

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: 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 – as will be discussed later in this newsletter.

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.

SUSPECTED BURGLAR “IN THE WRONG PLACE AT THE WRONG TIME”

A male was arrested on suspicion of burglary, following a substantial effort from your Neighbourhood Team. On Saturday 20th March, a 999 call was passed to us from the control room, reporting a suspicious male jumping over fences and into peoples’ back gardens, close to Beresford Crescent. As such, the entire team deployed to take part in an area search for the suspect. After promptly finding the male, and establishing what he was doing climbing over fences, we thought this would be the end of it. However, during our search for this male, officers had come across another individual acting suspiciously. Following a conversation with the male, he admitted he was at the location to purchase “farming equipment”, and walked us to his van. This happened to be parked outside a property where the door had been recently forced open, and the “farming equipment” was from a cannabis factory, which was uncovered by a warrant last week! It was evident that the equipment did not belong to him, and as such, the male was arrested on suspicion of burglary. As a substantial amount of the equipment had also been loaded in his vehicle, his vehicle was also seized on the suspicion that it had been used in crime.



TOWN CENTRE PATROLS RESULT IN KNIVES BEING SEIZED

Also on Saturday, two young teenagers were arrested after being searched by officers – and the pair were found to be carrying large kitchen knives, concealed in their trousers! Officers recovered a pair of kitchen knives with 20cm long blades from both young males – with the oldest of the pair being just shy of his fourteenth birthday. Intervention and Prevention is being offered to the pair, to help divert them away from a life of crime – or any future harm. Every knife that we take off the streets is seen as a substantial result for the force – as a knife recovered could easily be a life saved - which is why additional officers can be seen patrolling around the town as of late, with teenagers returning to the local schools, sixth forms and colleges.



RECENT REPORTS BY BUSINESSES RESULT IN ARREST AND CHARGE OF SHOPLIFTERS

Over the past few days, several shoplifters have been arrested, each from different stores around the town centre. These reports have been welcomed by officers, as with local businesses pressing complaints regarding shoplifters, it allows us to take appropriate action against offenders – with trips to our custody block hopefully making them think twice before committing such offences again in the future.

We hope that these recent reports – and corresponding police action – encourage local businesses to take more action against shoplifters, as it is only by taking action that we are able to effectively deter offenders.

OFFICERS GO THE EXTRA MILE TO PREVENT VICTIM HAVING TO PAY EXTRA COSTS FOR HER STOLEN CAR

On Wednesday 17th March, officers on patrol sighted a vehicle parked on Thynne Street, West Bromwich, that we suspected had been taken without it’s owner’s permission by her adult son. Sensing that the mother was already distressed by the situation, and just wanting to get her car back in one piece, officers used their initiative and called her directly. We informed her of where the car was located, and asked her to bring the vehicle’s spare key to our location, so that she could reclaim her car – this way, we would remain that the vehicle until she arrived at our location and could safely depart with it – and she would not have to pay the recovery fee!

Whilst this gesture may have been small, she was over the moon to have her vehicle back in one piece, and being able to keep the £150 that otherwise would’ve been the cost of the vehicle’s recovery.

