

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 we have seen over the past few days, a degree of normality has returned to our lives in West Bromwich! After a lengthy break, the vast majority of shops, restaurants and pubs around West Bromwich have re-opened, attracting significant crowds to the town centre for the first time this year. Since 12th April, extra officers have been committed across the force, to allow for a safer return to pubs, restaurants etc., whilst still complying with the latest government guidelines in regards to social distancing, wearing PPE, mass gatherings and more.

With venues such as gyms and outdoor hospitality returning, there has been a slight uptake in demand for police response, although thankfully, such incidents have been well managed. Nonetheless, we will remain particularly vigilant over the next few months, especially as we move towards the start date of the European football championships.

CANNABIS FARM DISCOVERED... LESS THAN 100 YARDS FROM THE POLICE STATION

In what proved to be an unusual turn of events, a cannabis farm was discovered on Oak Road, West Bromwich, during a routine check. The shocking part of it though, is that the address which was being used to cultivate cannabis was less than 100 yards away from the police station, and was being driven past by police vehicles dozens of times a day, completely oblivious to the fact! Following a check at the address and observing a significant amount of foil lining the room, a warrant was obtained to search the address. After forcing the door, officers entered, and promptly discovered several dozen plants situated in the property, along with a wide array of cultivation equipment scattered throughout the property. Although no offenders were present at the time of the search warrant, items have been recovered from the premises that offer viable forensics opportunities, which could lead to future convictions. Whether situating a cannabis farm so close to a police station was extremely smart or extremely daft, we cannot say... But the fact that their cannabis and their equipment have been booked into our detained property store makes me think it would be the latter.



DAY OF ACTION ON THE TOWN CENTRE

On Saturday 17th April, an operation was conducted around West Bromwich town centre, targeting drug dealing and offenders known to carry weapons. This involved over fifteen officers, in a mixture of uniform and plain clothes, in a co-ordinated operation that lasted approximately three hours. Class B drugs were recovered from almost half a dozen individuals, with appropriate action taken against the relevant parties.

VEHICLE SEIZED AFTER ATTEMPTING TO FLEE FROM OFFICERS

On Friday 16th April, officers on patrol came across a red Ford Mondeo on the High Street, which appeared to be in a somewhat poor state of repair. After performing a quick check on the police National Computer, officers quickly established that the car was being driven without insurance, and turned their vehicle around to intercept the driver. Upon sighting the marked police vehicle, the driver put his foot down, travelling at excess speed along Price Street, High Street, Roebuck Lane, and before coming to a stop on Devereux Road when he believed he has lost the officers pursuing him – at which point he alighted his vehicle and attempted to walk away. Unfortunately for him, officers were only a few seconds behind, and a helpful member of public promptly outed him as the driver. Male was detained, his vehicle seized for being driven without insurance, and the male issued TPO-10 Fixed Penalty Notices for driving without insurance and driving without a license. Should he not pay the release fee for his vehicle within fourteen days, we will happily see his car crushed.



MALE ARRESTED FOR DRINK DRIVING

On 18th April, Sandwell Hospital security made a call to the police after sighting a male behind the wheel of his vehicle drinking from a can of cider, and upon exiting the vehicle, staggering to a bike shed and urinating on the wall. Officers quickly responded to this incident, finding the offending vehicle, and a rather intoxicated male sat behind the wheel of his vehicle. Roadside breathalyser tests showed that the male blew over the legal limit (35 micrograms of alcohol per 100ml of breath), and the male was promptly arrested for driving under the influence. A brief search of his car uncovered the can of high strength cider that security had witnessed (and had CCTV footage of) him drinking from, and breathalyser readings from Custody showed the male to be almost three times the legal driving limit. The male awaits interview/charge.

PCSO'S WORK ALONGSIDE LOCAL CHILDREN'S HOME

With the easing of Coronavirus restrictions, Police Community Support Officers are able to do more work in the community again, for the first time in months. And one of the first places we visited was a children's home on Edward Street, so that we could engage with young people whom concerns had recently been raised about. In order to effectively engage with the young residents, we decided to take a very relaxed approach, chatting with them over a game of pool. Not only did this help the residents to feel more comfortable when talking to officers, by seeing us as the human beings that we are instead of a uniform, the casual atmosphere proved to be very helpful in getting the young residents to disclose the somewhat difficult and sensitive issues which the staff members had called us regarding. All in all, it was a great result – with the young residents giving us the information we were after, and in return, being given some tips to improve their pool game!


