to do just that, safely,” says Gill Kehoe, Senior Occupational Therapist in Bromley's Adult Services.

“For anything impacting on someone's ability to manage everyday life, we can visit, carry out an assessment and work out how we

can help. **Even small pieces of equipment or adaptations can make a very big difference to people's lives.”**

Before moving into Occupational Therapy (OT), Gill worked in Bromley's

Learning and Development Team. She came into contact with the OT Team and she was drawn to the profession. “I looked into it and I knew I would need to become an OT assistant first and I successfully applied to the OT team. After 4 years I began a part-time degree course – 2 days a week with various placements - and qualified as an OT in 2013” says Gill.

“An assessment involves observing people within their home, assessing how they manage and discussing how they carry out their everyday occupations.”

People often think about ‘Occupation’ as work, but OTs consider occupations in the widest sense. We look at the challenges people may have in carrying out daily tasks and activities, for example, personal hygiene, going to the toilet, getting in and out of the house. We assess the difficulties and try to come up with solutions,” Gill explains.

“We work with all adults from the age of 18 who have needs arising from a physical or mental impairment, or illness. We provide a range of equipment, adaptations and specialist seating. We might provide a riser recliner chair, for instance, to help someone to transfer. If they can press the button and raise it, they may then be able

to independently and safely get on and off the chair.

“If someone has difficulty getting in and out of the house due to steps, the addition of a grab rail could make all the difference. Or they may have difficulty getting in and out of bed so a bed lever to hold onto could be the answer.

“It’s also about prevention or reducing the risk of falls, and providing equipment and adaptations can achieve this.

Managing safely at home is really important; it can save a potential stay in hospital if someone falls and injures themselves.

“Or it could be that it’s not safe for the resident to use the bath any longer, so we may recommend a wet room.

“A wheelchair user may need kitchen adaptations or may require a ramp to get in and out of their home.

“Another key area is moving and handling, working with individuals and carers to ensure they have the correct equipment and use safe techniques to transfer people on and off beds, chairs, commodes and wheelchairs for example. Our

work in this area also ensures that the right level of care and support is in place.

“We clinically reason the provision of equipment or adaptations, and we may have to manage someone’s expectations to ensure that what we provide is necessary and appropriate to meet their assessed need without over prescribing. Equipment and minor adaptations come free of charge to the resident. Major adaptations are subject to a means test, and some people may not be financially eligible or may need to make a financial contribution.”

Referrals come from residents or their family members and also from health and social care professionals, through Adult Services Front Door. This is known as the Community Information Hub. Gill works in the Adults Specialist Equipment and Major Adaptations Team or SPOT for short.

Gill’s enthusiasm for the unsung heroes in Occupational Therapy is contagious.

“I’m really passionate about what I do, particularly the public service aspect of working in the local community. We can’t cure people, but we’re pragmatic problem solvers working holistically to make people’s lives better.” she says.

Informal Carers involved

“We involve informal carers too and the equipment and adaptations we provide often have a beneficial impact on their lives too. We also advise on moving and handling to ensure everyone is as safe as possible.”

Occupational Therapists

are also in Reablement, Discharge to Assess, Blue Badges, Housing and Community Equipment and there is also a Children’s OT Service.

Find out more about Bromley’s Adults Occupational Therapy Service at www.bromley.gov.uk/help-adults/occupational-therapy-service



“Occupational Therapists can make a big difference to people’s lives allowing them to stay at home for longer. As we have many informal carers in Bromley who provide amazing support to family and friends, OTs are also able to provide support to them. They will assess needs and provide expert plans including the provision of adaptive equipment where necessary to help carers deliver hands on support and assistance to relatives and friends to help maintain independence and overcome any difficulties in completing everyday tasks.”

Councillor Diane Smith, Executive Councillor for Adult Care and Health

Picture shows, left to right: three team members from Maylim, contractors responsible for the regeneration work with Bromley's Mayor and Martin Tempia, Co-chair of Crystal Palace Park Trust



Heads Up

Crystal Palace Park Founder's statue presides over the landscape once more as multi-million-pound Park regeneration programme reaches completion.

It was the greatest expanse of glass ever seen in a building when constructed for the Great Exhibition of 1851 in Hyde Park and was transported to Crystal Palace Park by June 1854. The incredible brainchild of Joseph Paxton, at three times the size of St Paul's Cathedral and 128-foot-high, it was completed in just thirty-nine weeks. The Crystal Palace and surrounding park astonished visitors for decades, until it was tragically destroyed by fire in 1936.

But now the historic park has a bright new chapter worthy of Paxton and perhaps the Crystal Palace itself. An expansive programme of regeneration has been delivered across the park, funded by the sale of land next to the park for affordable housing

and grant funding, including £5m from The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

As well as various improvements throughout the park, including the much-loved new Dinosaur Playground, this programme has restored the park's impressive heritage, refurbishing the much-loved iconic Dinosaurs and the beautiful Italian Terraces that once led up to the Crystal Palace.

In a highly symbolic moment, an enormous bust of Paxton himself has finally been returned to its original position. The Carrara marble bust was restored and carefully steam cleaned and now takes pride of place on the Italian Terrace, part of this multi-million-pound phase of the Crystal Palace Park

Regeneration Plan co-delivered by Bromley Council and Crystal Palace Park Trust.

Victoria Pinnington, CEO of the Trust, said: "With this regeneration project complete we're thrilled the park can inspire joy, wonder and curiosity, just as its founder, Sir Joseph Paxton, always intended."



Dinosaurs out of Danger

The famous Crystal Palace Park Dinosaurs have been removed from Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register, one of the major successes of the largest regeneration programme delivered in the park since the Crystal Palace was destroyed in 1936. The thirty life-sized models have been carefully restored and painted to appear as close as possible to how visitors would have seen them 172 years ago. Today's Grade I listed attraction illustrated the ground-breaking fossil discoveries made in the Victorian era, inspiring and educating all who saw them.



Discover the Park

The new Visitor Centre is now open bringing together its hidden stories and telling of the significance of the 170-year-old park.

www.crystalpalaceparktrust.org



Playing in the Park

The new Dinosaur Playground offers sensory-rich adventures with dinosaur-themed features, including claw marks, skeleton structures and a footprint-shaped sandpit. Located near the café, toilets and Changing Places facility.



Spooky message nets money for charity

A 'time-capsule' letter found when the Paxton statue was moved netted funds for the Mayor of Bromley's charities. She takes up the story:

"The handwritten letter contained two half crowns and two florins won at the Derby in 1964 on a horse called Santa Claus. It went on to say that the money should be placed on a horse with a name associated with Christmas. Christmas Day was running in this year's Derby and so a bet was laid on behalf of my chosen charities. It romped home and the winnings will be split between my two charities. Such a lovely thing, while we delivered this fantastic project in Crystal Palace."



"Our regeneration plan was to secure this historic park for the future. The incredible transformation we have delivered will allow residents and visitors to enjoy exploring the stunning restored heritage and the new improvements across the park under the careful custodianship of our partners Crystal Palace Park Trust."

Councillor Yvonne Bear, Executive Councillor for Renewal, Recreation and Housing

Homes for Ukraine

Supporting our neighbours fleeing from war



- The Ukraine war started on 24 February 2022.
- Since the Homes for Ukraine Scheme launched on 14 March 2022, Bromley has welcomed **1044** Ukrainian guests across **461** residents who have opened their homes.



To find out more about Bromley's Homes For Ukraine Scheme and how you can support those fleeing from war:

Scan the QR code or call our team on 020 8313 4698
or email ukrainesupport@bromley.gov.uk



Meteoric on and off the Pitch

The remarkable rise of Bromley Football Club has endeared it to residents' hearts both for success in the game as well as in the community

Bromley Football Club made history in 2024 with its promotion to the English Football League for the first time in 132 years. That was two years ago, and the Club has risen deftly from League Two to League One in this short time and finished top of League Two, to boot!

Open-top bus parades supported by the Council brought fans on to the streets to celebrate the moment. Now, the Club's positive shared culture on the pitch is mirrored by its altruistic Charitable Trust which puts back into the local community that has revelled in its success.

Success off pitch

- Supporting veterans
- Achieved Armed Forces Employer Recognition Gold Award
- Partnering with public health to promote NHS health checks
- Supporting Opportunity Bromley to bring business to the Borough

Heart of the Community – what Bromley FC means to us

"I grew up in Bromley and went to school across the road from the Football Club, so this journey means a great deal to me. We've worked hard to build a football club that represents Bromley in the right way and makes a positive contribution to the wider community."



Robin Stanton-Gleaves
Owner and Chairman

"You can be respectful off the pitch and a winner on it, and we've worked hard to build that culture at Bromley. Our players understand that representing this football club means making a positive difference in the community as well as on the pitch."



Andy Woodman
Manager

"The Club's success on the pitch has given us a bigger platform, and with that comes an even greater responsibility to our local community. That's what we're passionate about, using the power of football to create opportunities, improve lives and ensure as many people as possible across Bromley benefit from that success."



Jeff Hutton
Chief Executive of Bromley FC Community Trust

"It's really uplifting to know, and for people to understand, just how much Bromley Football Club's success on the pitch has been mirrored by the often unreported but increasingly important contribution of its Trust behind the scenes in recent years as well. They are a huge credit to Robin, his Club and its staff and I sincerely thank them for everything they continue to contribute to locally."



Cllr Colin Smith
Bromley Council Leader





Financial Crunch

Cuts to Bromley's budget by Central Government, amid rising service demands, leave stark choices – cuts to services, higher Council Tax or both?

Financial planning ahead of the annual budget setting process in the autumn is proving to be desperately difficult, with all options needing to be considered.

Amidst the well-publicised crisis nationally for local government funding, with its sound financial management, Bromley has successfully avoided many of the problems, including by making major savings and the intelligent use of reserves. Unlike almost every other council, Bromley has also avoided incurring debt, thereby avoiding costly interest payments as well.

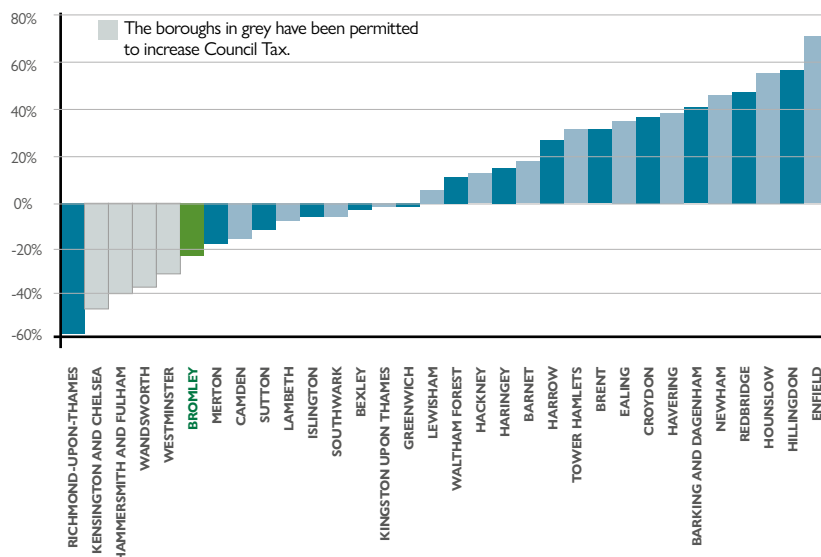
All of this has been achieved despite Bromley

receiving the second lowest Government funding in London. Last year Bromley would have received an additional £80.4m per year if the Council received just the average Central

Government settlement for a London borough. This year, the figure is a stark £112m, with the chart showing how Bromley receives dramatically less cash per

Change in core settlement Funding 2025/26 - 2028/29

(including transitional Protection and Recovery Grant)



head than every other borough bar Richmond.

The loss of £30.5m of Government funding for Bromley in real terms by 2028/29, announced at the turn of year, has however proved to be a hammer blow to the Council's budgetary planning. Bromley, like many other Councils, is now facing a

serious budget deficit of £43m next year, rising to £61m in 2028, despite savings of over £35m already being factored in.

All options considered ahead of financial crunch

The charts dramatically show that few boroughs have seen their Government funding cut by as much as

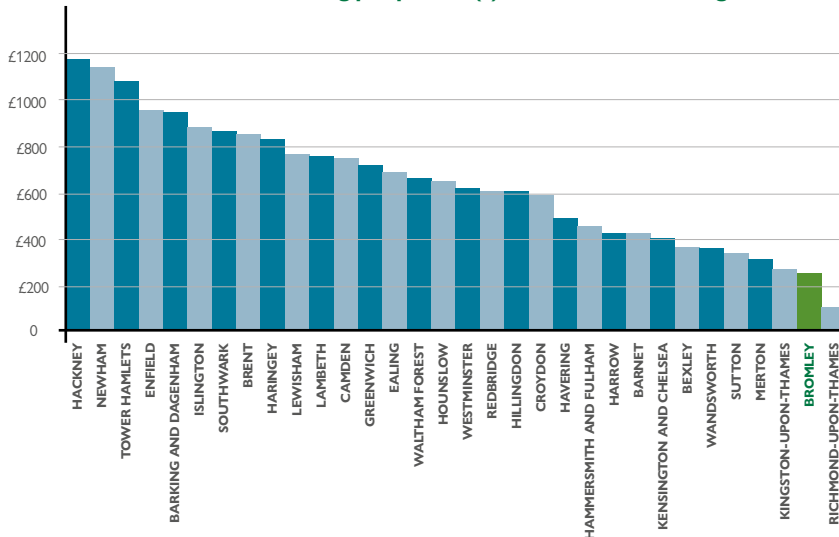
Bromley. It is also important to understand that four of the five boroughs who have had their funding reduced in a similar way to Bromley, shaded in grey, have already been given permission by the Government to increase their Council Tax by more than 4.99% if they choose to, whilst this is not the case for Bromley at the time of going to print.

The simple choice now facing Bromley is whether and how to either increase council tax over and above the 4.99% increase expected by the Government and whether any further drastic savings can also be achieved. This work is very much ongoing and will have a significant impact on next year's financial budgetary planning process, given the significance and scale of the challenge.

EXTRA £112 MILLION PER YEAR

The amount Bromley would get if it received the average Central Government settlement for London.

2025/26 core funding per person (£) for all London Boroughs



“We have always sought to be straight with residents and explain things how they really are and without doubt, this is by far the biggest financial challenge the Council has ever faced.

Unlike other councils, Bromley’s careful financial management over many years means that we are not about to financially crumble overnight but the stark and limited options available to us are increasingly apparent, which is why I want to share wider awareness of the severity of the situation with you for planning purposes now.

“The Government’s decision to reduce Bromley’s funding by over £30m by 2028 leaves us with no other viable option than to consider a higher than desirable Council Tax increase and that is the painful exercise we have now had to embark on.

“To that end I can also confirm that high level talks with senior Civil Servants have already taken place requesting that Bromley’s name be added to the list of those other London Boroughs also blighted by the Government’s recent financial ‘reforms’ who have been granted permission to exceed the 4.99% cap and we now wait to hear back in due course.”

Councillor Colin P. Smith
Bromley Council Leader

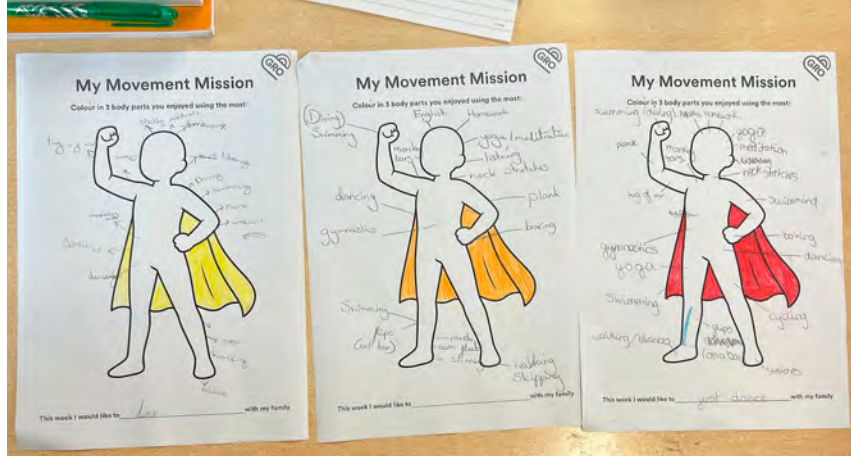
How to get your MenB Vaccine

**Two doses are
essential for
protection** ✓✓

If you are...	What to do
 Aged 17 to 18 (born 1 Sept 2007 to 31 Aug 2008)	 Book online from 13 July
 Starting university or eligible residential further education this autumn AND born on or after 21 July 2001	 Visit a participating pharmacy from 20 July



Find out more at nhs.uk/book-menb



Helping children build healthier habits for life

The Public Health Team is encouraging families to talk about healthier lifestyles in a positive way

Children living with obesity is a significant public health matter. They can gain excess weight when regularly taking in more energy from food and drink than they use through daily activity, and this can increase the chance of health problems later in life, including type 2 diabetes.

Bromley's two-year pilot of the Gro Health weight management service is supporting eligible children, young people and families to make healthy lifestyle changes that can last into adulthood. Gro Health offers a tailor-made programme of support to help

young people aged 2 to 18 to eat smarter, get active and stay balanced, both in their physical and mental health, while helping develop a healthier relationship with food.

There's also sound advice for everyone online at Better Health – Healthier Families.

Small changes can make a big difference.

Children and young people aged 5 to 18 should aim for an average of at least 60 minutes of activity a day. This does not have to be organised sport - walking to school, dancing, swimming, playing in the park or

helping with active jobs at home all count.

Food and drink choices also affect dental health.

Sugary snacks and drinks can harm teeth and add extra calories. Families can help by keeping fizzy drinks and sweets as occasional treats, offering water or milk, choosing balanced meals, and including fruit, vegetables, starchy foods, protein and dairy or dairy alternatives.

It is also important to build a healthy relationship with food. Try not to label foods as 'good' or 'bad' and avoid using food as a reward. Eating together, using child-sized portions, letting children stop when they are full, and involving them in shopping or cooking can all help.

Gro Health and Better Health – Healthier Families are designed to help families take positive, practical steps together, supporting healthier eating, physical activity and wellbeing.

Get more information and find out if your child is eligible for the Gro Health programme at www.bromley.gov.uk/HealthyWeight



“Every child in Bromley deserves the opportunity to grow up healthy, active, and confident. Our website, together with the Gro Health pilot for eligible families, offers practical support and advice that can be easily incorporated into everyday life. By encouraging healthy habits from an early age, we can help children thrive today and reduce the risk of serious health conditions in the future.”

Dr Nada Lemic, Director of Public Health



Spotlight on

Successful Mums

Helping Mums Find Family-Friendly Careers, with the support of Bromley Works

Jane Knight is the sort of woman other women, particularly mothers, want on their team. She's positive, smart, empathetic, and has an energy and drive that offers assurance that anything is possible.

"When I had my baby, I lost my career mojo, and I wasn't alone. Many women don't know where to turn for career advice and flexible work – so I wanted to do something positive and Successful Mums was born" she says.

Twelve years ago, she started Successful Mums Career Academy with a goal to help 100 mums. Since then, this Bromley mum and her team have helped over 12,000

women returners and mothers with their careers.

This team is now commissioned by Bromley Works, the Council's new employment and skills service, that refers residents to receive this valuable support.

This has also secured fully funded courses, by delivering Government funding, for the benefit of Bromley residents. Mums are helped to recognise their transferable skills and lived experience, which is gold dust in the workplace: organising a household, budgeting, negotiation, empathy, and conflict management, to name a few.

"There are 100s of flexible hidden jobs across so many sectors, we can open doors to these employers and new opportunities" Jane says. "If we link a mum to a local school, for instance, these roles often offer term-time working for the mum, while giving the school a skilled,

motivated employee, and saving on recruitment costs too, as we don't charge at all."

Career advice and courses run face-to-face in Bromley, around school hours, for approximately 15 hours per week. Participants gain a qualification, a new network of friends, and links to family-friendly employers, a human touch, with no AI filters in sight.

Successful Mums Career Academy supports women whether they're returning to work, changing career, or starting a business, always with a focus on flexibility and personal success. Courses include the flagship Back to Work and Confidence course, digital skills, working in schools, business start-up, wellbeing and menopause, autism awareness, and coaching and mentoring.

While the focus is on mums, everyone is welcome.

- ✓ Good for mums.
- ✓ Good for business.
- ✓ Good for Bromley.

www.successfulmums.co.uk



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Richard Harris' award winning comedy

STEPPING OUT



Karen Hauer

Lucy Benjamin

Directed by **Chris Jordan** Designed by **Julie Godfrey** Choreography by **Alan Burkitt**

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www.bromley.gov.uk/tradingstandardschecked



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EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC OF LIVE ENTERTAINMENT IN THE HEART OF BROMLEY



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