

Heald Green and Long Lane Ratepayers' Association

Watching over the interests of Heald Green ward since 1927



December 2023

Update from Inspector Baker at GMP

This update on local policing issues was shared with councillors, including some reassuring information about the recent problems with shop lifting.

With regard to burglaries the particular ask is that everyone reports any suspicious behaviour via 101 / online or if it's actually occurring 999.'

The advice is that: 'Burglaries are rising across the Stockport District and DI Mike Jiminez is targeting this issue at divisional level. Locally we have introduced a burglary car which is staffed by one PC and a PCSO who will attend all reports of burglary to ensure we maximise the opportunity to identify and secure evidence. Nice cars are still the main desire of the offenders and as it has been for past two years there is no finesse in their way to facilitate entry preferring to launch brick through window to grab keys and make off. My team will be doing some pop-up crime prevention stalls in coming weeks.'

In mid November the police ran an operation to identify offenders who put others, particularly shop staff at risk – either by threatening them, verbally abusing them or by becoming violent when challenged. PCs Maule and Zammit identified blockages in the reporting and investigation of shoplifting offences and working with the regional loss managers and store managers devised a streamlined package to expedite the process. To date three prolific offenders have been arrested and charged with over 25 offences of theft. One of these offenders has also been arrested again for breaching their bail conditions and possession of drugs. The police will be seeking a community order in relation to these offenders.

It is very pleasing to see the thefts from shops have significantly decreased in the latest crime statistics, and we hope this trend is maintained.

The police have also executed a warrant in conjunction with the council's Trading Standards in Heald Green, a large number of illegal vapes were recovered. This is linked with a reduction in anti-social behaviour in the area surrounding the location and Trading Standards are prosecuting the offender.