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YOUR ONLINE ROUND UP FROM BROMLEY COUNCIL

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Easter 2020 Newsletter

Easter Waste Collections - Good Friday as usual, and then one day late. See below or visit [our website for more details.](#)

Please **contact us** online if you need to, so that lines can be kept open for vulnerable people who may not have internet access. You can reach most services through our online forms. Please do not visit us as all our reception desks are now closed until further notice due to the national situation regarding COVID-19.



A message from the Leader of the Council

Dear Residents,

I very much hope that this message finds yourselves, loved ones, friends and neighbours healthy and in as good a spirit as you can be at this difficult time for us all.

May I also profoundly sympathise with the pain and heartache a growing number of households across our Borough are suffering from at present, concerning the loss and hospitalisation of loved ones.

I know I speak for all decent minded people everywhere when I say that you are all very much in all of our thoughts at this time.

More positively, as we hopefully approach and pass the peak of this horrendous crisis over the course of the next few weeks, I remain absolutely in awe of not just the NHS and other blue light services' efforts, but also the Council's Education, Critical Care, Public and Environmental Health teams and other public facing staff of all grades and seniority too numerous to mention, very much including those filling often far less publicised and glamourised vital roles such as waste collection and park security at this critical time.

Thank you to every single one of you. We salute you all.

Although the next few weeks and maybe even longer are undoubtedly going to remain tough for everyone, the underlying strength, resolve and determination of Bromley residents to do the right thing for those less fortunate than ourselves as this disaster has unfolded, has been and remains absolutely incredible with our standing army of 4000 volunteers continuing to grow to this day.

There is no doubt whatsoever in my mind as I look at the changes being set in place and the tireless positive energy being displayed by so many well intentioned people across our Borough at present, that if we harness all the good things going on, as we intend to, when we eventually emerge from the awful situation we find ourselves in, some things, strangely, will have changed markedly for the better.

Out of adversity ...

Please take good care and be sure to continue following the Government's self-isolation and social distancing rules at all times to keep others safe as well as yourselves.

This surely has to be the very best advice for all of us to adhere to, and the right thing to do to bring this misery to as early an end as we possibly can and to protect all of our brave front line workers at the same time.

Councillor Colin Smith
Bromley Council Leader

Bromley Council asked to share COVID-19 expertise



The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) invited Bromley Council to share its expertise in dealing with the huge challenges presented by the coronavirus pandemic to those who provide adult social care up and down the country.

Bromley's Director of Adult Services, Kim Carey and Head of Assessment and Care Management, Tricia Wennell took part in a webinar to talk about Bromley's approach and how the council is working to ensure vulnerable older people in the borough are protected from the virus.

Around 400 Social Care professionals from around the country heard how Bromley has galvanised the whole adult care team into action to pull together with staff diverted from other services, with the voluntary sector, residents, and with partners in health to fight this virus by supporting the most vulnerable in our communities. Many more professionals are expected to access the recording now available on the [SCIE website](#).

[Read more...](#)



Thank you to volunteers!

In just over two weeks, thousands of residents, and a range of voluntary groups have stepped forward to lend their help,



and Councillor Diane Smith thanks all volunteers for giving up their time to help those who need assistance.

Bromley Community Links is coordinating the volunteer response and helping to match volunteers with residents who have requested assistance.

To volunteer or **request assistance**, visit the Council's website, with an assistance hotline on **020 8313 4484** for those who need help but do not have internet access. This hotline will remain open on Good Friday and Bank Holiday Monday ensuring residents can contact us if assistance is required.

[Read more...](#)



"What a remarkable response we have had from residents. Please do not worry if your service may not be required right now, but we will be looking to call on your support in the longer term when your help may be critical. Thank you all."

Councillor Diane Smith, Executive Councillor for Adult Services and Public Health



Use your local park responsibly

As Easter approaches and we will want to take our daily exercise outside if the weather is good, please ensure that you observe the strict guidelines when using our parks.

We want them all to remain open so that you can enjoy walking or running through them - but this is key - please keep moving and observe the two metre distance rule from other park users. We know how tempting it is to stop for a while when the weather is fine, but we must all observe the rules and keep moving to protect our NHS, ourselves and each other from this devastating virus.

Please remember these key points when you take exercise outside the home:

- Stay local - walk or run or cycle where allowed
- Go out alone or only with members of your own household - you put yourself and others at risk if you gather with other people
- Stay two metres away from anyone else

- If you are walking your dog in areas used by other people, keep your dog on a lead and ensure you can safely keep it two metres (six and a half feet) away from others
- Don't go outside or visit a park if you have any symptoms - fever, cough, breathing difficulties.

[Check the conditions on the NHS website.](#)



Bank Holiday 2020 waste and recycling collections

Collections will take place as usual on Good Friday 10 April, but will be a day later than usual from Easter Monday 13 April onwards until Saturday.

Please check the schedule below for your collection day or find your next refuse and recycling collection [online](#).

Green Box recycling - plastics, cans, and glass bottles - has restarted on a limited basis on your scheduled collection day. We will try to continue collecting these items bearing in mind the more limited crews we have available currently. The levels of what we are collecting are increasing and we are looking at ways to improve still further.

If you are a member of our green garden waste wheelie-bin collection scheme, your garden waste will be collected on your usual collection day and this **does not change**.

My usual collection day	My holiday collection day
Friday 10 April	Collection day as normal
Monday 13 April	Tuesday 14 April
Tuesday 14 April	Wednesday 15 April
Wednesday 15 April	Thursday 16 April
Thursday 16 April	Friday 17 April
Friday 17 April	Saturday 18 April



Restarting Green Garden Waste & Bonfire Nuisance Warning

Green garden waste collections are now taking place for subscribers, and green box recycling collections will resume on a limited basis depending on crew capacity.

See also bonfire nuisance warning and [read more...](#)



"Our green garden waste collections have been restored so please sign up for this service if you haven't yet."



Councillor William Huntington-Thresher, Executive Councillor for Environment and Community Services



Fostering and Adoption

Our fostering and adoption teams are continuing their support for foster carers in Bromley with one-to-one work ongoing either by audio or video links, and group work through video-conferencing and webinars. Delivery of support will be reviewed continuously so as to evolve alongside new government guidance.

We are still recruiting Foster Carers remotely so please do get in touch through the [Fostering pages](#) on our website.



Staying at home can be tough

Who would have thought that staying at home could be so difficult? But for some it is proving just that. Changing a routine, working in a different way, not being able to get together with family and friends, or look forward to a holiday can all take their toll on us over time.

Remember - you are helping our NHS and ultimately saving lives, so staying put is a small price to pay.

Here is some advice from the [NHS about staying at home](#).



Your Council Tax continues to support services - especially for the vulnerable

We are working hard behind the scenes to provide services in different ways to meet the needs of residents in the current very challenging circumstances. Despite reception areas being temporarily closed to most visitors in line with Government advice to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the Council is still working across all services, albeit with fewer staff, so there is as little disruption as possible.

Resources are being diverted, and enhanced in some areas, so that our most vulnerable adults, children and families can continue to be kept safe and well. Our volunteer initiative has seen a huge co-ordination effort to bring together those requesting assistance with the many offers of help from our communities.

Public finances both nationally and locally will be stretched over the coming months, which is why Bromley Council is asking residents, who are able, to make Council Tax payments as usual.

Whilst many people will not see a change in their incomes, we do understand, however, that some customers may struggle to make payments due to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. We will still issue bills, invoices and reminders, but

should you have difficulties making payments, please complete our [revenues and benefits contact form](#) so that we can take individual circumstances into account and agree suitable terms to reschedule or delay payment for up to three months.



Worried about someone?

Concerns about the risk of domestic violence increasing for women, men and children under COVID-19 social distancing measures means that residents are encouraged to learn the signs to spot, so if something concerning is seen or heard, they know where they can report to.

In an emergency always call 999. If it is not an emergency, and you would prefer to remain anonymous, you can contact Crimestoppers [online](#), or on the phone by calling **0800 555 111**.

We commission a number of services from Bromley and Croydon Women's Aid to support victims and survivors, and to challenge perpetrators to change their behaviour. These include One Stop Shop support, outreach services, support groups, prevention services and refuges.

Find out more information about [domestic violence](#) and where you can get advice and support.

If you know of people who would like to receive these updates, suggest they [sign up here](#).

TO GO PAPERLESS

If you already have a MyBromley Account to view your Council Tax, simply login to your account and choose **Paperless Billing**. If you don't have a MyBromley Account, why not register for one today at [MyBromley Account](#)

It's quick, easy and secure.

LOG IN OR REGISTER TODAY AT
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