

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 29th March 2021, the UK took the second step in easing the lockdown measures that have been in place across the West Midlands since November 2020. Unlike the first phase of easing the lockdown, this second phase is noticeably different – with small groups now being allowed to meet in an outdoors setting, and outdoor sports being able to resume. Furthermore, preparations are taking place for the reopening of outdoor hospitality and, shops, hairdressers, gyms and more – which will be opening on 12th April – just a few days from now.

Whilst restrictions regarding gatherings have certainly been eased, it is vital that people do not meet up in larger groups – as the police will continue to take action against these parties. We appreciate that people have spent months in lockdown, and now that the weather is getting warmer, people are wanting to go outside with friends and family again – but if people fail to abide by the current Coronavirus legislation, officers are still able to issue Directions to Leave and Fixed Penalty Notice.

DISPERSAL ORDER ISSUED FOR WEST BROMWICH TOWN CENTRE

Following incidents of antisocial behaviour across the town centre on Tuesday 30th March, a Section 35 Dispersal Order was signed by our Inspector. This stemmed from multiple reports of troublesome youth groups across the town centre, involved in water fights. These youths had caused traffic disruption by running in and out of the road, and had caused harassment to members of the public who had been in the area. That evening, youth groups of between 40 and 60 people had failed to comply with directions to leave, and as such, justification for the dispersal order was given. Throughout the 31st March and 1st April, officers from the Neighbourhood Team, Operation Guardian and other forces were deployed on foot to enforce the Section 35 Dispersal Order, and after giving warnings to several smaller youth groups, several water guns were seized. Several dozen youths were dispersed from the area, with suitable advice to play in nearby parks rather than play on a busy road close to the bus station.

Whilst we absolutely understand that children wanted to make the most of the sunny weather (for the two days that it lasted), engaging in a water fight, and running in and out of traffic a hundred yards from the bus station is clearly not safe. No fines were given to the individuals spoken to, with the vast majority complying with the dispersal order, or the advice given by police to merely go and play in a more appropriate venue (and in a smaller group) such as Sandwell Valley Park.



STOLEN LUXURY VEHICLE RETURNED TO OWNER

On Thursday 1st April, officers on patrol were alerted to a possible stolen vehicle on Carden Close, West Bromwich, after the rightful owner obtained the location via his vehicle’s GPS tracker. Officers responded quickly, and found the luxury Range Rover to be parked up, unlocked and unattended. The vehicle was recovered by police, at the owner’s wishes, to determine if the car thieves had left any form of evidence behind, and to determine how the vehicle had been taken – given that the owner still had both sets of keys with him. We strongly advise motorists, particularly those with expensive vehicles, to consider installing GPS trackers on board – as whilst they can be expensive, they prove to be incredibly useful in locating vehicles if they are ever stolen. Furthermore, it can reduce the cost of your insurance premium, with some companies!



ARREST MADE AFTER CO-ORDINATED DRUG OPERATION

On Thursday 8th April, after being alerted to the presence of individuals in Kenrick Park who were believed to be drug dealing, officers devised a plan to catch members of the group believed to be responsible – suspecting that the group would scatter, upon sighting of the first police vehicle or officer. As such, officers were carefully positioned at each exit to the park, and made a co-ordinated approach towards the group. As predicted, the group split up, with one of the males running from officers – before being promptly cornered and detained. Searches of the males and the area where they had been loitering yielded a lock knife, eighteen bags of cannabis and several hundred pounds in cash. The male who fled was arrested for possession of a class B drug with intent to supply, and enquiries remain ongoing.



EASTER EGGS DELIVERED TO CHILDREN’S WARD

Officers and staff from Sandwell Police, and other departments, donated the Easter eggs and then, alongside our partners at Queens Square Shopping Centre and West Bromwich Bid, delivered the eggs whilst out on patrol. This included officers from West Bromwich NHT, who had both donated Easter Eggs and assisted in delivering them! In total, between Police stations across Sandwell, along with Queens Square and West Bromwich BID, over 100 Easter eggs were donated to the hospital, to be distributed amongst children and young people spending their Easter weekends on the wards.



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www.west-midlands.police.uk

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- Report non-emergency crime online
- Track your case
- Live chat to an adviser (8am - midnight, Mon-Sun)

