

Milly Southworth

From: Lizeta Fellows <beat4autism@gmail.com>
Sent: 16 June 2025 09:00
To: Julie Martin; Milly Southworth
Subject: Bomb protocols

Good morning Madam Mayor,

As I am sure you are aware, there was an issue in the Beat4autism shop on Saturday 14th June, where a large black bag of donation of brass items were received, this donation contained a WW1 artillery fuse. This donation was received on Friday and unfortunately the donor cannot be traced, however, this would absolutely not be their fault and no blame is to be placed.

On reverse searching this item on Google it stated that advice was to be sought in order to ensure this was not dangerous.

I immediately called the police (10:28 am) and asked for advice, they stated we were to leave it where it was, not to touch it and they would contact the bomb disposal unit.

I asked if we were required to evacuate and was told 'we don't know what it is yet so just don't move it. No advice could be given regarding closing the shop at the least.

I was contacted several times over an hour and a half period, requested to send photographs and was made aware these were being assessed and that a police unit would attend and remove the item.

In the meantime I called the town clerk to ask for advice regarding protocols and indeed whether we should close.

I received a call back within a few minutes from the ops manager, who put my mind at ease.

At 1:25pm a police officer arrived, took a look and called the bomb disposal unit who swiftly stated that the shop and the area up to 100metres should have been evacuated and cordoned off following government guidelines and that they were currently in Plymouth and would be coming over to remove the item.

The police officer informed me of this and stated that he was aware I had asked this question of the police unit and was happy with what we had done.

At 2:45pm the bomb disposal unit arrived from Royal Navy and removed the item, they explained that it the item was no longer dangerous, that it had a gun powder trail within it, that when set off would give 22 seconds warning.

Although this was an extraordinary event to happen, and may not happen again, there are a few areas where I feel this could have been handled in a safer way.

Firstly, the advice given by the police was clearly incorrect and could have resulted in danger to others.

I have had a brief look and cannot see a policy regarding bombs - I may have missed this.

As a concerned high street trader I feel as a town we should have some kind of protocol if this should occur again in the future.

I followed the guidelines given, but have found this situation to be incredibly scary and would not wish to be in this situation again. I would also not wish for any other resident or trader to be in this situation and not know what to do. Now I have had time to process what happened it has left me with concerns.

I was left feeling very unsure of what to do for the best and I followed the guidelines that turned out to be incorrect.

Being told by a police officer that is not a bomb disposal expert that he was happy with the information given by the call handler in my opinion is not great, considering this is not what the bomb disposal unit advised.

My questions are...

1, Do we have a protocol that I have missed ?

If not could we look to have one produced for all?

2, Would Joe blogs know what to do if they found something in their garden?

3, Is it OK to presume this has probably already gone off and is safe?

4, How do we ensure that the information we are given is correct?

This thankfully did not have any negative or dangerous repercussions, but quite easily could have .

I look to you for advice on this matter.

Many thanks

Kind regards

Lizeta Fellows

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Lead Safeguarding Officer



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