

Washwood Heath Neighbourhood Team Newsletter

August 2024



Based on community feedback, we are doing monthly newsletters with an opportunity to virtually meet the team.

This newsletter is created and shared by PC Richard Smith. You will have seen Rich in the area conducting proactive patrols keeping ASB, knife & drug crime down, whilst dealing with regular demand. You may have also seen Rich on West Midlands Police social media promotional material. Now he's been found!



We decided to ask Richard some questions:

Q: Tell us about a memorable moment in the police?

A: When I was working on an OSU (Operational Support Unit) van for the Aston Villa vs Legia Warsaw game at Villa Park. It was described as one of the worst public disorder in the WMP area since the 2012 riots. I received a Chief Constables award for the incident along with other police officers who policed it.

Q: What football team do you support?

A: Unfortunately, Manchester United - we are currently going through a rough patch but we will be champions again.

Q: What was your first arrest?

A: As a student officer on Coventry Response, my tutor and I responded to an incident where a male was standing on top of a car in nothing but a towel, stamping on car windscreens causing them to crack and throwing wheelie bins into house gardens. He was arrested for criminal damage and then assessed in custody for his mental health and transported to a local hospital to be dealt with.

Q: If you had a superpower, what would you want?

A: I would have the power of flight. Who wouldn't want to fly around the world like Superman?

Q: What are your career aspirations?

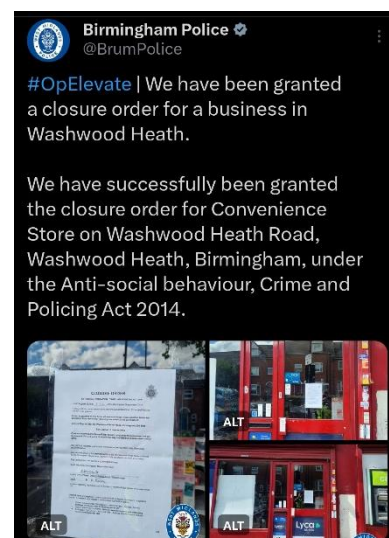
A: I have recently applied to join the firearms unit and have completed the fitness and medical for it. I have an assessment day coming up soon, so watch this space!

Closure Order

We supported colleagues in a warrant on Washwood Heath Road, where drugs and weapons were recovered.

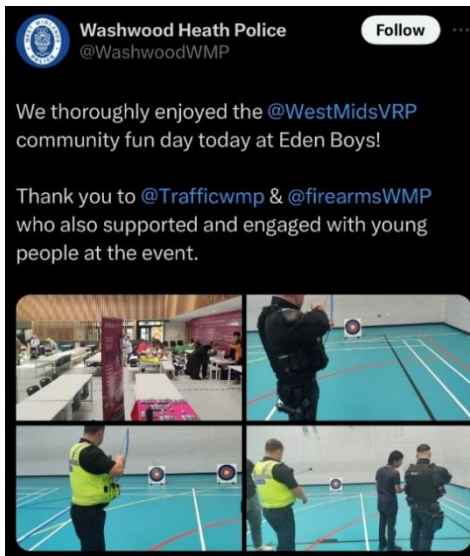
This was the third warrant that had been conducted at this premises in 2024 after we decided to take action following community intelligence.

Following an application to Birmingham Magistrates Court, the premises is now closed for three months.



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August saw a rise in police calls due to summer demand, but in the mist of this we have managed to attend community fun days in the local area, deal with parking issues and conduct proactive patrols.

Recently, the team attended Eden Boys Academy for the community fun day organised by the Violence Reduction Partnership.

We have continued to engage with the summer activities at Naseby youth centre where young people have recognised PCSO Dan Gorman from doing School inputs back in June and July.

We were joined on patrol with Birmingham City Council Strategic Director of City Operations, Craig Cooper. Craig was able to engage with the community of Alum Rock and understand challenges faced by partners and within the community.

He heard about the work of Operation Elevate and the partnership approach to tackling issues within the area.

We shared the work we have been doing to tackle ice cream sellers on the Alum Rock Road and the proactive work carried out by the team in dealing with Operation Rootlet – national disorders and suppressing any local tensions. A 24 year old man was arrested in Washwood Heath after making threats and inciting unrest in an online video.



Essington House - We attended the residents meeting to listen to community concerns and work in partnership with the Council to deal with anti-social behaviour. We detained a youth with drugs a few days later following some proactive policing.

Media Appeal - Following a media appeal, a man handed himself to police after we were investigating a report of harassment in Ward End Park. We have also taken action against ASB in the area by issuing Community Protection Warnings.

With the investment in local policing, we are pleased to share that we will be joined by more officers and PCSO's on the team, which provides us with more resilience and support, allowing us to invest more time into keeping the local community safe and investigating local crimes. Watch this space!

