



4th May 2010

Swift action from Rugby BID sees more national gangs caught in the act

A national gang, wanted by the Police, was caught last week thanks to the quick thinking and vigilance of the members of the security partnerships working in our town centre. Rugby BID was alerted by a member of the Co-op's security team of a skimming device fitted to a cashpoint in town. This resulted in Police arresting two men including one man who was involved in a previous incident back in February where an elderly man was robbed.

A member of the Co-op security team alerted the CCTV control room that he had seen a device fitted to the cashpoint outside Asda. Realising that they had been seen the men decided to leave the area. However, CCTV control operators were able to follow the men through town and alert Police of the situation. Finding the vehicle that the gang was using to move about was considered important and so an operation was quickly put in place to follow the men to the vehicle before arresting them. Whilst this was taking place, Rangers were called in to cordon off the cashpoint immediately so that Police forensics could examine the machine and check for evidence.

The gang eventually worked their way back to Gas Street car park and got into their vehicle. At this moment Police cars blocked the car stopping them from driving off but this resulted in the three men running off in different directions. Through a collaboration of efforts from the control rooms and a chase on foot by the Police on the ground two men were caught including the man responsible for robbing the elderly man in February. The third assailant was believed to be hiding in Trinity Court and the Police helicopter was brought in to try and locate him but unfortunately Police were unable to apprehend him.

“Several national gangs have been caught in the act over the last three weeks thanks to vigilance from the Rugby BID team coupled with swift coordination and decisive action from Warwickshire Police. During April, five national gangs have been taken off the streets. 13 people have been arrested, stolen goods worth thousands of pounds have been recovered and 5 cars have been seized as a result of this work,” said Aftab Gaffar, Operations Director at Rugby BID.

Another gang were also caught when CCTV operators noticed two women acting suspiciously. After following the women back to their vehicle an ANPR check showed the vehicle had no insurance. This gave the Police grounds to stop them and after checking the identities of those in the vehicle a search was then carried out revealing stolen goods worth hundreds of pounds from retailers including Boots and Next. The goods were recovered and the four people in the car were arrested.

The very same day the ANPR picked up a hit on a stolen vehicle travelling through Rugby Town Centre. The car had been stolen, alongside five others, from a hire car company and the man driving the car was also wanted on warrant for crown court offenses. CCTV operators talked police officers to the location of the travelling vehicle and with quick and decisive action from the Police the vehicle was stopped safely.

“Criminals sometimes use Rugby as a through road to get to the motorway network. Unfortunately they do not realise how good the security within our town centre is. Following the arrests last week of those involved with thefts from both the O2 shop and Dolland and Aitchison as well as the cashpoint skimming gang this really does highlight just how valuable the work Rugby BID does on a daily basis for our community,” concluded Aftab Gaffar.