



Latest news updates

November proved to be a very busy month, we dealt with an array of issues including road traffic offences and stolen cars, as well as carrying out drugs warrants. The introduction of the second national lockdown led to more Covid-related incidents to deal with too. Alongside that, we have also:

- Uncovered and shut down a large scale cannabis factory in Bruntingthorpe
- Issued a drugs warrant at a residence in Broughton Astley after there was an attempt to import a package containing around £85,000 of cannabis into the UK.
- Dealt with several people smoking cannabis in public in Broughton Astley. Did you know, the police can issue a warning or an on the spot fine of £90 if somebody is found with cannabis in their possession? If you're under 18, the police are able to inform your parent, guardian or carer that you've been caught with drugs.
- The use of nitrous oxide continues to be an issue so, alongside our normal patrols, we have put up posters in parks and recreational spaces warning people of the dangers of using psychoactive substances.
- Recovered two vehicles and 27 stolen catalytic converters while on patrol near Ullesthorpe
- Found a car stolen from the Cambridgeshire area, we located it near the A5 in Lutterworth
- Issued numerous tickets to disqualified drivers with no insurance and seized a number of vehicles with no MOT



In early November, we welcomed a new PCSO to the Lutterworth beat. PCSO 6620 Ayres has shown lots of enthusiasm during her training, getting stuck in with conductive proactive speed checks on her new area.

PCSO Ayres joins us with two years experience caring for those who are deaf and blind, she's now looking forward to using her skills learnt in adult care in her new career with Leicestershire Police.

We are currently taking applications for PCSOs, to find out more, visit the careers page of our website: www.leics.police.uk.

Beat surgeries

We had planned to hold several beat surgeries in December however, with the announcement that the Harborough area will now be under Tier 3 restrictions, we have postponed these. We will continue to monitor the government updates and re-schedule beat surgeries as soon as we're able to.

In the meantime, if you would like to talk to us regarding any matters, you can do this by:

- Reporting online via www.leics.police.uk/report-online
- Calling 101

Local policing priorities

Our neighbourhood policing teams have been out in the community, listening to what matters to you as well as reviewing the feedback we received from local residents from the recent Neighbourhood Link survey, and focused our local priorities around this.

Based on your feedback and our crime patterns over the last month, our focus will be on the below issues and we'll also be maintain high frequency patrols in these areas:

- anti-social behaviour (ASB)
- road safety
- vehicle crime

ASB: November can often be problematic with ASB involving fireworks causing issues in our communities and for pet owners in particular. During this time, we had extra staff and extra patrols resulting in a lower number of incidents being reported.

Throughout the month, we also received several reports of large groups of youths gathering in recreational spaces and car parks in the evenings, causing anxiety and disturbances to local residents and dog walkers. Regular patrols were carried out and anyone found to be parked at the location for any other reason than to enjoy the open space responsibly was politely asked to leave. These patrols will continue throughout December.

We're also urging parents to make sure they know where their children are after several reports of children congregating outside of school gates and at the Co-op in Broughton Astley. We're still in the midst of a pandemic and strict lockdown restrictions, it's critical that we all make an effort to protect our NHS as well as each other. Covid cases have been rising across the Harborough District and we all need to work together to get the R number down. We know this will be particularly challenging during the festive period but we need to adhere to the tier three restrictions imposed on the area.

Road Safety: We understand this is an important topic for many of you. We hear your concerns and are liaising with our partner agencies who have been granted some high visibility wear from our Road Safety Team, this will be passed onto schools in the local area. The mornings and evenings are darker at the moment and it's important that pupils on bikes are wearing the correct clothing to increase their visibility.

In regards to speeding, we're continuing to conduct speed monitoring checks on the roads you've told us cause you most concern and we're issuing tickets to offending drivers.

Vehicle Crime: To help combat vehicle crime we have reviewed collated data from the past 12 months, noting crime trends and known crime hot spots. Based on this information, we have then set up heightened patrols at select times and locations and are pleased to say we have seen a reduction in crime figures.

We encourage our local residents to continue to report any issues or concerns you have so we can continue to focus on what matters most to you.

Please remain vigilant to dog thefts

Sadly, there has been a rise in dog and puppy thefts across the county and nationally. The demand for puppies is increasing as more people are working from home and considering getting a pet, this demand has led to a surge in puppy and dog thefts as prices are also on the rise.

In the last couple of weeks, we have received reports of two lots of puppies being stolen from the Lutterworth and Broughton Astley area. We're asking residents to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity to us.

You can help discourage these thefts by avoiding buying dogs from social media sites or from anyone who cannot provide appropriate documentation. Before purchasing a dog, please make sure you check proof of ownership, health checks and pedigree papers where necessary. You should always try to see a puppy in it's home environment with it's mother before purchasing and of course you can always contact reputable rescue centres and adopt a dog. PC 4480 Skingsley would like to hear from anyone who may have information in relation to dog thefts or if you have seen any suspicious activity.

