



Press Information

Romford Stakeholders Join Forces to Tackle Anti-Social Behaviour

Key Romford organisations have joined forces to help mitigate anti-social behaviour in the town. From 18th April, individuals visiting Romford town will no longer be able to wear ski masks, hoodies or helmets that cover their face. This rule will also apply to delivery drivers. The use of face coverings for health or religious reasons will however still be permitted.

This initiative was born out of discussions between Romford BID, Police and Havering Council's enforcement teams and all four shopping centres in the town including The Liberty, The Brewery, The Mercury and Romford Shopping Hall. These parties meet regularly to discuss issues facing the town and what changes can be made to tackle them. Romford, like numerous towns up and down the country, is facing a rise in anti-social behaviour. All town stakeholders want to tackle this issue as efficiently and effectively as possible and have moved quickly to form this town-wide initiative.

Posters explaining this change have been installed throughout the town to help educate visitors of its existence. All security teams, in all shopping centres in the town, have been briefed on this new process. Anyone to break this rule will be escorted off the premises in question immediately. The police will be called if there is any aggression once asked to leave.

Julie Frost, Romford BID Director said, *"I really hope that this initiative makes visitors feel safer - knowing throughout the town there are measures in place to deter anti-social behaviour and prevent crime. Working together we are determined to restore people's confidence and ensure the town is a welcoming and enjoyable place to live, work and visit."*

A spokesperson from The Brewery said, *"To promote a safe environment, we are working together to eradicate anonymity. Anti-social behaviour and crimes are often committed by those choosing to hide their identity; therefore by being transparent, we believe Romford can work towards achieving a friendlier and all welcoming community."*

Tom Stobbart, The Liberty Centre Manager said, *"Anti-social behaviour has a detrimental impact on our communities, making people feel unsafe in their neighbourhoods. We are working together to*



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instigate change and hopefully get to the causes of some anti-social behaviour and help prevent some crimes from happening.”

Councillor Ray Morgon, Leader of Havering Council said, *“We work closely with all our partners in looking at how we can help make the borough safer to live, work, visit and go to school in. We want to look at ways in which we can work towards the prevention of anti-social behaviour and reducing it. Making our residents and visitors feel safer will also help encourage them to shop locally and help our businesses thrive.”*



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For more information, please contact Sarah Gregory on 07725 041862