

Court date for accused quartet

FOUR people have been charged with the attempted murder of a 26-year-old man in Belvedere.

Police were called at around 3.20pm on November 30 to reports of a disturbance in Norman Road.

They found a man suffering from multiple injuries, including stab wounds, with the most serious being a punctured lung.

The London Ambulance Service and London's Air Ambulance attended and the victim was taken to hospital, where he is recovering from his injuries.

Two 16-year-olds from Erith have been charged with attempted murder.

Michael Osumi, aged 24, of Lincoln Road, Slade Green and Leon Njuguna, aged 22, of Marina Drive, Welling, have also been charged with the same offence.

They all appeared at Bromley Magistrates' Court last Saturday and were remanded in custody to appear at Woolwich Crown Court on Friday.

ERITH: Shopkeeper takes photographs of council vehicle in bus stop

Did CCTV camera car break parking rules?

by **ABIGAIL WOODCOCK**

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A SHOPKEEPER is outraged after he caught one of Bexley Council's CCTV cars parked in a bus stop outside his store.

Harpawan Sahota photographed the enforcement car in a bus stop at 2.45pm last Friday outside TJ News in North End Road, Erith.

The controversial cars use CCTV to catch people parking illegally across the borough.

A penalty charge notice is then issued to the owner of the vehicle through the post.

Mr Sahota, 22, said: "If any of our customers park in the bus stop only for a minute to get something from the shops, they get a ticket.

"There aren't many spaces to park.

"There obviously wasn't a space for him, so he parked in the bus stop.

"It makes me angry.

"It's unjust we pay council tax when the council lets its cars park in bus stops when we can't.

"How can it give tickets to people when it does the same thing?"



Harpawan Sahota (left) took these photos (centre and right) of a council CCTV car in a bus stop outside his shop in North End Road, Erith BE63179

Mr Sahota says the car drove off when he started taking photos.

However Bexley Council denies any wrongdoing and says the car was not parked.

A spokeswoman said: "The operator pulled into the bus stop to get off the main dual carriageway so he could reverse into a parking bay just before the bus stop.

"He was then prevented from getting into the parking bay by the lorry pictured.

"The operator was then deliberately prevented from safely rejoining the main carriageway."

She added: "We see no evidence to suggest the operator parked the vehicle in the bus stop and as the vehicle was never left unattended we are satisfied the operator was engaged on official duty and was attempting to park legally in order to carry out his work.

"The vehicle was neither parked nor was it in breach of the regulations."

In Brief

WINTER FUNFAIR: Free children's crafts, music, performances and face painting will be on offer at Crayford's Waterside Gardens in Crayford Way from 11am to 4pm on December 17. Santa's elves and a funfair will keep youngsters entertained and the St Fidelis Steel Band will perform. Call 020 3045 3149.

MARKETING TIPS: A free marketing workshop will be held at Thames Innovation Centre in Veridion Way, Erith, from 9.30am to 12.30pm on December 13. It will feature ideas and suggestions for your business. To find out more, call 020 8320 1000 or visit thamesinnovationcentre.com/events

LOSE WEIGHT: Slimming World meets at 9.30am on Saturdays at Bexleyheath Scouts Hall in Mayplace Road West, Bexleyheath. Call 07557 235990 or go to slimmingworld.com/slimwithsus

CARL SERVICE: Celebrate Christmas with the Greek community at a carol service at the Greek Orthodox Church in Upper Wickham Lane, Welling, from 6pm on December 18.

NEW SHOP: The new Next store at Cannon Retail Park in Thamesmead will create 70 jobs. The 18,500sq ft store is due to open at 10am today.

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