

London Borough of Bexley

News Release

For Immediate Release

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KEEP THINGS LEGAL WHEN METAL DETECTING OR RISK PROSECUTION

While metal detecting can be an enjoyable and interesting activity, those who take part are reminded that it is illegal to do so without first obtaining permission from the landowner. This includes metal detecting carried out at any of Bexley's public parks and open spaces. If permission is granted the Council will issue a letter/licence which specifically states the site; the area involved; as well as the hours and date range for the activity to take place. Some sites, such as those containing Scheduled Monuments, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, or Areas of Archaeological Importance, will also require special licences from other authorising authorities to be issued.

Metal detecting without permission and any damage caused by such an activity is illegal. Taking 'found items' away from such locations without permission is also an offence - so those taking part in illegal metal detecting render themselves liable to prosecution on several levels.

Bexley's Cabinet Member for Places, Cllr Peter Craske said: "The situation is by no means rife across the borough but we want people to be aware of the legalities around metal detecting.

"Bexley benefits from a wealth of parks, open spaces and historic sites. Illegally taking away items of local historical interest, damage to natural amenities such as flowerbeds, parkland and lawns - and leaving behind hazards for others, such as holes in the ground, are just some of the issues that can arise through illegal and irresponsible metal detecting."

Prospective metal detector users wanting to carry out metal detecting in the Council's parks and open spaces should contact the Parks Team by emailing parksandopenspaces@bexley.gov.uk in the first instance.

Members of the public who suspect illegal metal detecting is taking place should report the matter to their local police. Reports of suspected illegal metal detecting at Council owned parks and open spaces can also be reported to the Parks team via the above email address or by telephoning the Council on 020 8303 7777 and asking for the Parks team.

The code of practice for responsible metal detecting in England and Wales can be found at <https://finds.org.uk/getinvolved/guides/codeofpractice>

Please contact: Lynne McVicar on 020 3045 3606
communications@bexley.gov.uk

