

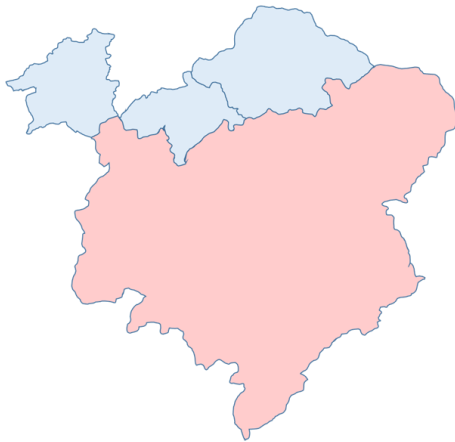
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Scottish Borders Area Command

The Lothians and Scottish Borders

Tweeddale East and West Community Councils Multi Member Ward Report for October 2023



The information provided within this report, is predominately based on the Tweeddale East & West Multi Member Ward Policing Plan and the areas you have identified as priorities.

The data provided in this report is for information purposes only and is not official crime statistics. Due to delayed reporting or recording of crimes, incidents or road accidents and the management of crime enquiries, there is likely to be differences between the information in this report and the final Police Scotland statistics. It would not be appropriate to refer to, quote or use any data in this report as official statistics.

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Community Policing News – Tweeddale – PS James Harrison



Throughout October and into November Police Scotland ran Operation Torsion in the Scottish Borders. This was an initiative designed to reduce antisocial behaviour (ASB) in the run up to and over Halloween and Bonfire Night. In the Scottish Borders the Operation involved Community Beat Officers (CBO), School Liaison Officers (SLO), Youth Engagement Officers (YEO) and the Community Action Team (CAT).

In the lead up to Bonfire Night the SLO's & YEO's visited primary & secondary schools to give presentations in relation to fireworks and antisocial behaviour. Safety Advisory Groups were attended for the organised bonfires & firework displays. Community Beat Officers visited local retail premises regarding the sales of fireworks and anti-social behaviour (even to advise them not to sell eggs to children!), Regular patrols of ASB hotspots were conducted by CBO's and CAT, and over Halloween and the bonfire weekend deployment plans were created to cover organised events and ASB hotspots. All of this resulted in virtually no firework / bonfire night related antisocial behaviour reported over this period. I see this as a reward for the effort put in by the Community Policing Team in the Scottish Borders, and highlights the value of crime prevention work.

Possibly the most valuable contributors to prevention work in the Scottish Borders are the SLO's & YEO's. They work in schools and with partner agencies to address youth problems, such as by holding the Youth Hub at Peebles High School, working with the Peebles Youth Voice, visiting TD1 youth hub in Galashiels, speaking to children about vandalism at Newtown St Boswells, or arranging an army fun day at Selkirk High School. They can also gather information to identify emerging issues, and address them, before they escalate. If

crimes are committed they will report the crime and work with partner agencies to resolve recurring issues, always putting the child first. I know they are all incredibly passionate about their work, and on the whole they have very good relationships with the schools and pupils.

Often the most frustrating aspect of Community Policing is that it is difficult to quantify success. Crime prevention is less about catching criminals, but about stopping crime from happening in the first place. Having a relatively incident free Halloween & Bonfire Weekend is testament to the hard work carried out by the SLO's on a daily basis and during Op Torsion.

Local Policing Priorities

1. Protecting most vulnerable
2. Reducing violence and Anti-Social Behaviour
3. Reducing acquisitive crime
4. Improving road safety
5. Tackling serious and organised crime



Protecting most vulnerable

In October 2023 Police in the Scottish Borders attended and were involved with around 170 mental health related calls, around 30 missing person enquiries and approximately 87 domestic related incidents.

Tweeddale East and West had 10 mental health related calls and 2 missing person enquiries. Due to GDPR and protection of victims/subjects involved, we are unable to share any more specific information in relation to these type of call within this report.

Police Scotland work in collaboration with key partners to assist the most vulnerable within the communities and to provide support.



Reducing Violence and Anti-Social Behaviour

Assaults

10/10/23 – a male was released on an undertaking to appear at court for unprovoked assault on two members of the public and resisting arrest in Northgate, Peebles.

10/10/23 – a male was charged with assault after an incident in Broughton.

28/10/23 – a female was issued with a Recorded Police Warning after a minor assault on High Street, Peebles.

Anti-Social Behaviour

02/10/23 – report of youths banging on windows at properties in Waverley Mills, Innerleithen.

13/10/23 – report of youths drinking in public and causing a nuisance in Glen Road, Peebles. No trace on police arrival.

14/10/23 – report of youths causing a disturbance in Victoria Park, Peebles. No trace on police arrival.

15/10/23 – Two youths were issued with Youth Offending Letters after knocking on doors at a property in Peebles.

21/10/23 – report of youths in Play Park at Waverley Mills, Innerleithen playing music and causing a disturbance. No trace on officers attending.

21/10/23 – report of youths banging on doors at Waverly Mills, Innerleithen. No trace on officers attending.

27/10/23 – Report of items being thrown at a property in Princes Street, Innerleithen. Officers attended and found no damage had been caused. Passing attention given.

Vandalism

Between 1600 03/10/23 and 0840 04/10/23 damage was caused to the rear of a property on High Street, Peebles

13/10/23 – report of a vehicle being damaged in Springwell Brae, Broughton.

14/10/23 – report of a window being broken at property on High Street, Peebles

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17/10/23 – report of an interior door being damaged at the toilets in East Station Car Park, Peebles

25/10/23 – report of damage to a close entry door at a property on High Street, Peebles.

26/10/23 – report of damage being caused to bins within Victoria Park, Peebles

29/10/23 – report of a window within a close in Northgate, Peebles being damaged.



Reducing Acquisitive Crime

Theft by Housebreaking

03/10/23 – report of two dirt bikes being stolen from a garage at a property in Glen Crescent, Peebles.

07/10/23 – a property under renovation in High Street, Innerleithen was entered and a quantity of power tools stolen.

Theft

11/10/23 – report of a bike being stolen from a property at Eshiels

20/10/23 – report of a gas meter being stolen from outside a property in Innerleithen



Improving Road Safety

Killed or Seriously Injured

There were no persons killed or seriously injured on Tweeddale roads during October.


Road Traffic Offences

01/10/23 – officers on mobile patrol observed a vehicle on the A703 Peebles to Leadburn road driving in a dangerous and reckless manner and issued the driver with an Anti-Social Behaviour Order

25/10/23 – a driver had their vehicle seized for no insurance after being stopped by officers on Innerleithen Road, Peebles.

Tackling Serious and Organised Crime

Serious and organised crime enforcement – October 2023



The Scottish Borders CID Proactive Unit executed 6 Drug Warrants across the command area during October, all were positive and a variety of MDA charges were proffered against 6 persons. This included a large scale Cannabis cultivation which had a street value of £1,000,000, 2 males were traced within the Cultivation and are currently remanded in regards to this.

They have also been liaising with Northumbria Constabulary in regards to county lines offending. This resulting in 2 individuals being arrested and charged with multiple MDA offences. Enquires for other individuals involved in county lines are ongoing.

They also assisted reactive CID in our area with stolen property warrants for housebreakings across the Scottish Borders.

The CID Proactive Unit have a number of live inquiries in relation to Serious and Organised Crime which, once concluded, will be subject to media releases.

They would like to re-inforce the message to all wards that any drug related crime or organised criminality in the Scottish Borders can be anonymously reported via CrimeStoppers, who are an independent charity not connected to the Police. The public can of course still use 101 for this purpose too.

A number of bespoke business cards explaining the benefits of and reassuring any caller to CrimeStoppers have been produced and can be circulated amongst the Wards should this be deemed useful.

Campaigns

Keep Safe Initiative

Primarily aimed at disabled members of the community helping to tackle disability hate crime, Keep Safe is a national network of over 800 safe places (including shops, libraries, pubs etc.) for anyone who may feel lost, scared or vulnerable when out in the community. [About Keep Safe \(iammescotland.co.uk\)](http://iammescotland.co.uk)

All Scottish Borders Co-ops have signed up to the scheme with staff training, business packs and store signage being provided.

Divisional Domestic Abuse campaign

Regular social media posts highlighting local (DAAS) and national helpline contact details and reporting mechanisms

Ongoing engagement with main local employers to share campaign messages, information in relation to local support services and charities and prevention messages targeting perpetrators directly.

Rural

Scottish Borders Partnership against Rural Crime (SBPARC) the partnership continues to meet regularly to address local priority rural crime throughout the year.



- We continued to distribute free Selecta DNA forensic marking kits & signs and crime prevention advice to farmers and rural business. These can be requested by Farmers / Rural businesses using the [Contact Us Form](#) on the Police Scotland Website.



No Cold Calling Zones

- A new Zone has been set up in Eddleston covering 120 Houses – Road signs and house-packs have been provided.
- Implementation work is ongoing with Bowden and Newtown St Boswells community councils for zones in these areas.
- Any community organisation wishing to refresh their zone (those with the old Lothian and Borders Police signs) or interested in setting up a new zone should contact their local community policing team <https://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/contact/>

CAT Update:

RURAL ACQUISITIVE CRIME – We continue to carry out static road checks in rural areas at all times of day to deter and detect rural acquisitive crime. 42 static checks were carried out throughout the Scottish Borders in October.

On Sunday 1st October, SBCAT officers worked alongside ELCAT at Monynut, Berwickshire re off road bikes. During the day, CAT officers used quad bikes and off-road police vehicles traced 8 vans parked within the area. The Quads were deployed and flushed the riders out. 4 tickets were issued and further enquiry to trace another 4 drivers/riders who did not return to the vans. One HORT1 issued with the likelihood a no insurance charge will result. Letters issued to the vans left on site warning re use of off road bikes in the area. Many of the vans are works vans and contact will be made with companies.

Contact was made with the gamekeeper, and farmers around the land who had called in re the bikes. They were delighted with Police attendance.

ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR – High visibility patrols have continued in Burnfoot, Hawick as well as near derelict sites in Hawick to address concerns at these locations. Further from the action taken in September an initiative undertaken CAT and CPT looking at ASB driving in Galashiels. A number of drivers spoken to and two ASBO tickets were issued as detailed above.

Further to that, officers have repeatedly attended at Monynut windfarm, Berwickshire, to deter and detect off road motorbikes.

4 youth warning letters were issued during the month of October. Two were in relation to youths entering and causing bother at the Cinema in Galashiels and two were in relation to youths repeatedly knocking on doors in Peebles.

PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE – Part of the SBCAT role is to trace persons wanted on warrant/missing person/and bail curfew checks. SBCAT have carried out regular checks on multiple individuals who are wanted on warrant. Two individuals of particular interest have been sought during the month, both prolific domestic abusers. One was traced and appeared at court and subsequently returned to prison.

DRUG ENFORCEMENT – SBCAT took part in executing 4 drug search warrants in the SBC area. During one of the searches no drugs were found, however £1500 was seized under the Proceeds of Crime Act. In interview the unemployed occupant declined to say where the money came from.

A second warrant was executed at a disused hotel in Hawick, where a large amount of cannabis was recovered. There were 430 Cannabis plants, 40kg of Cannabis bud and KG's of other type of Cannabis cuttings to make THC oil. Two eastern European males were arrested and charged with drug supply charges and theft of electricity. Of note, the hotel was set up professionally with internal steel doors and a sophisticated bypass of the electricity metering.

A third warrant was executed in the Hawick area, however no drugs were found. One male was arrested on the result of other substance analysis and charged with being concerned in the supply of controlled drugs and road traffic offences. His BMW motorcar was seized for having no insurance.

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On top of this CAT officers attended an incident in Kelso where a vehicle was seized for having no insurance and the occupants were searched in terms of MDA 1971 and a personal amount of cannabis seized. A report has been sent to the PF for all offences.

On 31st October 2023 CAT officers were on youth patrol in Tweeddale for Halloween and engaged with a number of youth resulting in positive MDA searches.



[Feedback from a meeting/contacting your Community Policing Team](#)

Anyone with information relating to any criminal activity can contact Police Scotland by dialling 101 or alternatively anonymously by calling

CRIMESTOPPERS on **0800 555111**.

Should the Community Council wish to discuss any matters highlighted in the report, please contact:

TweeddaleEastCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk

TweeddaleWestCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk

We will endeavour to provide you with this information, however some information is sensitive and as an organisation we have to ensure compliance with GDPR.