

STATEMENT FROM BELVEDERE'S LABOUR COUNCILLORS



18th June 2019

Site of Former Leather Bottle Public House

On Friday 14th June 2019, Cllr Daniel Francis, Leader of Bexley Labour Group and one of the three ward councillors for Belvedere received confirmation from the Health and Safety Executive that they are prosecuting Balmonza Ltd. and its Director under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. The first hearing will take place on 21 August 2019 at Westminster Magistrates Court.

The prosecution relates to the demolition and works carried out on the site of the former Leather Bottle public house by Balmonza Ltd. during June 2016.

Cllr Daniel Francis reported his serious concerns to the London Borough of Bexley regarding the works relating to the demolition of the former public house on more than one occasion on 22nd June 2016 providing photographs taken by constituents to demonstrate his concerns. After sending further photographs and correspondence, he received an acknowledgment to his emails on 27th June 2016, three days after the demolition had been completed.

This followed several emails over the previous nine months, where he and the other Belvedere councillors at that time raised concerns over works on the site. Cllr Francis became so concerned regarding the lack of action that the London Borough of Bexley had taken relating to works on the site, that he directly questioned the Leader of the Council asking that the situation be taken seriously, at the Full Council meeting held in April 2016.

The subsequent investigation by the Health and Safety Executive was commenced as a direct result of Cllr Francis' complaints. As a result, Belvedere councillors Daniel Francis and Sally Hinkley (prior to her election) along with other local residents have supplied statements to the Health and Safety Executive regarding the works on site, and Cllr Sally Hinkley took officers from the Health and Safety Executive to the site to highlight her concerns.

-ENDS-

For further information, please contact Councillor Daniel Francis on daniel.francis@bexley.gov.uk