

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.

SHOP THIEF ARRESTED, DRUGS AND WEAPON SEIZED

On Thursday 17th June, when uniformed officers were attending a location on Birmingham Road to purchase their lunch, staff on the site flagged them down and alerted them to a shoplifter who had been detained by store staff, after being caught attempting to leave the store with several items of stock concealed in his coat. As the officers began to speak with the male, and moved to apply handcuffs to him, the male made his bid for freedom, attempting to push past the two officers and sprint through the store. His attempted escape was unsuccessful, as a few seconds later, and after a brief struggle, the male was on the ground in cuffs.

It quickly became apparent why the male had attempted to flee. Not only did he have items shoplifted from several stores on his person, he was also currently wanted for no fewer than four previous shop theft offences! And to make matters worse, when officers conducted a search of his person, a large bag of cannabis and an amount of class A drugs were found, along with a 50cm axe. The male was promptly arrested.



VEHICLE SEIZED AND TWO ARRESTED FOR POSESSION WITH INTENT TO SUPPLY

Following significant amounts of intelligence provided by the community, officers have conducted extensive enquiries into a number of vehicles being used by drug dealers in the Sandwell area. One particular area where concerned residents have alerted us to drug dealing activity comes from the streets off Spon Lane, West Bromwich. As such, regular patrols in both marked and unmarked police vehicles have been undertaken in the past two weeks.

On Thursday 10th June, officers on patrol in an unmarked car noticed a blue Peugeot, which we had received information on, and proceeded to follow it for several minutes - until the vehicle drove into a cul-de-sac and was blocked in. Subsequent searches of the vehicle discovered that not only was the driver not insured to drive it, the passenger of the vehicle was in possession of a significant quantity of class A drugs, and several small bags of cannabis. As such, both the driver and passenger were arrested for possession of a class A drug with intent to supply, and the driver was reported for prosecution for driving without insurance and the vehicle seized.

Furthermore, as the insurance policy he was driving on appears to have been used fraudulently, his insurance were made aware of this.



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DRUGS WARRANT CONDUCTED AT WEST BROMWICH ADDRESS

Early in the morning of Wednesday 16th June, officers conducted a search warrant under Section 23, Misuse of Drugs Act, at an address close to the Hateley Heath border. This warrant was signed off after months of building intelligence, and was executed shortly before 8am that morning. Concerned that the occupant may attempt to flee the area as officers attempted to gain entry, officers were assisted by a West Midlands Police Drone unit, who positioned their drone approximately 60 feet above the property and kept overwatch for the officers on the ground.

Shortly after officers forced entry, a thorough search of the property was undertaken, and a large quantity of what we suspect to be an illegal psychoactive substance was seized by officers, and the occupants of the property were arrested, on suspicion of producing a class B drug. In order to search for further drugs that may have been concealed, a specialist drug searching dog was brought into the property, to ensure we had not missed anything.

Enquiries remain ongoing, and the items believed to be an illegal psychoactive substance were seized, and their identity will be confirmed by an independent laboratory.

MEETING WITH MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT'S OFFICE REGARDING REPEAT CALLER

Not all jobs that the team undertake can be described as exciting, and this serves as a perfect example of such. Due to repeat calls and complaints from a local resident, several of which have been false and malicious, a meeting was arranged with the local MP's office and the resident, in order to help combat further issues caused by her actions. Evidence of the resident's repeat calls, emails and incident logs were shown to the MP's office in order to thoroughly explain the situation, and to signpost the resident towards relevant support agencies.

**POLICE VEHICLE RAMMED BY OFFENDERS**

Whilst on patrol in West Bromwich in a shiny and new marked police vehicle, officers sighted a Volkswagen that was acting suspiciously, driving towards them on a narrow street. Knowing the intelligence reports existing on the vehicle, officers turned the blue lights on, and blocked off the road, in order to stop the vehicle. Sadly, the vehicle did not comply with this, and deliberately rammed the police vehicle, before driving around them and attempting to flee the area. Officers immediately called for assistance and reported the damage, with colleagues from West Midlands Police Traffic attending to conduct an area search for the damaged Volkswagen. It was found abandoned a short time later and the vehicle was seized. Enquiries remain ongoing to identify the driver and passengers.

