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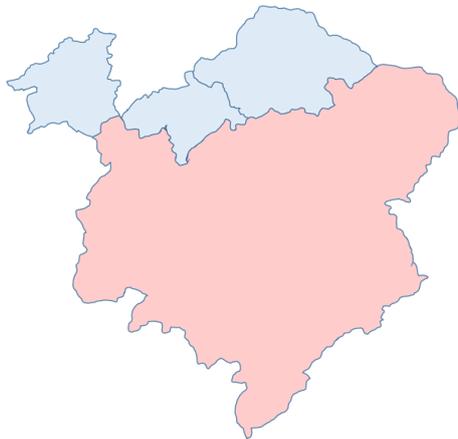


Scottish Borders Area Command

The Lothians and Scottish Borders

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

(1st – 30TH NOVEMBER 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.

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Community Policing News – Hawick & Hermitage – PS Ali Granger

There have been 10 calls to Newcastleton over the month of November – mostly relating to noise complaints, concern for persons, road traffic offences and one report of theft. These calls do not include those involving a continuing situation which PC Patterson is currently dealing with.

Chief Inspector Stuart Fletcher was pleased to be able to attend the Remembrance Sunday event in Hawick, laying a wreath on behalf of Police Scotland. He also attended the Recognition Hawick Awards and visited Burnfoot for a walk around the local community on 22nd and again for the Christmas light switch on event on 30th November. He made the following comments to local press -

“I am delighted to have the opportunity to work in the Scottish Borders again as your Local Area Commander and to put my years of policing experience to use in delivering a high quality of service. I know that the Borders is made up of many unique, and proud, communities and I want to be as visible as I possibly can, both to my colleagues, partners and local people. We know that Police Scotland faces significant financial pressures at this time, but I am committed to working to ensure a policing response to issues that is both proportionate and appropriate, whilst working collaboratively to ensure our resources are deployed to the greatest benefit of the communities that we serve” – CI Stuart Fletcher – Local Area Commander, Scottish Borders

On 15th November PC Ryan Stewart and Ula Trochimiak continued their work with the British Army Youth Development team, delivering a day programme of events for children in S4-S6 in Hawick High School. These events are designed to allow students to develop TRIPLOC (teamwork / resilience / problem-solving / leadership / organisational / communication) skills.



PC's Stewart and Trochimiak have also carried out work with the Primary School Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSO's), enlisting their help in carrying out speed checks of the local school communities, helping us spread the message to drive considerately in the 20's.

PC Allan Patterson and PC Fraser Mortimer have been continuing work within their communities, working alongside partner's agencies tackling local community issues including neighbour disputes, helping vulnerable members of the community and carrying out regular parking and road safety patrols. PC Mortimer gave up his rest day to make sure he could assist Burnfoot Community with their

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Christmas Light switch on event on 30th November. He is also assisting local shop keepers with concerns regarding shop lifting in Hawick.

All the Community officers, Community Action Team Officers and School Link Officers work closely together to help tackle community priorities – for example PC Mortimer has been assisting PC Trochimiak attend various youth clubs across the ward areas. This allows us to speak with local young people about the issues effecting them – making sure their opinions and concerns are heard.

All officers have been involved in White Ribbon Campaign – 16 days of action against gender based violence. It started on 25th November 2023, which is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and concludes on December 10th 2023 which is International Human Rights Day. During this period we are holding stalls offering domestic abuse advice and raising awareness in various locations across the Scottish Borders.

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

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 November 2023 Police in the Scottish Borders attended and were involved with around 196 mental health related calls, around 25 missing person enquiries and approximately 78 domestic related incidents.

Hawick and Hermitage area had 24 mental health related calls and 3 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

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On 03/11/2023 report of a person being assault at Yarrow Terrace, Hawick. All paperwork submitted.

On 04/11/2023 report of assault at Weatherspoons. Police identified the suspect who was located and arrested, he was also charged with a shoplifting offence at Lidl earlier. Appeared at court from custody and relevant paperwork submitted.

On 06/11/2023 report of an assault at a property on Bailleul Grove, Police attended and the suspect was cautioned and charged and relevant paperwork submitted.

On 13/11/2023 report of an assault at a property on Earl Street. Male and female were later arrested and charged. Relevant paperwork submitted.

Anti-Social Behaviour

On 04/11/2023 report of a disturbance on Lothian Street known person banging on a property door. Police attended the subject had left. Later Police attended after a further call of the subject banging on the door, the subject was arrested and held in custody and due to appear in court on Monday.

On 27/11/2023 reports of youths causing issues at Morrison's, Police attended and spoke to the security guard and located the youths all were spoken to and advice given to all.

On 28/11/2023 reports of a disturbance at a property on Crumhaugh Road. Police attended and the suspect had left the property, a searched the area was carried out and the male was located who was arrested and conveyed to Hawick Police station and appeared at court the next day.

On 28/11/2023 report of a male causing a disturbance at a commercial property on the High Street, Police attended and at the time nothing on going.

Vandalism/Vehicle Crime

On 16/11/2023 report that a vehicle had been damaged on Hugh McLeod Place by unknown persons. Enquiries continuing.



Reducing Acquisitive Crime

Theft by Housebreaking

On 15/11/2023 report that an empty property on Trinity Street had been entered and white goods removed. Enquires continuing.

Theft

On 03/11/2023 report of the theft of metal from a property on Langholm Street, Newcastleton. Local CCTV has been checked and suspect vehicle seen. Enquiries continuing.

On 05/11/2023 report of the theft of construction equipment from a site on Weensland Mill Ind Est. Relevant paperwork submitted.

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On 09/11/2023 report of the theft of goods from Boots on the High Street. Enquiries continuing.

On 14/11/2023 report of a vehicle obtaining fuel from Morrison's and failing to pay. Enquiries continuing.

On 14/11/2023 report of the theft of goods from Pringles Butchers. Enquiries continuing.

On 16/11/2023 report of the theft of goods from Costa Coffee. Enquiries continuing.



Improving Road Safety

On 07/11/2023 a driver was issued a fine and penalty points for careless/inconsiderate driving in Hawick.

On 17/11/2023 a vehicle was stopped by officers after checks showed the vehicle had no MOT, driver was issued with a conditional offer.

Killed or Seriously Injured

No accidents where persons were killed or seriously injured.



Tackling Serious and Organised Crime

Serious and organised crime enforcement – November 2023

The Scottish Borders CID Proactive Unit executed 7 Drug Warrants across the command area during November, four were positive and 8 persons were charged with drug related offences. This included another large / industrial scale Cannabis cultivation which had a potential street value of £1,250,000 which was well publicised in local and national media.

They have also been liaising with a number of forces in England in relation to further criminality involving county lines nominals and rural acquisitive crime, particularly in the Eastern are of the Scottish Borders. Inquiries here are ongoing.

Five warrants were also executed in conjunction with other departments in relation to stolen property searches across the Scottish Borders.

They would also like to highlight that the local communities across the Borders may have information which they deem insignificant in relation to people being seen at disused large premises over a period of time. Any suspicious activity will be followed up by this team but it is important that the public know they can report such matters in person at any Police Station, by use of 101 or anonymously via the Crime Stoppers charity.

A number of business cards explaining the benefits of and reassuring any caller to Crime Stoppers 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](#)

As Christmas approaches, details are being distributed to retailers to make them and customers aware of Gift card scam. Fraudsters target the vulnerable and elderly who are induced to buy gift cards with the promise that they will receive a prize or a cash sum.

After Dark

Although housebreaking can occur at any time of year criminals will often take advantage of darker nights and shorter daylight hours. A Social Media campaign has highlighted the need for householders to keep their windows and doors locked, consider the fitting of intruder alarms, CCTV and outside security lighting, record and security mark valuable property, secure car keys out of sight and the use of Faraday pouches for keyless car entry systems.

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

- Scottish Borders Partnership against Rural Crime (SBPARC) exhibited at the Border Union Show and the Ram Sales highlighting the latest rural crime prevention advice. The partnership continues to meet regularly to address local priority rural crime throughout the year. We continue to provide security, crime prevention and livestock worrying advice to farmers and rural business. This can be requested by Farmers / Rural businesses using the [Contact Us Form](#) on the Police Scotland Website.

Domestic Abuse

Community Officers have been conducting pop up events raising awareness in Domestic Abuse and promoting the #DontBeThatGuy and White Ribbon Scotland Campaigns.

CAT Update

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During the past month SBCAT officers carried out High Visibility foot patrols and worked alongside other community agencies at various locations throughout the Scottish Borders during the three days around bonfire night

ROAD SAFETY – SBCAT have continued carrying out road checks in numerous locations in the Scottish Borders and have issued 8 traffic tickets for various offences throughout the month.

Following concerns regarding antisocial driving at Tesco, Galashiels, regular checks were carried out during the month in line with direct CAT taskings, 1 driver was charged for no insurance and his vehicle was seized.

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 119 tickets have been issued.

Passing attention was given to Traquare Road, Innerleithen (no issues) The War Memorial in Coldstream (no issues) Galashiels Town Centre and Bridge Street in Kelso were also regularly checked by officers, which was also carried out as a result of requests made at the previous meeting.

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. 57 static checks were carried out throughout the Scottish Borders in November.

Regular patrols have been carried out at Monynut with nothing to report.

During the month, SBCAT officers took part in Operation Checkpoint alongside neighbouring forces. As a result of this, a number of traffic offences were detected and tickets issued.

ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR – High visibility patrols have continued in targeted areas of the Scottish Borders to address concerns highlighted at these locations.

4 youth warning letters were issued during the month of November in relation to youths entering and causing bother at the Cinema in Galashiels.

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. During the past month there has been two high priority warrant executed. Both males subsequently appeared at court on these matters.

On the 28th November SBCAT officers took part in Border Rape Crisis Reclaim the Night March in Galashiels and worked alongside partner agencies providing advice and support for interested parties.

DRUG ENFORCEMENT – SBCAT officers have taken part in two drugs search warrants in the Scottish Borders.

One in Galashiels, unfortunately the search was negative, however disruption to the supply chain continues.

A second warrant was executed at an apparently disused mill on Dunsdale Road, Selkirk. Owing to the dilapidated state of the building, the clearing took longer than usual, with officers having to do locus protection for a number of days. Eventually following an in depth structural survey, limited amounts of officers were able to enter the building and dismantle the set up. There were approximately 1400 plants with a street value of over one million pounds.

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.