



## Local Policing

Police officers and council staff from Market Harborough and Wigston were out in force on Friday 12 February in a planned operation to tackle crime and patrol the more rural and remote areas of the Neighbourhood Policing Area (NPA).

Eight officers used the NPAs own marked police vehicles, as well as two hired 4X4s, to enable them to patrol off road in wet and muddy conditions. Operation Arable was launched in response to ongoing issues around Cold Newton, Lowesby, Hungarton and Keyham where farmer's gates, hedgerows and fencing have been damaged as well as in response to complaints about hare coursing; trespass and aggressive behaviour from people when challenged by landowners.

Harborough District Council's Environmental Crime Team also joined the officers on patrol following a rise in incidents of fly tipping and discovered a recent fly tip. Enquiries are now ongoing to find those responsible using evidence recovered from the rubbish.

Throughout the day, stop checks on vehicles were carried out; hotspot locations and victims were visited and isolated areas were patrolled. One vehicle was recovered due to document offences and one drug seizure occurred. Intelligence was shared between the council and policing teams which will help identify offenders and prevent future offences.

This was one of a number of similar operations which are planned in the coming months. PC Steve Winn, who helped to organise the operation, said: "We received some really positive feedback from local people in the villages where we patrolled who were really pleased to see us. We want to reassure people who live and work in the countryside that we are putting a larger than normal policing presence into these areas using marked and unmarked cars and plan to do so again in the near future. This should also act as a deterrent to people travelling to the area to commit crime."

Cllr Jonathan Bateman, Harborough District Council's Cabinet lead for environmental services, said: "This is positive joint working to target areas where there have been reports of issues and we will continue to take a proactive approach across the district, with Police, to identify offenders."

If you want to find out more about policing in your area please sign up to our community messaging system Neighbourhood Link where your views can influence how neighbourhood teams address policing priorities in your area and you will receive crime prevention information, help and support from your local officers too. <https://www.neighbourhoodlink.co.uk/>

**Alternatively you can follow your local beat teams on Facebook and Twitter at [www.facebook.com/Market Harborough](https://www.facebook.com/MarketHarborough) and Lutterworth or Leicestershire Police and Rural Crime account**



## Theft of dogs

We are aware of a number of incidents in recent weeks, across Leicestershire, where dogs have been stolen – or attempts have been made to take a dog from its owner.

We understand the concern that these incidents cause in our neighbourhoods and ask that people remain vigilant and work with us to identify those responsible.

We have had two incidents on our beats since the start of 2021 within the last few weeks. A black Labrador has been stolen from Billedson, in another part of Harborough District **BUT SOME GOOD NEWS** a Cockerpoo stolen from a kennel in North Kilworth on 12<sup>th</sup> February was located and returned to his owners. These are dreadful crimes, and we want to find the people who are doing this. We rely on the public providing us with information and urge anyone who sees anything suspicious to report it to their local officers. A lot of us are dog owners and understand how distressing it is for anyone to have their family pet stolen, we will robustly follow any lines of enquiry. If you have any information regarding the above, please phone 101.

There are some things dog owners can do to protect their furry friend.

Below are a number of steps dog owners can take to protect themselves and their pets.

- Keep an ID tag on your dog at all times
- Make sure your dog is micro-chipped and their details are updated so that they can be returned if they are stolen and subsequently found. Ask your vet to check your dog's microchip every year to ensure your details are accurate and up-to-date.
- Keep all documentation relating to your dog(s) in a safe place. Take lots of photographs of your dog from different angles, paying particular attention to any distinguishing markings on your dog. This is to prove ownership if it's stolen,
- Never leave your dog in the garden unattended and make sure fences and gates are secure and in good repair
- Avoid leaving dogs in an outside kennel if possible. If not possible then make sure the kennels are alarmed.
- Never leave a dog tied-up and unattended such as outside a shop and avoid leaving your dog unattended in a car.
- When out, always know where your dog is. Remain vigilant and be mindful of anyone who may be trying to distract your attention from your dog or to attract your dog's attention away from you.

See website <https://www.bluecross.org.uk/pet-advice/protect-your-dog-against-theft> for more advice.

Please remain vigilant and please continue to report any incidents to us as well as anyone you see acting in an unusual manner. We will continue to act on this information received. Please also inform us of any adverts you see regarding dogs for sale where information is limited. There are a lot of online about the checks you should make before purchasing a new dog or puppy.

You can report online to us at [www.leics.police.uk](http://www.leics.police.uk) or by calling 101. You can also pass information on anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Always call 999 in an emergency.

### Catalytic thefts on the rise

The process of stealing a catalytic converter can be carried out in as little as 60 seconds with high power tools. Whilst all vehicles are targeted, Honda Jazz and all types of Toyota seem to be popular. If you own any of those vehicles, try to park in a garage where possible or ask a local garage to install a cage around the catalytic convertor.

This won't stop the theft but will make it harder for the criminal to remove which could deter them. Another option is to consider fitting a digital tilt & shock sensor/alarm. The tilt sensor detects when the vehicle is being raised to remove the wheels or tow the vehicle and shock sensor detects the knock on the parked vehicle.

### Neighbourhood Link

A great way of keeping in touch with us is through Neighbourhood Link where you will receive updates from the Market Harborough Beat Teams.

For more information or to sign up, please visit

[www.neighbourhoodlink.co.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodlink.co.uk).