

Cuckoo Oak and Ironbridge Newsletter - 13 May 2019

Community Messages

16/05/19 - Suspicious white van seen in residential streets

In the past few days, police in Telford have received several calls reporting a white van with two occupants driving slowly along residential streets paying attention to properties.

On the 14th May a report was received at approximately 11.00pm from Roe Deer Green in Newport.

On the 15th May a report was received at approximately 10.30pm from Wellington Road, Muxton, Telford.

On the 16th May a report was received at approximately 8.00am from Eltham Drive, Priorslee, Telford.

It cannot be confirmed that it was the same van and persons involved on each occasion, however detectives at Telford CID are keen to gather as much information and intelligence as possible and would appeal to residents throughout the Borough to report any further such sightings to Telford Police on 101 straight away.

Persons living in the streets mentioned who may have CCTV systems at their properties are asked to review their footage for the relevant date / time and to contact DC 1911 Ian Benjamin at Malinsgate Police Station, Telford, via the 101 number should they find any images which may assist police enquiries.

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/60436/Suspicious-white-van-seen-in-residential-streets>

16/05/19 - West Mercia PCC announces summer roadshow dates

Dear folks,

Please see details of below events, everyone welcome.

Communities are getting the opportunity to talk to their Police and Crime Commissioner, John Campion, at a number of events taking place across West Mercia this summer.

As with previous years, the 'summer roadshow' will give communities the chance to talk to the PCC about concerns and local issues. However, this year, anyone dropping by the stand can also receive a free Smartwater kit to protect their home and property as well as raise concerns about road safety.

As part of the Commissioner's drive to reduce crime and make communities safer, he will be joined by representatives from Smartwater and the West Mercia Police 'We Don't Buy Crime' team at the events. They will be on-hand to talk to people about the water-based solution which allows property to be marked that can be traced by the police. People will then have the opportunity to sign up to the 'We Don't Buy Crime' scheme to receive a free Smartwater kit.

The Commissioner also wants to hear from the public about their road safety concerns. After announcing an investment of £500,000 to be spent on road safety initiatives, working in partnership with local authorities to improve roads and introducing 70 'mini officers' to police speeding and inconsiderate parking outside schools across West Mercia, this is an area he is keen to talk to people about.

The event programme for this year is as follows:

The Shropshire County Show, Shropshire - Saturday 25 May
Hereford Food Festival, Herefordshire - Saturday 8 June
Bromyard Steam Rally and Gala, Herefordshire - Saturday 29 June
Newport Show, Telford & Wrekin - Saturday 13 July
Bromsgrove Police Station open day, Worcestershire - Saturday 31 August
Ludlow Food Festival, Shropshire - Saturday 14 September

PCC John Campion said: "This year I am focusing on two central parts of my commitment to making West Mercia Safer, but I want to hear from anyone - whatever the subject. I want to make sure that people get the opportunity to have a strong voice around policing and crime, and it is my role to capture all that is said. So, if you're planning on coming to any of the events, please drop by and say hello."

End of message

(Message circulated to all communities West Mercia policing areas. Parish Councils, Neighbourhood Watch and Community forums, please can you kindly share the above message)

Many thanks

Citizens in Policing

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/60416/West-Mercia-PCC-announces-summer-roadshow-dates>

16/05/19 - Police urge motorists to stay safe on two wheels

With a national campaign starting next week, West Mercia Police are encouraging those using two wheels to stay safe and urging all motorists to share the road responsibly to reduce the number of offences we continue to see involving motorcycles and bicycles. The campaign is being run across the UK and co-ordinated by NPCC, the National Police Chiefs' Council, to improve road safety and law enforcement.

Over the past 3 years 32 people died and 353 were seriously injured in collisions involving a motorcycle in West Mercia. An additional 12 people died and 177 were injured in collisions involving a bicycle.

Cyclists and motorcyclists unfortunately feature heavily within road collisions and continue to be two of the most vulnerable road users. The aim of the national campaign is to raise awareness amongst all road users to improve driver behaviour but also to educate both groups of the dangers of not having the correct skills, knowledge and personal protective equipment.

Superintendent Melanie Crowther for West Mercia Police comments: "Supporting this national campaign with local activities and increased enforcement is an important way of raising road safety issues amongst cyclists, motorcyclists and other road users. Unfortunately cyclists and motorcyclists are over-represented within our road collision statistics and we want to ensure we are doing all we can with both education and enforcement to keep these two groups safer. This not only means specific activity with these two groups but with all other motorists on the role they can play to keep our vulnerable road users safer".

As part of the campaign Police Officers will be taking part in operations across the two weeks to enforce compliance of road traffic regulations and improve driver/rider behaviour.

***End of message ***

(Circulated Communities West Mercia areas)

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/60407/Police-urge-motorists-to-stay-safe-on-two-wheels>

14/05/19 - Putting Victim's First: National and Local Approach to Domestic Abuse

The West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner has welcomed the Government's bill as part of his wider approach, to tackle domestic abuse and provide support for victims and survivors.

More than 15,000 domestic abuse offences were reported in West Mercia in the last year, accounting to 17% of all crime*.

The Commissioner has increased his investment in specialist support for domestic abuse victims, invested in the Drive programme to challenge perpetrator behaviour and maintained a focus on backing the force with resources and training to continue to prioritise tackling the crime and supporting victims.

Satisfaction levels amongst victims are high with 92% saying they would feel confident to report to the police again, and 94% saying they would recommend contacting the police to others in a similar situation.**

The Domestic Abuse Bill, announced by the Prime Minister, will provide consistent support services for victims and survivors, including a legal duty to local authorities to provide refuge to victims and survivors.

Commissioner John Campion said "I am committed to putting victims first in all that I do. This welcome step forward at a national level, supports my approach at a local level which is proven effective through high levels of victim confidence. I am pleased that the government recognise that victims and survivors need consistent specialist support, and I hope they will ensure local authorities, and other agencies have the funding and resources to deliver these proposals. I will continue to maintain my commitment to tackling this abhorrent crime."

For support and advice please contact one of the following services funded by the PCC:

Victim Advice Line: Call 0800 952 3000 - you will get through to a care coordinator who will discuss with you what you need.

Email info@victimadviceline.org.uk and a care coordinator will respond to you.

Online chat at victimadviceline.org.uk- this option, allows you to talk to a care coordinator if it's not possible, or convenient, to talk on the phone

West Mercia Women's Aid: Call 0800 980 3331 (Worcestershire), 0800 783 1359 (Herefordshire, Shropshire and Telford) or visit westmerciawomensaid.org

Victim Support: Call 0808 168 9111 or visit victimsupport.org.uk

West Mercia Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre: Call 01905 724514 (Worcestershire) or 01432 344777 (Herefordshire) or visit wmrsasc.org.uk

AXIS counselling and psychotherapy: Call 01743 357777 (Shropshire) or 01952 278000 (Telford) or visit axiscounselling.org.uk

End of message

(Message circulated to all communities West Mercia).

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/60338/Putting-Victims-First-National-and-Local-Approach-to-Domestic-Abuse>

13/05/19 - Making West Mercia Roads Safer

Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion is supporting a joint national operation between police and Highways England, aimed at changing driver behaviour.

Last week, 'Operation Tramlane' came to West Mercia. It is in place to help decrease the number of people killed or seriously injured on the Highways England road network (motorways and major trunk roads). The cabs, which are funded by Highways England, have travelled thousands of miles since they first took to the road 12 months ago and police officers inside the vehicles have recorded over 3,500 offences, including over 450 in the Midlands.

A plain white HGV tractor unit has been operated by West Mercia Police a number of times already this year and recently been in operation along the M5 for 2 days last week with more dates planned over the coming weeks. The elevated position of the cab allows police officers to film unsafe driving behaviour within passing vehicles and to deal with these offences as appropriate.

The Operation is in place to crack down on offenders who continue to break the law. Risky behaviour, such as mobile phone use and seatbelt use, is such a significant contributory factor with regards to road collisions and the resulting injuries.

Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion said: "I welcome this innovative operation and partnership approach to changing the behaviours of drivers. It's great to have the support of Highways England as we look to tackle the problem of people driving dangerously and without care on our roads. I had the privilege of seeing it first-hand and I was incredibly impressed with the HGV cab and the officers involved. I hope to see this operation change the behaviour of drivers and

ultimately reduce the number of people committing offences and putting lives at risk on our roads."

Anthony Thorpe, Highways England Commercial Vehicle Incident Prevention Advisor said: "The HGV cab project, which is funded by Highways England, has been patrolling motorways and major A roads over the past couple of years with the aim of improving road safety. It provides an ideal viewing platform for police officers to identify dangerous driving behaviour that can be difficult to spot from standard police patrol vehicles - for example driving without wearing a seatbelt. Highways England is committed to working collaboratively with our partners in the police to improve road safety and we will continue to use the HGV cab to tackle deaths and serious injuries and to encourage people to improve how they drive. We would like to take this opportunity to thank West Mercia Police for their continued support of the project.

Inspector Gavin Williams of West Mercia Police said; "It's concerning that there are still motorists using our road network that are willing to risk their own and others safety by concentrating on things other than driving. During this Operation we have witnessed drivers of heavy goods vehicles texting, watching films and using social media sites. There are education campaigns that highlight various road safety issues, such as seatbelt use and using a mobile phone so there is no excuse for people not to know what the law states or the penalties they can receive when they are caught. This Operation is a great demonstration of joint partnership working with Highways England where the ultimate aim is to improve road safety for all and reduce the amount of people that are killed or seriously injured on our roads".

****End of message ***

(Message circulated to all communities West Mercia areas).

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/60318/Making-West-Mercia-Roads-Safer>

13/05/19 - PCC's Commitment to Improving Mental Wellbeing

This Mental Health Awareness Week, the Police and Crime Commissioner is continuing the focus on wellbeing within West Mercia Police.

A recent University of Cambridge study found that 95% of officers and 67% of operational police staff, from the 17,000 surveyed nationally had been exposed to traumatic events, almost all of which were work-related.

The Commissioner is keen to recognise this, and ensure that adequate, tailored support is in place for those affected. By holding the Chief Constable to account, he has scrutinised the overall approach to wellbeing, and ensured that improvements have been made.

The improved approach not only includes the specialist support for those affected by PTSD and other mental health related issues, but a range of other schemes and initiatives, such as a travelling wellbeing bus where free health check-ups can be accessed, Backup Buddy a free app with 24 hour support and advice, peer supporters trained by the charity Mind, multi-faith chaplaincy and critical incident debriefs focused around the impact on officers and staff. Further to this, the Commissioner leads the Behind the Badge campaign, encouraging the public to understand that emergency workers are human. This particularly relates to reducing assaults on duty, which can have a detrimental impact not only physically but mentally.

Commissioner John Campion "Those on the frontline, bravely and consistently run towards danger and it is recognised that this will have an impact on wellbeing. I am committed to supporting the force in addressing this issue, and I welcome the range of specialist and tailored, preventative and support measures in place. There is always more we can do, however, and as Commissioner I will continue to scrutinise and support these kind of initiatives, whilst ensuring the police are well resourced to deal with the challenges they face on a day to day basis."

West Mercia Police Deputy Chief Constable Amanda Blakeman said: "Each and every day our officers put themselves in harm's way in order to care for the communities they serve. In turn, we take our responsibility to look after their wellbeing incredibly seriously. It's something we are passionate about ensuring we get right and we've already rolled out some new initiatives and we have developed additional support structures and networks that will be launching in the coming months."

End of message

(Message circulated to all communities, West Mercia areas)

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/60316/PCCs-Commitment-to-Improving-Mental-Wellbeing>

13/05/19 - PCC Welcomes Holistic Approach to Protecting Children

A national programmes providing specialist support and protection for children at risk of criminal or sexual

exploitation is being welcomed by the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner.

The programme, which was launched last week by the Education Secretary, will ensure children most at risk of being targeted by gangs or violent crime will benefit from better support from specialists across education, health, social care, police and the voluntary sector.

Commissioner John Campion said "A holistic, joined up approach is the right way forward, to deal with some of the emerging and multifaceted challenges which police and other agencies face. We all have a part to play in protecting children, and I welcome the Government's focus and investment, understanding the importance bringing agencies together to tackle the complexities behind with some of the most difficult crime types.

I will continue to ensure, this is a priority here in West Mercia, and that the police have the resources to continue to keep our communities and children safe."

End of message

(Message circulated to all communities, West Mercia areas)

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/60299/PCC-Welcomes-Holistic-Approach-to-Protecting-Children>

Contact Details

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101 (In an emergency always call 999)

