Firm incurs heavy penalty for notice

A PROPERTY company was fined £3,000 for fixing notices to lamp posts as part of a council clamp-down against illegal street signs.

Bromley magistrates imposed the fine on Laing Homes Ltd for putting up notices around the Bromley and Beckenham areas. The signs directed customers to Laing Homes' development in South Eden Park Road.

Chairman of Bromley's environmental services committee Martin Lockwood said: "The level of these fines shows the seriousness for this offence."

In April the News Shopper reported how the council ordered owner Lee Leighton to remove a sign from outside his restaurant in Mottingham Road, Mottingham.

A fortnight later the Tyre Centre - which is also on Mottingham Road - was told to remove its sign.

Both firms have ignored the council's order.

Bromley's highway and pavements section leader Peter Turvey said: "If you let some go up, the streets will be covered with signs. We are trying to keep the borough clean and tidy."

Tyre Centre co-director Raymond Burckett said: "I am standing by my guns even if they take me to court. It's just amazing. They have got nothing better to do with their time."

The council talks about trying to breathe new life into business and then they do this."

Laing Homes were unavailable for comment.