

Hillingdon's Beat

In a world inhabited by internet trolls and the perpetually angry:

Doughnuts all round. Recently a number of emergency calls came in all at once, totally unconnected to each other but due to the random nature of emergency policing, all of a sudden there were a number of equally urgent incidents for the finite number of cops to deal with, all spread out across the borough. But a number of officers had just purchased a bag of doughnuts and decided it was far more important to finish eating them before carrying out their sworn duty. Tasty.

Fire brigade policing? Even more recently, all the police officers in Hillingdon were sat in the office at Hayes Police Station twiddling their thumbs and patiently waiting for an emergency call to deal with. All of a sudden and totally unexpectedly, a call came in on the radio, but it was some distance from the station. Caught on the hop, it took quite some time for the officers to get to where they were needed. If only there had been more police stations for them to sit in and twiddle their thumbs this travesty would have never occurred.

News flash, cops seen to be eating in uniform. Something bad happened somewhere, and it turns out that a recent study found that it only happened because some 10-hours earlier, during a relatively quiet time in the policing day that some cops stopped at a local café to spend their money locally and grab a bite to eat so they were suitably fueled up for the next time someone wanted to hit them. Can you believe the cheek of those slackers – and there were at least three police vehicle there at once. How dare they?

Before anyone starts, these examples are parody to make a point.

Someone recently sent me a screen shot from a social media site where each one of these possible examples were given as a reason for police response times. I have obviously spiced them up a bit to hammer home a very blunt point but come on please – officers never sit in stations waiting for calls. They patrol and get sent to whatever is closest, or when it is really busy they finish one call and get sent straight to the next. And we need to eat. We don't have canteens anymore so we eat in the community when time and demand allows. We have some favourite locations of course, but just because 3 or 4 police cars are parked up outside a café does not mean no one else is out there keeping you safe. They stagger their breaks for exactly that reason but there are only a few hours where those breaks can be taken.

Anyway, let's get serious people....

The Real Hillingdon's Beat

Looks pretty realistic to me. Stop and search is a brilliant power that is used very well in Hillingdon. Recently our Tasking Team stopped and searched two people in the Hayes area and found this very real looking imitation firearm. The bravery of officers who come upon these types of incidents is hard to comprehend. Well done team.



That's not a bag of popcorn. Drug misuse is a problem in areas of Hillingdon. Our powers of stop and search come in very handy again when combating this problem. PC Middleton recently utilised his powers to stop and search a young man who was found in possession of these 38 wraps of crack cocaine. Needless to say he was soon spending a considerable amount of time in one of our cells and very soon the Magistrates will be having a word with him too. Stop and search works.



More stopping, more searching, more finding. Regular readers will know about our specialist team of officers who go by the name of Operation Wolverine and like to disrupt the bad guys. On this occasion they stopped a vehicle in Hayes and found hidden away in the roof lining a number of wraps believed to be cocaine, as well as a quantity of cash. The driver was swiftly arrested and awaits his day in court.



Be cautious, be safe

None of this is rocket science, but it is always worth bearing these suggestions in mind when out and about:

Trust your instincts. If something or someone makes you uneasy, avoid the person or leave.

Show confidence. Walk at a steady pace, keep your head up, and avoid carrying lots of packages. Send the message that you are calm and confident.

Do not wear headphones or look at your mobile phone when walking.

Be observant. Look around. Be aware of your surroundings and the people in them.

Remain alert. Know who is walking behind and in front of you. Things to watch for include suspicious persons or vehicles, people who are wearing inappropriate clothing for the weather and people just loitering around.

Be extra cautious in transitional spaces such as walking from your car to your house. If your keys are equipped with a panic button, have your finger ready to press it.

Always have your keys in-hand before you reach the door.

Get to know your neighbours where you live and work.

Stick to well lit streets and well-populated areas. Avoid shortcuts, wooded areas, alleys, and isolated car parks and garages.

Safety in numbers. Walk with friends or in a group.

Never flash large amounts of money or other valuables. Robbers are often tempted by money, jewellery, clothing and electronics.

Do not use cash machines at night. Robbers often wait for individuals to withdrawal money when it is dark outside. Never approach a cash machine if you are uneasy about people nearby.

Use well lighted public transportation stops.

If you are frightened dial 999.

Hallowe'en Door Signs

It's that time of year again. All your neighbourhood officers will be working late into the night these coming weeks to combat antisocial behavior and crime. If you want to discourage people knocking at your door please print off one of the signs I have included with this newsletter and put in your front window or on your door.

Inspector Rob Bryan

