

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.

MUSIC EVENTS HELD IN SANDWELL VALLEY

Over the weekend of 18th-19th September, Sandwell Valley hosted two live music events – namely, the MADE Festival which was hosted on Saturday 18th September, and the Party in the Park event, which was held on the 19th September. Due to Coronavirus restrictions, these events had been rescheduled on a number of occasions, but at the start of September, had been given the green light to go ahead on the aforementioned dates. Organisers of the festival did liaise with police, and a dedicated plan was put into place, specifically for the 18th September – as we knew in advance that over 14,000 tickets had been sold for the event – with the majority of those being sold to young people.

Due to the large number of festival-goers and the related footfalls and queues, several streets in the area of Sandwell Valley were blocked off, only allowing access for residents. Whilst this did cause notable traffic disruption, it did allow for a safer and smoother transition of festival-goers from the venue to the town centre and major transport links. In order to ensure the safety of those attending the festival, extra uniformed officers were deployed for the day, many of whom were working extended duties and/or overtime – with officers working until the early hours of the morning to ensure those who had travelled to attend the festival were able to arrange safe transport back to their accommodation or home addresses for the evening.

The event the following day, named 'Party in the Park' proved to be a far more relaxed affair, with many of the acts that were performing being targeted at an older and more mature audience. This was shown in the ticket sales, which were about a third of what had been sold for MADE Festival. This was an easier event to manage, and the levels of disruption caused were visibly lower than the previous day.



ARRESTS MADE FOLLOWING ASTLE PARK DISORDER

Two teenagers were arrested on the evening of Thursday 23rd September, following an instance of violent disorder on the car park of Astle Park shopping centre. A 999 call was placed to West Midlands Police reporting eight persons fighting, although more persons were becoming involved in the disorder as the call came in – and despite a prompt police response, there were an estimated fifteen persons involved in the disorder by the time officers arrived. Two teenagers involved in the disorder were arrested at the scene for assault, and enquiries are continuing. As a number of the offenders are college-aged, we are working alongside local education establishments in a bid to identify others who were involved in the disorder. Incidents like this will not be tolerated, and we will work closely with local colleges in a bid to identify all parties involved in the disorder, and take appropriate action against them.

DISPERSAL ORDER PUT IN PLACE

On Monday 20th September, a dispersal order was signed off for West Bromwich town centre. This was due to recent pockets of disorder around the town, including an assault where the victim was struck with a hammer, as well as an attempted robbery. The dispersal order, which ran for 48 hours, allowed for officers to break up any groups seen gathering on the town centre, with the power to arrest members of such groups should they fail to comply. Due to this dispersal order, a significant number of officers were tasked with patrolling the town centre throughout the day, alongside support from the Guardian task force.

Dispersal orders such as this one require sufficient intelligence or grounds to be signed off, and must be authorised by an inspector – which is why we only use them when we specifically need to. On this occasion, due to the recent attempted robbery and assault, we deemed our grounds for the dispersal order to be sufficient, and as such, the order was granted.

WANTED MALE HANDS HIMSELF IN

A male who was wanted by police following his role in an attempted burglary of business was arrested as he chose to hand himself in to the Public Contact Office at West Bromwich Police Station. He was the outstanding offender for an attempted break-in which the team responded to earlier in September, where he fled from officers, making good in his escape over garden fences. After almost two weeks as a wanted man, he opted to surrender himself into police custody, and was promptly arrested.



STOLEN MOTORBIKE RECOVERED BY OFFICERS

Following intelligence passed to us by housing officers, officers from the team have been able to recover a stolen motorbike.

Enquiries conducted at the scene found a motorbike in a state of disrepair, which had been stolen in October 2020. However, as officers made arrangements to recover the bike, a male came out of a nearby flat claiming that the bike was his, and attempting to prevent officers from removing the vehicle. He claimed that he had purchased the bike, and that he had the papers to prove it – however, the serial number of the bike showed that the bike remained outstanding on the Police National Computer as a stolen vehicle. Whilst the male was initially irate, he did surrender the papers related to the bike in order to assist officer's enquiries as to how a stolen motorbike had come into his possession.

VEHICLE USED IN CRIME SEIZED BY OFFICERS

A red Mini that had been used by offenders in two assaults and a shop theft has been seized by officers, after being discovered on Newton Road with significant damage. Officers responded to reports of an abandoned vehicle with significant structural damage, only to conduct checks on the vehicle and establish that it had been used to assist offenders in three separate criminal offences in July 2021. Given the fact that the vehicle offered potential forensic opportunities, they opted to recover it to allow for our Forensic Scene Investigators to work on the vehicle - as it may offer valuable evidence for at least three different investigations.

