



CURRENT LOCAL POLICING PRIORITIES

COVID-19

Under-25 Violence

Domestic Violence

West Bromwich Neighbourhood Policing Team

Police News Bulletin 29/11/2020

Email: westbromtown@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

Entries in this publication generally relate to events that have occurred over the previous 6 days. Personal details of individuals related to our dealings are not disclosed, in compliance with the Data Protection Act (1998). If you have any further queries, please email the team, and we will get back to you.

CARJACKING VICTIM REUNITED WITH HIS VEHICLE

Police Community Support Officers have been able to recover a van stolen during a recent carjacking. Our Forensics team will conduct a thorough check of the vehicle to see if any evidence can be obtained to identify the carjackers, and after this is complete, the van will be returned to its rightful owner!

Due to vigilant policing, the van was located and recovered less than 24 hours after the carjacking occurred, and as such, there is a chance that fresh, useable evidence may still be present.

OFFENDER ARRESTED AFTER 14 MONTHS ON THE RUN

A wanted male has been arrested in West Bromwich, after his vehicle was stopped by officers - only for them to find he has been wanted by another police force for over a year! The male was detained after officers spotted him using class B drugs in a car

The male was taken into custody, and has been reported for several other offences, including driving without insurance. His vehicle has been seized by officers, in an effort to keep our roads safe.

INVESTIGATION FOLLOWING STREET ROBBERY

Officers attended Carter's Green, West Bromwich on 27/11/2020 following reports that a male had been robbed and assaulted. Officers were on the scene within ten minutes of the call, speaking with the victim and conducting an area search for the offenders.

It is believed that offenders ran from the scene with a designer bag, a mobile phone and several hundred pounds worth of cash.

Officers are also searching for any potential CCTV that may have shown the offenders, and have made enquiries with a number of local businesses in an attempt to obtain any appropriate footage. Enquiries are still ongoing at this time.



ARREST MADE FOR WITNESS INTIMIDATION

An offender has been arrested after attempting to intimidate a witness, set to testify in the offender's own trial in a few months' time. Following reports that the offender had been making threats towards the witness, team members acted quickly, and the male was arrested, charged and remanded for witness intimidation.

FORCED LABOUR INVESTIGATION

Members of the team have been involved in an operation to safeguard a Polish male, who had been exploited for labour purposes. Paid just £10 a day, and kept in dreadful living conditions that did not include any form of heating, or even a toilet, the male was made to work long hours. Following reports made to the police, officers have taken the male into care, and provided him with safe, warm accommodation whilst the matter is investigated.

COVID-19: PATROLS, PLAN FOR AFTER LOCKDOWN AND MORE

The 28-day 'circuit breaker' lockdown that the Government brought into place on 05/11/2020 is almost over, and the region is set for a series of changes. Unfortunately, as with the rest of the West Midlands, West Bromwich is going to be classed as a 'Tier 3' area – however, this is slightly different to how Tier 3 areas had operated before this lockdown. Given the recent changes, this entire page will be dedicated to COVID-related information.

NEW TIER 3 RULES

Although quite a few aspects are as they had been previously for tier 3 locations, there have been a few changes. For your information, this is a breakdown of what the new Tier 3 regulations will involve:

- You cannot meet other people indoors, if you do not live with them or they are in your direct support bubble.
- Rule of 6 still applies for meeting people outdoors.
- Hospitality settings (bars, restaurants etc.) must close. Takeaway, click and collect and delivery services may still operate however. Accommodation (such as hotels) must close.
- Hairdressers, salons and barbers may reopen, but as with other stores allowed to reopen, must follow the COVID-Secure Guidelines.
- Indoor entertainment venues (such as cinemas, casinos and snooker halls) must close.
- Leisure and sports facilities are allowed to open, but group classes/sessions are not allowed.
- Places of worship will be open, but mixing outside your household/bubble inside these places is not permitted.

This list is not exhaustive, but these are the main points that will affect businesses around the town centre. For further information and a complete list of restrictions, exemptions and more, visit the Gov.uk website.

COVID-19 PATROLS

Once again, officers from the team have spent the last week patrolling around West Bromwich, dispersing large groups and challenging those who were not wearing face coverings whilst indoors.

Following a massive effort from the team, a total of 594 Directions to Leave have been issued by officers over the last 7 days, along with one Fixed Penalty Notice for an individual who refused to comply.

We also have statistics from the last 30 days to show the scale of how busy we have been around the town – as in this time period, we have issued a grand total of 1,661 Directions to Leave, along with 8 Fixed Penalty Notices. Of course, we always prefer to issue Directions to Leave to members of the public, as this merely involves them complying with an request to put on facemasks when inside shops, or when a group of over 6 people splits into smaller, more appropriate groups.

