



REPORT FROM THE BEAT MANAGER

In February the West Mercia Police Authority rejected the Home Secretary's plans for the Force to voluntarily amalgamate with West Midlands, Warwickshire and Staffordshire. It now appears that there will be a consultation period after which the Home Secretary has the option to try and force the merger in the House of Commons and the House of Lords. I expect further details will be released in the press as time goes on.

Turning to local matters, after April my job title will change to "Local Police Officer" as opposed to Beat Manager. This is to fall in line with national policies. There has also been a change in staff with Insp Clive Griffiths taking over from Insp Neville Sheldrick and Sgt Sara Goodman replacing Sgt Robert Werner-de-Sondberg. Both Neville and Robert retiring after 30yrs Police service.

In January I held a crime reduction day at the Police Station whereby a number of people received crime prevention material including personalised property marking stickers. Whilst crime is generally low in the area it's always worth getting your property marked and I will be holding another session early this summer. Details will be published closer to the time.

Mini-motorbikes, such as mini-motos and "go-peds" are now very popular. If you own one, or are thinking of buying one, there are a few things to be aware of. Firstly, they cannot be ridden on the road unless they are licensed, taxed and insured. Riders must be over 16yrs and wear a crash helmet. Secondly, they cannot be ridden on footpaths, cycle paths, pavements or bridleways. Following on from this they cannot be ridden in parks, car parks woods or common open spaces. They can be ridden on private land providing the land owner has given permission. The Police have the power to seize such vehicles if used in an anti-social manner or if used on the road without insurance. This power covers all motor vehicles so please check that your insurance is up to date. If caught on the road without insurance your vehicle can be seized on the spot and, beside a fine and penalty points, there is a £105 recovery fee.

Every year thousands of people fall prey to some form of fraud or con. The usual trick is to tempt people into some kind of get rich quick scheme which usually involves the victim having to send off money to cover "expenses". People are mainly targeted via post or through the internet. The golden rule to remember is that if it looks too good to be true it probably is. If you receive something which looks suspicious please notify trading standards or the Police.

On a final note, we are looking to recruit more Community Support Officers for towns and rural areas of Worcestershire. This will obviously include Upton and Malvern. If you are interested in your community, and want to make a positive impact, this could be the job for you.

If you would like more information please feel free to contact myself at Upton Police Station.

PC Mark Taylor

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