



## Inspector Heather Suttons Blog: March 2021

Hi Everyone,

Our three month Local Police Priority of speeding and road safety came to an end at the beginning of February. Over the previous three months we have trained a large number of Response Officers in the use of the speed gun, they have been dropping on areas and undertaking speed enforcement activity when they get a spare hour, this has complimented the hours of activity undertaken by the beat managers, and the days of action by the Op Reacher and Rural Specials teams. Whilst out, officers have received positive comments from the public, and I have also had e-mails from residents who have seen the officers out on our roads. 1000 vehicles have been checked during this period, 126 of those drivers were stopped and spoken to as their speeding was just at the threshold, 105 were issues tickets for speeding, and 6 were dealt with for other driving offences.

The new priority for the coming months will be ASB. We are hopeful that the covid-19 restrictions will be eased in the coming months, and equally hopeful for good weather! We know from last years' experience that this resulted in large numbers of people enjoying our open green spaces. This caused some disruption with littering, traffic and parking issues, but also caused some ASB with groups of people being disorderly in residential areas, and sometimes resulting in abusive language, intimidating behaviour and criminal damage. Whilst there does need to be a level of tolerance around the volume (if safe and legal to do so) of people visiting our areas, there is a very clear line of acceptable behaviour. Over the next three months I will be bringing our preventative and responsive measures to ASB into focus, to strengthen our response, and also prevent escalation. You can read the full detail of this on the priority section of our website.

We know how much of a negative impact rural crime can have on local business and have therefore been taking steps to ensure our officers are appropriately skilled to deal with rural crime offences and the subsequent investigations. Over the month of March we have more Neighbourhood officers attending the Wildlife Crime Course, where they will qualify as a Wildlife Crime Officer, we will then have at least one qualified officer per team.

We have continued to have a presence at the Covid Vaccination Centre, Newark Showground. The site has been running very well especially considering the pace at which it had to be set up. Police Officers are located at the site to keep everyone safe who visits.

Continuing on the subject of Covid; we have seen an increase in the number of Fixed Penalty Notices for breaches of the Covid Regulations being issued as we move past the engage and explain stages, the most frequent scenarios have been house parties and unnecessary journeys (such as Off Road Bikes), we have also

seen a minority of persons being issued with multiple fines for repeated breaches. Our area continues to experience ASB created by off road motorbikes riding illegally across private and public land. We have tackled this by deploying officers from Newark and Sherwood beat team, Op Reacher, our rural specials, and force off road bike team and drone. Several bikers and 4x4 drivers were stopped and spoken with. Over several weekends we stopped and seized 5x motorbikes, 2x vehicles, 2x section 59 warnings were issued and 4x Covid ticket were issued. Drivers of the vehicles have also been reported for driving offences. This result is very promising and we have more dates planned in for further activity to tackle this issue.

Over the next month, we are very much looking forward to seeing more of you out and about and safety enjoying the beautiful area.

Stay safe

Heather