

WOLVERHAMPTON POLICE 1929 MAP

The Borough in 1929 was a lot smaller than the city of today. In 1926 the borough had been expanded to include all of Heath Town. The boundary with Staffordshire actually went through the middle of the Union Workhouse, parts of which are still within the New Cross Hospital site. The southern boundary was more or less a straight road along Parkfield Road, Goldthorn Hill and Coalway Road. Compton, Tettenhall, Fordhouses, Wednesfield and Bilston were part of Staffordshire. However, the borough did include what is now the Scotlands Estate and Pendeford.

Just over half of the Low Hill estate had been built. 20 of the roads had been given numbers. For instance Thorne Road was originally 20th Avenue. All but 1st to 5th Avenues have since been given names. The map of the time shows a large proposed estate in the Scotlands. The estate, when built, looked nothing like the proposals.

The Borough was split into two divisions. A Division, with 24 beats covered the Centre, South and West. B Division, with just 10 beats covered the North and East. The main police station and the Force Headquarters was, of course in Red Lion Street. There were 5 substations all on the east side of the borough. In A division there was Bilston Street Station at the junction with Cleveland Road. It later became the Cleveland Court night club. This was built to cover the mass of housing between Bilston Street and Horsely Fields. 11 of the 24 beats were in the town center area.

On B Division there were Police stations at the junction of Willenhall Road and Walsall Street, in Station Road, Heath Town and Bushbury Lane, near to Stafford Road. In addition there was an old Wednesfield Station to cover their part of Heath Town, situated in Wolverhampton Road opposite the old entrance to New Cross Hospital. The beats in the built up areas normally consist of a number of roads and they cover the whole area. However, the beats in the suburbs do not cover the whole of the area. In these areas it would appear that patrol officers were only responsible for the actual roads and not any open area in between roads.

There were a total of 54 Police telephone call boxes for the whole borough. There was a minimum of one box on each beat but because the boxes were situated on busy junctions they could invariably be used by officers on more than one beat. There were two official traffic control points, one in Queen Square at the junction with Victoria Street and one at the junction of Show Hill and Cleveland Road. At this time the very first automatic traffic lights in England were already in Princes Square.

In 1929, the very popular Chief Constable David Webster died in office. His funeral procession was viewed by many thousands as it passed through the town centre. There was a Superintendent in charge of B Division who was also the Deputy Chief Constable. He took charge until the New Chief Constable Edwin Tilley was appointed in 1930.

All the details described are on a 82 year old map of the borough. The map has been deposited in the Wolverhampton Archives, Molineux Hotel. and is available for perusal.