

OFFICIAL

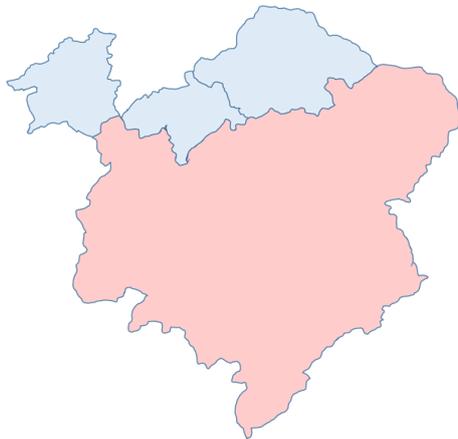


Scottish Borders Area Command

The Lothians and Scottish Borders

Hawick and Hermitage Community Councils
Multi Member Ward Report for September 2023

(1st – 30th September 2023)



The information provided within this report, is predominately based on the Hawick and Hermitage 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.

OFFICIAL

Community Policing News – Hawick & Hermitage – PS Ali Granger

There have been 13 calls to Newcastleton over the month of August – mostly relating to noise complaints, concern for persons and road traffic offences. These calls do not include those involving an ongoing situation which PC Patterson is currently dealing with.

I accompanied PC Patterson down to visit Newcastleton on 28th September and really enjoyed meeting members of the Community Council and seeing the facilities they have at Buccleuch House, which are extremely impressive. This was a positive meeting and will enable us to continue to build on the great work PC Patterson is doing in Newcastleton.

There have been more reported thefts of farming GPS equipment in the Scottish Borders. On 17th September there were two thefts of GPS equipment from farms near Coldstream.

Scottish Borders Partnership Against Rural Crime (SBPARC) is a part of a multi agency initiative developed by the Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime (SPARC). It involves key organisations collectively working together to tackle rural crime, particularly from the ever-increasing threat posed by serious and organised crime throughout Scotland. SBPARC involves Police, Scottish Borders Council, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, NFU Scotland, Scottish Land and Estates, SEPA, River Tweed Comission, and Scottish SPCA

Tips for tackling GPS thefts -

Our advice to help prevent these thefts is –

- Be sure to remove GPS systems, screens and other valuables when leaving vehicles and store them securely
- Park tractors and other agricultural vehicles in secure, alarmed buildings in well-lit areas covered by CCTV
- Activate PIN security on GPS systems, with your own unique number
- Permanently mark your postcode to deter thieves and trace property back to you
- Keep tractors and combines with GPS stored out of sight
- Record serial numbers and photograph your systems
- Check serial numbers of second hand systems offered for sale
- Report any suspicious activity to 101

Please report any suspicious incidents or vehicles to Police Scotalnd on 101 (999 in an emergency) or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

More advice and guidance can be found from NFU on the link below.

[Increase Security Measures During Harvest | NFU Mutual](#)

We regularly hold events to provide advice and assistance regarding rural crime such as the event held in Kelso Square on 21st September

The below link gives access to the latest Police document for the Scrutiny Panel for the Police, Fire and Rescue and Safer Communities Board, which sits every quarter at Scottish Borders Council.

<https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s75749/Item%20No.%205%20a%20-%20Scottish%20Borders%20Q4%20CI.pdf>

Once you click into this link, please scroll down to read the full report. It provides progress and updates on service matters from Police Scotland as presented by the Local Area Commander CI Vinnie Fisher.

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 September 2023 Police in the Scottish Borders attended and were involved with around 187 mental health related calls, around 36 missing person enquiries and approximately 91 domestic related incidents.

Hawick and Hermitage area had 16 mental health related calls and 4 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

On 16/09/2023 report of an assault at High Street. Statements noted and relevant paperwork submitted.

On 24/09/2023 report of a disturbance on the High Street officers came across the incident 2 males, 1 had assaulted the other and were verbally abusive to members of the public. Enquiries ongoing.

Anti-Social Behaviour

On 01/09/2023 report of a disturbance at Hawick Town Hall, High Street. Officers attended and male calmed immediately. Council staff not reporting any crimes.

On 02/09/2023 report of a disturbance at a property at Oliver Park. Male was brandishing an offensive weapon at police. The male was arrested and held in custody before attending court.

On 07/09/2023 report of a group of youths who are barred from Morrison's were in the shop. Police attended and spoke to a number of them, advice given.

OFFICIAL

On 08/09/2023 report of a disturbance at a property on Liddesdale Road. One male arrested and charged.

On 10/09/2023 report that a group of males were fighting in Drumlanrig Square. Police attended and spoke to all concerned and gave appropriate advice.

On 18/09/2023 report that a male causing a disturbance on Arthur Street. Police attended and located the male who was arrested and charged

On 21/09/2023 report of 2 males fighting on Liddesdale Road, Police attended, nothing ongoing.

On 24/09/2023 report of a disturbance at a property on Ramsay Road. Police attended and advice given.

On 25/09/2023 report of a disturbance at Bank of Scotland, High Street. Officers attended, statements noted from staff. Accused to be traced and issued with a recorded police warning.

On 26/09/2023 report of a disturbance at Morrison's, Mart Street. Statements to be noted from staff and relevant paperwork submitted. Enquiries ongoing.

Vandalism

On 02/09/2023 report that a car had had the driver's side window smashed while parked on Croft Road by unknown persons. Enquiries ongoing.

On 06/09/2023 report that a car had had the driver's side and rear window smashed while parked on the High Street overnight by unknown persons. Enquiries ongoing.

On 20/09/2023 report that a vehicle parked within Morrison's car park had been damaged by being keyed. Enquiries ongoing.

On 26/09/2023 report of a window being smashed and property spray painted at High Street. Male arrested and charged and released on an undertaking with conditions.

On 28/09/2023 report that the front door of a property on Lothian Street has been smashed by a known suspect. Police attended and a search of the area for the suspect. Enquiries ongoing.



Reducing Acquisitive Crime

Theft by Housebreaking

On 18/09/2023 report of theft by housebreaking at a shop on High Street, Hawick. After enquiries, a male was arrested and charged and appeared at Selkirk Sheriff Court on 20/09/23

On 19/09/2023 report of a house be broken into on Lothian Road, property stolen. Enquiries ongoing.

Theft

On 02/09/2023 report of the theft of a wallet from a vehicle parked at the Howegate. Enquiries ongoing.

On 06/09/2023 report of the theft of goods from Farmfoods on the High Street, the suspect was identified, arrested, and charged

On 06/09/2023 report that a male had stolen from Weatherspoon's. Police attended and located the suspect who was arrested and taken to Hawick Police station.

On 18/09/2023 report that a commercial property on the High Street had had its window smashed by unknown persons and items taken. Enquiries ongoing.

On 18/09/2023 report of the theft of goods from Boots the Chemist suspect was identified by staff. Enquiries ongoing.

On 26/09/2023 report of theft of fuel from Morrison's, Mart Street. Enquiries ongoing.



Improving Road Safety

On 01/09/2023 report of a road traffic offence at Loan, Hawick. Driver cautioned and charged and issued with a fixed penalty ticket for having defective lights.

On 16/09/2023 report of a road traffic offence on A7 at MossPaul. Conditional offer issued for no MOT.

On 01/09/2023 – a driver was issued a fine for lamps not fixed/not correctly fixed in Hawick.

Pm 01/09/2018 – a driver was issued a fine for Registration mark (size, shape, or character of letters etc) in Hawick.

On 01/09/2023 – a driver was issued a fine for a lamp moveable while in motion in Hawick.

On 16/09/2023 - a driver was issued a fine for driving with no MOT in Hawick.

On 14/09/2023 - a driver was issued a fine and penalty points for dangerous parts and accessories in Hawick.

Killed or Seriously Injured

No accidents where persons were killed or seriously injured.



Tackling Serious and Organised Crime

Serious and organised crime enforcement – September 2023

OFFICIAL

The Scottish Borders CID Proactive Unit executed 9 Drug Warrants across the command area during September, all except one were positive and a variety of MDA charges were proffered against 10 persons. Heroin, cocaine, benzodiazepines and cannabis were all recovered during these searches in addition to large sums of cash and suspected stolen property.

They also assisted other CID departments in the area with stolen property warrants for housebreakings across the Scottish Borders and in relation to serious sexual offences. In total 14 warrants were executed across the division by CID.

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

Scams

Victims of Phone / Internet / Doorstep Scams continue to be provided with an incident follow-up information pack containing advice intended to prevent repeat victimisation. This pack now includes a copy of the latest "Little Book of Big Scams" which covers a huge variety of common scams. [Little Book of Big Scams – Cyber Scotland](#)

High Value Bike Thefts from Vehicles

Following a spate of bike thefts from visitors vehicles in the Peebles area, work is ongoing to place warning signage at hotspot areas in Peebles, Innerleithen and Glentress. Prevention advice leaflets are also to be distributed to local businesses such as cafes, hotels etc.

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 \(iammescotland.co.uk\)](#)

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

No Cold Calling Zones

- Any community organisation interested in setting up a new zone or wishing to refresh an existing zone (those with the old Lothian and Borders Police signs) or should contact their local community policing team <https://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/contact/>

Rural Crime

OFFICIAL

- Scottish Borders Partnership against Rural Crime (SBPARC) exhibited at the Border Union Show highlighting the latest rural crime prevention advice. The partnership continues to meet regularly to address local priority rural crime throughout the year.
- We continued to distribute free wireless perimeter security alarms 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.

CAT Update

During the past month SBCAT officers carried out High Visibility foot patrols and worked alongside other community agencies at the Ex-standard Bearers Cycle/horse ride (0900-1600 hours) and Yarrow and Ettrick agriculture show (0900-1400 hours) Quad present and community engagement. Kelso Ewe Sales were also attended for community engagement. On 24/9/23 CAT assisted with the PMRA September Ride (Peebles)

ROAD SAFETY – SBCAT have continued carrying out road checks in numerous locations in the Borders and have issued 14 traffic tickets throughout the month.

PARKING TICKETS – Officers have been carrying out high visibility patrols in Peebles, Kelso, Eyemouth, Duns, Selkirk, Galashiels, and Hawick, and addressing parking concerns there. Advice has been given to drivers and 112 tickets have been issued.

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. 43 static checks were carried out throughout the Scottish Borders in September.

ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR – High visibility mobile and foot patrols have continued in a number of areas in Hawick as well as near derelict sites in Hawick to address concerns at these locations.

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. These individuals are aware they are wanted and enquiries to trace them are continuing. This month 3 offenders have been arrested by SBCAT and put to court.

SBCAT officers took part in the Community Safety Advice day for Sensory Services at the Corn Exchange, Melrose. This involved working with partner agencies such as SFRS and Health meeting with members of the public from all over the Borders who are deaf or hard of hearing, giving community safety advice and promoting ways they can contact the Police Service of Scotland and report any concerns.

DRUG ENFORCEMENT – SBCAT took part in executing 2 drug search warrants in the area. During a search in Hawick, a personal amount of drugs were recovered. Enquiries with social services under way to establish if the 85 years old occupant is being the victim of 'Cuckooing' by the individual charged with the possession.

OTHER - During the month SBCAT officers took part in Operation Checkpoint, a UK wide police initiative combating County Lines criminal travelling to commit crime. During this, a number of vehicles and person were stopped and checked. No offences were detected.

OFFICIAL

SBCAT officers were heavily involved in a High risk missing person from the Hawick area and were instrumental in him being traced alive and receiving medical treatment after being exposed to the elements for a number of days.

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:

LothianScotBordersCPTHawickHermitage@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.