

West Bromwich Neighbourhood Policing Team

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.

COVID-19: TIER 4/NATIONAL LOCKDOWN UPDATE

Given how the distribution of vaccines is continuing on a mass scale, a 'roadmap' has been published by the government, covering how the return to schools, work and places of leisure will unfold – with a gradual ease on the restrictions regarding the mixing of households occurring, between 8th March and 21st June. Yet whilst the plan is in place for the easing of the lockdown, the current restrictions remain in place, until we reach the dates highlighted by the roadmap. As such, the following guidance is still to be adhered to, until these dates:

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 fifteen people or more, can now be issued with fines of £10,000. Furthermore, any persons found to be attending any indoor gathering can also now receive a larger fine than standard, with attendees of such events eligible to receive fines of £800. This also applies for persons attending indoor gatherings where there are fewer than fifteen people present.

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

CRACKDOWN ON VEHICLE-RELATED LOCKDOWN BREACHES

Over the past few days, patrols around secluded areas where youths have been known to hang out and engage in antisocial behaviour (and other behaviours that do not constitute an 'essential reason' to be outdoors), has resulted in a number of Directions To Leave being issued, along with a search of a vehicle, seizure of class B drugs from the driver, and the seizure of a motor vehicle, after discovering the teen was not insured to drive his mother's car! The driver has been reported for driving without insurance, and has been offered support from Cranstoun House, in relation to the class B drugs found.



INVESTIGATIONS CONTINUE FOLLOWING DISORDER IN SHOP

On Saturday 20th February, officers were called to a store on Duchess Parade, following reports by staff members on the Townlink radio that two males were fighting on another in the store. Officers promptly made their way to the location, only to find that one of the parties involved in the disorder had left the scene.

From analysing the CCTV footage, we were able to identify the male who had left the scene, whilst the other party involved (who was still present) attended the station to be interviewed regarding the assault. The male who had left the scene was later spoken to, and attended West Bromwich Police Station on Thursday 25th February for a voluntary interview, regarding his role in the incident.

We would like to thank shop workers for the co-ordinated use of the town radios, provided by West Bromwich Business Improvement District, which allowed for effective communication and a co-ordinated response by officers.

**USE OF SPECIALIST EQUIPMENT TO ASSIST INVESTIGATION**

Everyone likes to try out new equipment that becomes available, and those of us in the police are no different! Following recent intelligence from an investigation covering a vast geographical area, officers were able to call upon a specialist Police drone operator, to assist with their enquiries. Due to concerns that a property may have been used for illicit purposes, a high-tech drone with thermal imaging capability was flown over the premises to assess for any irregular heat patterns at the premises. On this occasion, nothing was discovered, although the recent uses of the drone across the force area have achieved some substantial results!

VEHICLE SEIZED FROM COUPLE BREACHING LOCKDOWN REGULATIONS

Following our proactive patrols over the past few days, officers on patrol around remote areas of West Bromwich came across a car parked in a secluded car park, with a young couple sat in the back of it, with the engine running. Sadly for them, not only did their decision to travel into West Bromwich to eat food together not constitute essential travel, but the fact the owner of the vehicle had driven to this spot without insurance, meant that the pair were left to walk home. The driver will also be receiving Fixed Penalty Notices for driving without a full license – with the recklessness of her actions being fully explained to her.

