

Police Briefing Thursday 8th November 2012 South Herefordshire & Golden Valley

First of all - good news!

Several residents in the county have been approached over the past couple of days by a gang of tarmacers, offering to do work for them as they had some tarmac left over from a job nearby - the usual storyline! They said they were from Amey, which they definitely are not, and were in Blakemere and Preston on Wye yesterday cold calling for work. They also went to Three Ashes on Tuesday, and probably called at several other places that we aren't aware of.

This morning I was contacted by a resident of Preston on Wye who reported that the gang had turned up to do some work at his property - they had called yesterday and he had initially expressed an interest as they had said they were from Amey. However, once he had checked and discovered that they were in no way connected to Amey, he turned them away, took the registration numbers of all four vehicles and passed them on. I went out to look for them, meanwhile the resident had been phoning around asking people if they had seen the 'convoy'.

Between us we tracked them down, and found a lorry loaded with fresh tarmac and a transit van with three males waiting in a layby about 5 miles from Bredwardine towards Hay on Wye.

The troops were summoned from Hereford, and all four were arrested for false representation (amongst other things) and carted off to Hereford custody. Unfortunately, two vehicles are still at large - a Nissan Pickup **KX11ZDR** and an Astra van **VN57TXL** - these vehicles would have been doing the cold calling whilst the others waited in the layby for their next 'victim'.

Trading Standards officers are now interviewing the males, and I will let you know the outcome in the next briefing.

One of the males was wanted for re-call to prison, so a double whammy!

Meanwhile, the truck of now not-so-fresh tarmac is going to waste at the side of the road so they will be well out of pocket, such a shame!

Just to make it clear, these gangs are complete rogues, they buy a truck load of fresh tarmac early in the morning and set off to find places to lay it. The work may be ok, but there's no guarantees with it, and they will charge an excessive amount for the job. They may seem plausible and have websites, business cards and liveried vehicles, but they are breaking the law at every turn. They should be giving customers a written quotation with a 7 day cooling off period before they start the job, they clearly have no intention of doing that!

Please call us or Trading Standards on 01432 261987 if you have a similar incident to report.

Carey

A 50 year old male from the village was arrested on 7th November for being unfit to drive through drink or drugs and for failing to stop at the scene of a road traffic accident. He is currently on bail.

Eaton Bishop

A farm in the village was targeted during the night of 30th/31st October, and a cast iron hydraulic ramp, a strimmer, a Stihl chainsaw and a concrete mixer were stolen. It is believed the theft occurred at around 2am, as the dogs began barking in the property.

The same premises was visited by thieves again overnight on Tuesday 6th/Wednesday 7th November when a copper heating cylinder was stolen from a barn. It had been connected to a water system, so the water was still running from the pipes when the theft was discovered.

Incident ref 172-s-311012 and 362-s-071112

Garway

A white ford transit van, part registration W147*** was parked in a couple of places in an isolated lane in Garway Hill for long periods during the day on Sunday 4th November. The police were called later in the evening, but when they arrived it had gone.

Incident ref 530-s-041112

Grafton

A 24 year old female from the village was arrested on 5th November for theft from employee, and is currently on police bail.

Kingstone

A 33 year old male from the village was arrested in Hereford on 5th November for Possession of a controlled drug (Heroin) with intent to supply. He is currently on police bail.

A 32 year old female from the village was arrested for theft (shoplifting) in Hereford on 31st October. She received a caution.

Much Birch

A male acting suspiciously called at a property on the A49, at around 2.40pm on Friday 2nd November, asking if their caravan was for sale. The caravan is not visible from the road, so the resident was immediately suspicious. The male was described as short, mid to late 40's with darkish balding hair and a moustache. He was wearing glasses and a black jacket with brown trousers. No vehicle was visible.

Incident ref 325-s-021112

St Owens Cross

A 33 year old male from the village was arrested in Hereford on 2nd of November for providing a positive breath test.

He appeared in Court the following day and was disqualified from driving for two years.

Best wishes

Fiona p.p.

Golden Valley & Hereford Rural South Local Policing Teams

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