

London Borough of Bexley

News Release

For Immediate Release

23 January 2017 / PR 8440

TWO MORE DRIVERS FINED FOR BLUE BADGE MISUSE

The London Borough of Bexley has successfully prosecuted two more cases of Blue Badge misuse, with significant fines handed out to each defendant.

In both cases, a Blue Badge was used to take advantage of the parking concessions available to badge holders when the badge holders themselves were not present.

These latest convictions, which took place at Bexley Magistrates' Court on Monday 16 January, bring the total to 20 successful prosecutions since the start of the crackdown. The Council's Blue Badge misuse campaign aims to promote the correct use of the badge and its benefits, while combatting fraud and misuse.

Cllr Alex Sawyer, Bexley's Cabinet Member for Traffic and Transport said: "These drivers thought they could misuse a Blue Badge without being caught, but they were wrong. The scheme, which aims to help people with disabilities park close to places like their homes, work or shops, should not be abused by those who want free and easy parking spaces."

He added: "This campaign continues into 2017 to ensure spaces intended for badge holders are easily accessible, and are not taken up by those abusing the scheme. Civil Enforcement Officers will continue to routinely inspect Blue Badges across the borough while focusing on misuse hotspots such as town centres and schools."

Ms Anne-Marie Powell (41), of Wolsley Close, Crayford, was caught on 8 June 2016 using a badge which did not belong to her in order to park on a yellow line. It was later discovered Ms Powell was misusing the badge to take her cat to the pet salon, to get its claws clipped. Ms Powell pleaded guilty by post, and was ordered to pay a fine of £91, court costs of £400 and a £30 victim surcharge.

Mr Anthony Crane (50), of Maiden Lane, Crayford, was caught the following day using his wife's badge to park on a double yellow line and pick up a child from school. Mr Crane did not submit a plea by post, or turn up to court on the date of his hearing. The case was proved in his absence and he was ordered to pay a fine of £220, plus £400 costs and a £30 victim surcharge – a total of £650.

Blue Badge misuse is criminal offence which can lead to a prosecution resulting in up to a £1,000 fine, plus an order to pay towards the costs of the Council prosecution and a criminal record. It can also lead to confiscation of the badge.

Anyone who suspects that a Blue Badge is being used for the benefit of a person who is not the badge holder can report their concerns online. For further information visit www.bexley.gov.uk/bluebadgemisuse.

