

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: LOCKDOWN UPDATE

As of Monday 8th March 2021, the UK has taken the first step into easing the lockdown measures that have gripped the region since November. Although these first steps seem minor, we have seen major changes to life in West Bromwich town centre – namely by the return of students to the local schools and colleges. With the return of a large quantity of young people into West Bromwich town centre, the Neighbourhood Team will be working alongside other departments in the station to implement an effective patrol plan, in order to combat any disorders which may occur. This will result in an increased police presence around the town centre, with officers from our Operation Guardian task force assisting neighbourhood officers.

Furthermore, restrictions in place to combat the mixing of households are being lifted, as individuals are now allowed to mix with one person from another household (without being in a support bubble), in an outdoors setting. We encourage people to exercise this new standing by meeting a loved one outdoors, in a setting such as Dartmouth Park. It is however, important to remember that meeting in larger groups (e.g. the 'rule of six' that was in place last summer) will not be permitted until the 29th March at the earliest – with officers still being able to issue Directions to Leave and Fixed Penalty Notices for those that fail to comply.

ONE ARRESTED FOLLOWING DISCOVERY OF CANNABIS FARM

On the afternoon of Friday 12th March, officers conducted a search warrant on residential premises, following recent intelligence that the home was being used to grow cannabis. After making entry, officers promptly found approximately 90 plants within the flat, and arrested the occupant for being concerned in the production of a class B drug. Cannabis plants, cultivation equipment, mobile phones, drug paraphernalia and more were all recovered from the property, in a co-ordinated operation that ran into the night.

Furthermore, the tenant in the flat was reported to Sandwell Council, as using a council-owned property to produce illegal class B drugs, certainly constitutes a breach of tenancy!

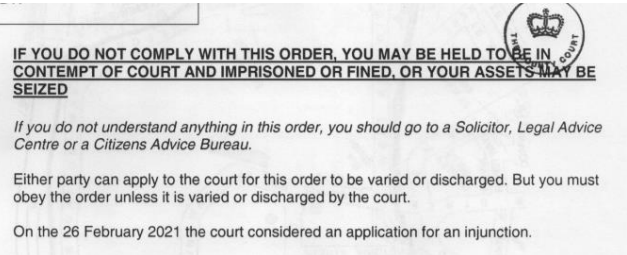
Cannabis farms pose an incredible danger to their occupants and those nearby, due to the substantial fire risk that they pose. Due to the vast number of electrical items they use, and the fact the fuse boxes are often unsafely bypassed to cope with the demand, the risk of an electrical fire is incredibly high.



**PROLIFIC OFFENDER ISSUED WITH NEW INJUNCTION
(AFTER BREACHING THE ONE ISSUED LAST WEEK)**

Following months of hard work alongside Sandwell Council’s ASB team, we are proud to announce that a prolific offender that has caused a whole host of problems on Duchess Parade, High Street and the surrounding area, has been served with an injunction, which went live on Wednesday 3rd March 2021. Just seven days later, the male was arrested, having breached his injunction on no fewer than three occasions, and the next day, was brought to court.

Whilst the 24 hours the male had spent in custody was deemed sufficient punishment by the judge, his injunction was amended slightly – to close any potential loopholes that could be exploited. The updated injunction has been forwarded to our partner agencies for their awareness, and officers have been thoroughly briefed on the matter.



DRINK DRIVER ARRESTED FOLLOWING COLLISION WITH OTHER VEHICLE

On Saturday 13th March 2021, officers responded to reports of a seemingly drunk male attempting to get into his car, in the vicinity of Claypit Lane, West Bromwich. Upon arriving at the scene, officers discovered that the driver had not made it very far from where the caller had initially seen him get into the vehicle – as he had collided with a parked van, along with a fence, during his brief time behind the wheel.

Noting the now damaged vehicle, and the state of its driver, the male was promptly arrested on suspicion of drink-driving. Enquiries remain ongoing.

JOINT OPERATION ON TOWN CENTRE RESULTS IN ARREST OF WANTED MALE

On Thursday 11th March 2021, officers from the Neighbourhood Team worked alongside the Neighbourhood Task Force to target known drug dealers that frequent the town centre. This involved Police Community Support Officers working in Sandwell CCTV control room, acting as spotters for uniformed officers, guiding them towards individuals that were deemed to be acting suspiciously. Furthermore, plain clothes officers were able to detain and conduct stop-searches on several individuals that had made efforts to leave the area upon sighting uniformed officers. One of these stop searches proved fruitful, as a male was found to be currently wanted – as well as in possession of three knives and fifty wraps of cannabis. The male was arrested, with offences of possession with intent to supply, and possession of a bladed article, added to the charges that he was already facing!

