

West Bromwich Neighbourhood Policing Team

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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.

CANNABIS FARMS

A cannabis farm has been discovered at a residential property on Stour Street, West Bromwich. After the neighbourhood team had spent weeks of developing intelligence around the address, officers from the Neighbourhood Task Force petitioned magistrates for a search warrant, which was granted. The search yielded a total of 182 plants at the address, in various stages of growth, along with evidence from recently harvested plants in the garden. It is believed that these would be worth a six figure sum, meaning that this warrant has taken a substantial amount of income away from criminals. Officers also found that the electricity meter had been bypassed with haphazard wiring, which posed a substantial fire risk to the semi-detached property – a sadly common occurrence at cannabis farms. Along with the plants, other items of note were seized from the property, and intelligence surrounding the persons involved in setting up the cannabis farm has been submitted – so a fantastic result for the neighbourhood team all around.

This is not the only cannabis factory found in West Bromwich recently either – on the evening of 4th January 2022, officers attended an address on Mason Street, following reports of males breaking into a property. Whilst the males had fled before officers had arrived, the quick response by officers and vigilance of neighbours had limited the amount of time the offenders had inside the address – meaning that over 70 cannabis plants were still present. These, as with the ones found at the property on Stour Street were seized and destroyed. We estimate that, from the two addresses combined, the plants held a value of almost a quarter of a million pounds – a substantial sum that criminal organisations have been denied access to.

TRAFFIC OFFENCES CRACKDOWN

Over the past few days, officers have been taking a proactive result to dealing with vehicle-related offences in the West Bromwich area. These have been numerous but include the following:

- A driver travelling the wrong way down a one way system is set to receive a Notice of Intended Prosecution for his manner of driving. He can expect a fine and points on his license.
- A vehicle which was displaying false plates, in order to disguise the fact it was untaxed, uninsured and supposed to be stored off the road, has been seized.
- A vehicle which had seen its road tax expire over eight months ago has been seized, after being found parked on the side of the road.
- A vehicle abandoned at the side of the road after a serious collision, which was also found to be untaxed and uninsured, has been seized
- Another driver will be receiving a Notice of Intended Prosecution for several offences, namely for driving without due care and attention, failing to wear glasses whilst driving (despite it being a requirement on his license) and driving a vehicle without road tax. His vehicle was also seized.

Other offences, such as drivers using their mobile phones and not wearing seatbelts have also resulted in several recent traffic offence reports. We hope that our recent actions should prove to be an effective deterrent for the future as the fines points on offenders' licenses

DRUG DEALERS ARRESTED AFTER COVERT SPOT

A male and a female have been arrested after they were seen dealing Class A drugs this evening (14th January). The pair had been spotted by an unmarked police car partaking in two separate drug deals - before their car was blocked in by traffic officers and the pair detained. The male’s attempts to dispose of a large quantity of individually wrapped Class A drugs was unsuccessful, as his not so subtle efforts were noticed by both officers and dashboard cameras aboard the traffic cars.

His poor attempts ended with both him and the woman being arrested for possession of Class A drugs. The car was also seized, after the driver could not prove that they held a valid insurance policy. Section 18 searches are set to be conducted at the pair’s home addresses later this evening, in an effort to find any further evidence of their involvement in criminal activity – although the evidence from the car alone is more than enough to charge them for possession with intent to supply, given the fact that 98 wraps of Class A drugs were found. Definitely a bit too much for the pair to argue personal use!



ARREST ATTEMPTS

During times when officers are not involved in incident logs from West Bromwich itself, officers commonly help out other departments where we can, in a variety of ways – one of which is by conducting arrest attempts on persons who are currently wanted. These persons can be wanted for a variety of offences, and in order to locate, arrest and take such persons to custody, officers will conduct ‘arrest attempts’ by visiting the homes of these persons, hoping to find them at home and make the process considerably easier. On one day this week, one group of officers from the team conducted four such arrest attempts, and located the wanted persons for the following offences:

- Failing to appear at court to answer charges for drink-driving
- Failing to appear at court to answer charges for disqualified driving
- Failing to appear at court to answer charges for section 47 assault
- Failing to appear at court to answer charges for common assault

Of these four charges, three of the offenders were arrested, to ensure that they did appear at court this time, whilst one was not arrested at this time.

NEW SQUARE SHOP THIEF ARRESTED

A prolific shop thief who had targeted clothing stores on New Square shopping centre has been identified and arrested. In custody, the male admitted to seven offences of theft from the same store, totalling in excess of £500 in items stolen – although we suspect he had been the offender in further theft offences at the location. He has been charged to attend court in relation to these seven counts of shop theft. We would like to thank the co-operation of numerous businesses which assisted the police by providing CCTV footage of the male in relation to these offences, as this proved to be a key factor in getting the male to admit to these offences.

