



Reading
Borough Council
Working better with you

Forbury Garden Attacks

Reading, 20th June 2020

Niki Barton

Strategic Communications Manager, Reading Borough Council

1

4

24

72

7

14

6

12

Saturday 20th June, 6.55pm



Saturday 20th June, 7.05pm

Hey Niki, it's K**** from S*****.
Seen the news from Reading, if you
need help, shout. I'm around all
evening.



Arabian Tribune @Arabia... 20 Jun 2020
 Taking advantage at the end of a [#BLMprotest](#), a [#Libyan](#) [#Wahhabi](#) [#terrorist](#) stabbed to death 3 people and injured more than 12 in [#ForburyGardens](#) in [#Reading](#),[#UK](#).
[#Readinguk](#) @SaudiEmbassyUK
[#SaudiArabia](#)



🗨️ ↺️ ❤️ ⋮



Piers Morgan @piers... 20 Jun 2020
 What the hell's going on in Reading?
 Seeing some horrific videos on here of multiple stabbing victims in a park & massive police activity?

🗨️ 1k ↺️ 458 ❤️ 4k ⋮



GemBaaa II Gemzilla 20 Jun 2020
 The MSM are so biased and purposely try to create racial tensions. The [#stabbing](#) in [#ForburyGardens](#) had nothing to do with the [#BlackLivesMatter](#) protests, yet multiple MSM outlets are unnecessarily mentioning the protest in their headlines. Smfh.
[#Readingstabbing](#)

Sky News @SkyNews
 Police dealing with 'serious incident' after Black Lives Matter protest in Reading [news.sky.com/story/police-d...](#)



Mark @marky249 20 Jun 2020
 Scene outside my house

RIP to the poor people that lost their lives today 😞

2020 can get in the bin 🗑️

[#forburygardens](#)



🗨️ 4 ↺️ 2 ❤️ 39 ⋮



Archie (Bishop Fanda... 20 Jun 2020
 Reading stabbing: 'Three dead' after Forbury Gardens incident
[bbc.co.uk/news/uk-englan...](#) BBC News and Thames Valley police say incident had nothing to do with BLM.

🗨️ ↺️ ❤️ 1 ⋮



Jonny Freeman @jfreema... 20 Jun 2020
 Numerous roads now cordoned off in [#Reading](#) town centre. More details beginning to emerge of what happened in Forbury Gardens earlier this evening. @LBC @LBCNews

What to do... first hour

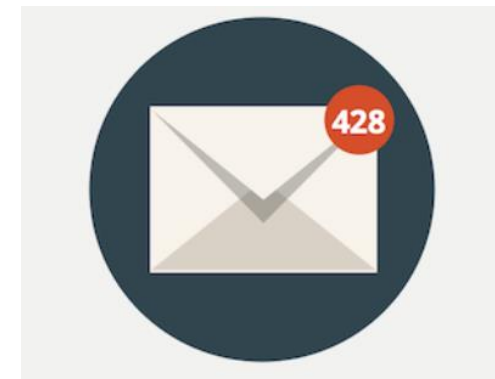
In the moment

- Deep breath, don't panic. Get protocol.
- Who is the lead agency?
- Holding statement - write one or share one. Remember staff, councillors.
- Clarify what NOT to do. Don't rush.
- Team - clear who's doing what: media, social media, management liaison.
- Contact key stakeholders.
- Write everything down. Understand it!

In advance

- Out of hours rota - no weak links.
- Know your responsibilities, and those of other agencies.
- Comms systems - social media tool, press statements, all staff emails. Full team access.
- Map out your stakeholders / draft holding statements.

Saturday 20th June, 10pm



What to do... first 4 hours

In the moment

- Stay non operational. What's next?
- Confirm sign off / Gold-Silver leadership.
- What's it called - consistent language.
- Who's in your key contact group - internal and external. Who's missing?
- What's needed across all channels - reassurance, information? Remember staff.
- How are we communicating? Teams, email, WhatsApp. When will we check in next?

In advance

- Emergency plan / protocol
 - Stakeholders, contact details, internal and external
 - Channels, activities, sign off expectations
 - Language - e.g. acronyms
 - Holding statements and/or best practice
 - Legal processes / police investigation
 - Condolence / grief
 - Criticism of your organisation
- Know where the plan is, train people
- Prepare / test different scenarios and impacts

Sunday 21st June

Hi Niki, it's L** from ***** Council.
I've been watching the news from
Reading. I was the Comms lead for the
***** incident. I'm here if you need
anything. My advice is to accept as much
help as you can.





TOGETHER
#ReadingTogether

WELCOME TO FORBURY GARDENS

Please lay your tributes in the marked areas around the bandstand.
Please observe social distancing during your visit.

together.reading.gov.uk

Reading
Borough Council

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What to do... first 24 hours

In the moment

- Say yes to offers of help (say no later).
- What do the next few days look like? Stay one step ahead, stay out of the detail.
- What are the critical issues?
- What are people feeling/saying/doing - angry, sad, critical? What do they need - reassurance information / apology / mourn?
- Who are the external partners / stakeholders / groups we need to keep informed, including new ones?
- Support information.

In advance

- Plan for remembrance (e.g. Bridge?) - flower protocols, online book of condolence etc.
- Build internal networks - community relations.
- Build external networks - your peers.





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What to do... first 72 hours

In the moment

- Look externally - what are you missing? Who can help?
- Review - are you still on course? What is the public mood?
- What does it look like? Identity, name, icon.
- How will you deal with memorials, flowers etc? What will happen when the area reopens? If not the lead - (when) does it come to us?
- Wellbeing support for those affected.
- National reaction / movement (George Floyd, Sarah Everard).

In advance

- Come to a Crisis Comms conference!
- Consider case studies and examples - Manchester Arena, London bombings; Whaley Bridge Dam collapse; flooding in South West England.
- Consider multiple/concurrent crises - resourcing, division of responsibilities.



Saturday 27th June, 7pm





TOGETHER

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What to do... first week / fortnight

In the moment

- Desire to mark the event
 - Who - families, communities, groups, responders, civic/national dignitaries and politicians.
 - How - religious or not, physical event, online, official or informal?
- Keep accepting help, support your team - think forward to leave, TOIL etc.
- Review notes - think debrief, investigation.

In advance

- Know your events team. Are there standard risk assessments in place?
- Who in your organisation leads on community engagement?

VICTIMS FIRST


Care | Empower | Recover



#ReadingTogether

Reading stabbings: Khairi Saadallah jailed for park murders

© 11 January

 Reading stabbings



A killer who stabbed three men to death in a Reading park has been handed a whole-life jail term.

Khairi Saadallah murdered James Furlong, 36, David Wails, 49, and 39-year-old Joe Ritchie-Bennett, in June last year in Forbury Gardens.

London's Old Bailey previously heard the 26-year-old "executed" the men as an "act of religious jihad".

Passing sentence Judge Mr Justice Sweeney said it was a "ruthless and brutal" terror attack.

Saadallah, who admitted the murders, had also pleaded guilty to the attempted murders of three other men who were also in the park.

The judge said the victims "had no chance to react, let alone defend themselves".

What to do... 6/12 months and beyond

In the moment

- Key dates - e.g. birthdays.
- Trial, inquest, inquiry - reaction.
- Who needs to know what's coming - families, victims, partners, communities.
- What the public mood/reaction?
- Internal intel - what might come up and how will we react.
- Ongoing wellbeing information / support.
- Memorialisation and commemoration.

In advance

- Keep relationships with FLOs, families, partners to get intel.
- Be in the room - know what reviews, investigations etc are going on, what might come up and discuss in advance what the organisation's position and response might be.
- What if there's a leak?



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