

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 two weeks. 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 THEFT

In recent weeks, particularly in December, one of the areas where the Neighbourhood policing Unit has focused has been with the apprehension and charging of offenders involved in shop thefts. This is due to the rise in thefts which is seen across the country on an annual basis around the buildup to Christmas. Our belief is, that by working closely with local businesses to apprehend shoplifters that they report to us, it sets a clear precedent to other offenders and creates a deterrent as such. We have seen a great deal of success in the past few weeks in this regard, with the arrest and prosecution of several frequent offenders known to target the town centre.

As always, we always urge for local businesses to report shoplifting offences to us, as only by being made aware of them can we investigate and take appropriate action – regardless of the value of the items taken.

One example of why this is important comes from an arrest made by team members on Friday 17th December. After a male had carried out a shop theft from a store on Astle Park, the male had fled, whilst being chased on foot by store security, plain clothes police officers, a Business Improvement District ambassador and uniformed police officers. The male had stolen items of a lower value, namely perfume and chocolates, yet the store still made the attempt to recover the items and contact the police.

We would like to thank our partners that work around the town centre for their assistance in apprehending the offender – all in all, it proved to be a fantastic day's work with two meaningful arrests to show from the incident!

ARREST MADE AFTER FEMALE FOUND DRUNK IN CHARGE

A woman was arrested by neighbourhood officers on the afternoon of Saturday 18th December 2021 after a concerned witness reported seeing her unconscious hanging out of the window of her parked up vehicle. Officers promptly attended to find her still present in the vehicle, with an open vodka bottle visible and a strong smell of alcohol. Although the outcome was relatively predictable, officers still administered the female a roadside breath test – which to the surprise of nobody, returned a positive result. As such, she was arrested for being drunk in charge of a motor vehicle.

Throughout the holiday period, we see a rise in the number of people being arrested for drink-driving, with many drivers deciding to take the risk of driving after having "a drink or two" and thinking they would be okay. It isn't, and they weren't. Drink driving is classed as a 'Fatal 4' offence, named as such because it is one of the four biggest causes of fatal collisions on our roads every year, which is why anyone convicted of drink-driving risks a prison sentence, hefty fine and losing their drivers' license. Don't take the risk - get a taxi, public transport or a lift.



TWO SHOPLIFTERS REMANDED INTO CUSTODY - UPDATE

During the afternoon of Thursday 9th December, officers from the neighbourhood team apprehended two well-known shoplifters who were wanted for a series of shop thefts around West Bromwich.

The first offender was drawn to our attention after the Business Improvement District alerted us to the fact he had just stolen sausage rolls from a local bakery! He was already wanted for two other counts of shop theft, but now that we knew his location, officers were promptly dispatched to detain, search and arrest him. He was located several minutes later near the junction of High Street and St. Michaels Street. Sadly, by the time officers had arrived and searched him, it appeared that the evidence had been consumed...

The male was remanded into custody and remains there, at the time of writing.

A few hours later, two Police Community Support Officers on patrol close to Duchess Parade sighted a well-known female shoplifter, who appeared to be under the influence of drink or drugs. After confirming her identity, they conducted relevant enquiries and established that she was currently wanted for three separate theft from shop/stall offences, and detained her as such. As they had done earlier in the day, officers promptly arrived to search and arrest her for these offences.

As with the other shoplifter, she remains in custody at the time of writing, having been charged with three separate theft from shop/stall offences.

UPDATE – Both offenders have attended court earlier this week and have been given suspended sentences. This means that, should they commit another offence during the period their suspended sentences run for, they face imprisonment for the remainder of their sentence, plus any repercussion of the offence they commit. This may not be the outcome we had hoped for the most, but given the lengths of the suspended sentences, it should prove to be an effective deterrent to the pair.

MALE ARMED WITH KNIVES ARRESTED

On the morning of Thursday 16th December 2021, officers were alerted to the presence of a male on Duchess Parade armed with three large knives. The male was promptly detained by Taser officers, who searched the male under Section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act. The male was compliant with the search, and three kitchen knives were recovered, two from his pockets and one from his waistband. Despite denying that the knives were his as they were removed from his person, the male was promptly arrested. The male has since been released pending further investigation and has been referred to the Youth Offending Team, with this having been his first offence.

