Police begin hunt for four men after ‘terrifying’ sex attack in Sutton Park

By Nick Horner
News Reporter

A MAJOR investigation has been launched after a ‘terrifying attack’ on a young woman at a Sutton Coldfield park.

The incident occurred near to Town Gate in Sutton Park on Tuesday (December 8) at around 4pm as the 20-year-old woman was walking to the train station.

She managed to get away during the attack and made her way to nearby Good Hope Hospital where the matter was then reported to police.

Officers immediately cordoned off the area and a meticulous forensic examination of the scene was carried out throughout Wednesday (December 9).

A team of detectives are following up several leads including speaking to witnesses and trawling CCTV around surrounding area.

Meanwhile patrols have been stepped up to provide an increased police presence in order to reassure users of the park.

Several people have been in touch with police following media coverage of the assault on Wednesday and officers are still keen to hear from further witnesses.

Detective Inspector Ian Ingram, from the force’s Public Protection Unit, said: “This was a terrifying attack and we are doing everything we can to support this young woman.

“She was approached by four men in the park, although at this time we don’t believe all of them were involved in the attack. I would appeal for those who were present to come forward.

“I have officers working around the clock to try and identify whoever was responsible and we would welcome any information from people who were in this area of Sutton Park at the time.”

Witnesses should call police on 101 or the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.
Sutton Park sex assault 'did not occur' say police

By Helen Draycott and Nick Horner
News Reporters

DETECTIVES investigating an alleged rape in Sutton Park last week say they are now certain the offence 'did not occur'.

New information received on Tuesday this week (December 15) has led to police completing their investigation into the 'incident' at the Sutton Coldfield beauty spot last Tuesday (December 8).

The conclusion has been reached following the emergence of new CCTV footage and fresh conversations with the woman who made the report.

West Midlands Police last week said a 20-year-old 'local' woman suffered a 'serious sexual assault' near to Town Gate in Sutton Park on Tuesday, December 8 at around 6pm, as the woman was walking to the train station. Four men were said to have approached the woman but, at the time, police said they did not believe all had been involved in the 'terrifying' attack.

They said she managed to get away during the attack and made her way to nearby Good Hope Hospital where the matter was then reported to police.

Officers then immediately cordoned off the area and a meticulous forensic examination of the scene was carried out the next day.

On Friday (December 11) the police also issued a description of the 'attackers' and said they were 'four Asian males believed to be in their mid-20s and wearing dark hooded clothing'.

Left: Police investigating an alleged 'serious sexual assault' in Sutton Park say they are now certain it 'did not happen'.

Detective Inspector Ian Ingram, from West Midlands Police's Public Protection Unit, said: "Our next steps are to try and discover exactly why this allegation was made in the first place."

"We've got specially-trained officers working with the young woman, providing her with the support she needs in an attempt to understand the reasoning behind her actions."

"What's important in the meantime is that we update the public on this latest development in order to provide some much-needed reassurance to people who use Sutton Park."

Massive shake-up for boundary maps

THE boundary maps of Sutton Coldfield and Erdington are set for the biggest shake-up in a generation if plans are given the go-ahead.

See Page 2

New stand will help team stay in league

SUTTON Coldfield Town FC has applied to improve its stadium as otherwise it is faced with automatic relegation.

See Page 5

Illegal cigarettes lands shop a ban

A SHOP in Erdington has been banned from selling alcohol after a board of illicit cigarettes was found on its premises.

See Page 7
A woman has received a fixed penalty notice for wasting police time after making a false rape allegation in Sutton Park.