

# West Bromwich Neighbourhood Policing Team

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*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.*

## COVID-19: TIER 4/NATIONAL LOCKDOWN UPDATE

On 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021, it was announced that the entire country was going into a 'National Lockdown', following moves in Scotland and Wales that accomplished the same. Whilst this did not change anything for Sandwell, as the region was already placed into the Tier 4 category on Boxing Day, it has meant that the guidance of staying at home is now even more important than it had been before. This has been reflected by various press releases from the government. The following is an excerpt from the government entitled 'National lockdown: Stay at Home' from 04/01/2021.

*You must not leave or be outside of your home except for where you have a 'reasonable excuse.' This is the law. The police can take action against you if you leave home without a 'reasonable excuse', and issue you with a fine (Fixed Penalty Notice).*

Whilst the guidance is extensive, it is also relatively self-explanatory. Unless you absolutely need to leave your home for a reason, be it work, essential food shopping, attending a location for medical reasons, or anything else that ABSOLUTELY requires you to go outside, you must stay indoors. Failure to comply will result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued, which starts at £200. Further offences result in this fine doubling each time – up to a maximum fine of £6,400. Further Fixed Penalties can also be given; for those who hold, or are involved in holding, an illegal gathering of thirty people or more, can now be issued with fines of £10,000.

Remember: Stay at home. Protect the NHS. Save lives.

## LARGE FIRE AT INDUSTRIAL UNIT

On the evening of 11/01/2021, Police received a call from West Midlands Fire Service for assistance, dealing with a large industrial fire near Carters Green, West Bromwich. The blaze, and threat that it had posed to local residents, had required the response of no fewer than six different fire engines to contain the blaze, preventing it from spreading to surrounding homes and businesses. Due to the nature of the blaze, one male was arrested at the scene and remains in custody, whilst the investigation progresses. Enquiries at the scene are still ongoing.

## STOLEN HGV AND TRAILER RECOVERED

Late in the evening of 13/01/2021, officers on patrol were alerted to the presence of a suspected stolen trailer, close to the M5. Upon arrival, officers performed extensive checks – and discovered both the trailer and the cab unit were stolen, from different parts of the country! Both have been recovered, to assist investigations from other police forces.



**ACTION TAKEN AGAINST PROLIFIC OFFENDERS**

Over the past few days, significant progress has been made in an effort to combat a group of offenders, responsible for a number of incidents around West Bromwich Bus Station in recent months. After liaising with Safer Travel, British Transport Police, Sandwell CCTV control room and Sandwell Council's Environmental Protection Officers, the main offenders have been identified and given Community Protection Notices (CPNs) for their behaviour, after they had failed to comply with their previous Community Protection Warnings. The group have also been issued with a multitude of fines in recent months, although these CPNs will allow officers to provide more substantial fines, or even arrest members of the group, should they breach the conditions imposed! Furthermore, the issue of these documents will prove to be vital when officers seek an injunction from the courts. To date, five of the offenders that commonly gather in the area have been issued with Community Protection Notices, with over a dozen other members who occasionally join them also being identified. The names of all of these individuals have been passed to our partners at British Transport Police, Safer Travel and other partner organisations, in order to assist with any of their investigations that are ongoing in and around West Bromwich bus station and metro line.

**MAIN ROAD BLOCKED AFTER LORRY SHEDS CARGO**

On 11/01/2021, the roundabout of the A41 close to Carter's Green was partially closed, following an incident involving a lorry tipping over, and shedding its cargo. The lorry, carrying around forty tons of timber, had tipped over, blocking around a quarter of the roundabout, due to the sheer size of the articulated lorry and the bulk of its cargo. Fortunately, the driver was rescued from his cab with minimal injuries, and was treated by an ambulance crew on the scene. Due to the considerable cleanup that was required, the part of the island that provides access onto Old Meeting Street was blocked off for around six hours, before all of the spilt cargo could be collected, and other pieces of debris cleaned up. Furthermore, several passing motorists were issued with fines for driving on their mobile phones, as they chose to take photos/videos of the scene whilst driving – despite there being a highly visible police presence on the scene! All drivers caught using their phones to record the incident can expect a ticket to come through the post in the coming days.

**SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES!****Twitter:**

@WestBromwichWMP

**Instagram:**

@BlackCountryPolice

**Facebook:**

Sandwell Police

*Do not use the social media pages to report crime. All crime should be reported via 101, or 999 in an emergency.*

