

Harborough Newsletter

Issue 29: July 2021

Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)

Higher ambient temperatures have brought out the usual challenges on Harborough North this month. Reports of outdoor swimming continue to come in, with resulting concerns for public safety.

Outdoor water can have temperature gradients, be unexpectedly colder than you expect, and you should certainly not be combining alcohol with outdoor water activities. Please be aware of the extra risks such activities carry.

The end of the school year, combined with continuing easing of COVID restrictions, has once again put the focus on outdoor spaces, and including most of all Kibworth Park, where groups of young people have been gathering on Friday evenings.

The smashing of bottles in the parks are a particular concern, as it presents a danger to other users of the park space, this month a young person was injured by broken glass. This was shared on social media.

It is appreciated police have powers to confiscate alcohol and deal with drugs possession, every teenager in the park has a parent, and these groups would simply not have reached the size they have, without the implicit consent of the parents involved.

On the topic of drug use, this month resulted in a driver being stopped in a stolen vehicle and arrested with a large quantity of drugs and contraband which he was going to throw over the prison wall.

Also a person who is suspected to be supplying a dealer in Kibworth has also been arrested and found with a large amount of cash and drugs on him.

In other news we welcome PC 37 James Monohan to the Harborough North neighbourhood team. James brings a wealth of experience and has mainly worked in the city centre for nine years on the response team, however, more recently worked as a neighbourhood officer in the city.

New inspector takes over

Inspector Jim Purdie has taken over the role of Neighbourhood Policing Area Commander for Harborough and Wigston which includes **Lutterworth and Broughton Astley.**

Insp. Purdie joined Leicestershire Police back in 2002 and has worked in a number of areas across the force including frontline response, armed policing, training, in the force's control room, custody and neighbourhood policing. His most recent role has been as a Tactical Dogs and Firearms Unit Commander.

He is now looking forward to bringing his experience to this new role and working within the local community to address the issues and concerns being raised.



Speeding offences

A4304 Lubbenham Hill, Market Harborough

Summary (2 visits) Total offences-7: Total time-225 mins, average offences per hour: 1.9

A47 Route (Between Skeffington & Tugby

Summary (1 visit) Total offences-27. Total time-110 mins, average offences per hour: 14.7

A47 Route (Billesdon Bypass, Billesdon)

Summary (2 visits) Total offences 7. Total time—180 mins, average offences per hour:2.3

Dogs in hot cars awareness

As the weather heats up and after a year of lockdowns and restrictions, it's inevitable that many of us will be wanting to explore the great outdoors and seeking the perfect staycations with our four-legged friends. Dogs are not welcomed everywhere therefore it is important that dog owners carefully plan outings to safeguard their dogs' from heatstroke this summer.

Never leave your dog alone in a car on a warm day. If you see a dog in distress in a hot car, dial 999.

Many people still believe that it's ok to leave a dog in a car on a warm day if the windows are left open or they're parked in the shade, but the truth is, it's still a very dangerous situation for the dog. In June we broke into a vehicle to rescue a dog in distress. We have also seen a lot of messages on social media about dogs in cars. A car can become as hot as an oven very quickly, even when it doesn't feel that warm. When it's 22 degrees, in a car it can reach an unbearable 47 degrees within the hour.



- Establish the animal's health and condition. If they're displaying any signs of heatstroke dial 999 immediately.
- If the situation becomes critical for the dog and the police are too far away or unable to attend, many people's instinct will be to break into the car to free the dog. If you decide to do this, please be aware that without proper justification, this could be classed as criminal damage and, potentially, you may need to defend your actions in court.
- Make sure you tell the police what you intend to do and why. Take pictures or videos of the dog and the names and numbers of witnesses to the incident. The law states that you have a lawful excuse to commit damage if you believe that the owner of the property that you damage would consent to the damage if they knew the circumstances (section 5(2)(a) Criminal Damage Act 1971).

Two men have come forward to claim responsibility for criminal damage in Market Harborough.

Sometime from the evening of Tuesday 22 June to the early hours of the following morning, flowers were uprooted and plant pots thrown around in the town centre. Officers carried out investigations and reviewed CCTV to try and identify the suspects. The men attended Harborough police station and admitted the offence. They were very remorseful, provided letters of apology to the charity Harborough in Bloom and paid the £130 cost to repair the damage. A representative from Harborough in Bloom said they were delighted at the speed with which the matter had been resolved.