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Scottish Borders Area Command

The Lothians and Scottish Borders

Kelso and District Community Councils
Multi Member Ward Report for November 2023



The information provided within this report, is predominately based on the Kelso and District 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 Update - Kelso & District

As mentioned in Octobers MMWR, Chief Inspector Stuart Fletcher is now in post as the Local Area Commander. He has 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

Local Community Officer PC Owenson and School Link Officer PC Tait-Logan worked hard with our colleagues in Scottish Fire and Rescue Service on delivering messages to the local community regarding Bonfire and Fireworks safety in the days leading up to 5th November. This prevention work meant there was a very low level of antisocial behaviour related calls in the community on Bonfire night. Officers were also busy policing the many Remembrance Day Services in towns across the Scottish Borders. PC Chisholm was proud to lay a wreath on Police Scotland’s behalf at the War Memorial in Kelso.

Enquiries continue into vandalisms in the areas of Shedden Park, Horsemarket and Woodmarket. Community Action Team Officers have ownership of enquiries into the vandalisms to the public toilets at the bus stop on Woodmarket. Any persons with any information are urged to contact police. Antisocial behaviour patrols have been carried out by all community officers and PC Tait Logan has attended local youth clubs to engage with youngsters.

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.



PC Tait-Logan & PC Chisholm attended at Mayfield Garden centre on 01/12/23 to promote the White Ribbon Campaign and provide advice

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Reassurance patrols were also carried out in the area of Bridge Street and Bridgend Park after second hand reports of attacks on females. Extensive enquiries were carried out into these reports. As a result, it was confirmed one incident of abusive behaviour was reported, with no persons coming forward to disclose any other incidents. We would always recommend the following personal safety advice, and would like to reassure the public that although attacks of this nature are infrequent in the area, we take reports of both physical and verbal attacks extremely seriously.

[Out and about | Crimestoppers \(crimestoppers-uk.org\)](https://www.crimestoppers-uk.org/)

PC Owenson has also been carrying out speed checks at Ednam, Roxburgh Street and Angraflat Road in response to local community concerns. He has also carried out extensive rural crime patrols.

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.

Kelso & District had 16 mental health related calls and 0 missing person enquiry. 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 ASB

Assault

No disclosable reports of assault

Anti-Social Behaviour

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On 09/11/2023 report of a disturbance at a property in Jamiesons Court, Kelso. Officers attended and no complaints or crimes reported.

On 09/11/2023 report of a male causing a disturbance at Ednam House Hotel, Kelso. One male has been charged with threatening & abusive behaviour, vandalism and sexual offences.

On 16/11/2023 report of a female being verbally abused, Proctors Smithy. Enquiries ongoing.

On 16/11/2023 report of unknown persons knocking on windows at a property in East Bowmont Street, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

On 24/11/2023 report of a disturbance outside a property in Croft Road, Kelso involving two youths banging on door. Officers attended, however, youths had left and no damage caused. Suitable advice given.

Vandalism

On 02/11/2023 report of damage to public toilets in Horsemarket, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

On 08/11/2023 report of damage to disabled public toilets in Horsemarket, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

On 19/11/2023 report of damage to a window of a property in Inch Road, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

On 20/11/2023 report of vandalism to a property in Roxburgh Street, Kelso. A crime report has been submitted.

On 25/11/2023 another report of damage to a window of a property in Inch Road, Kelso. A crime report has been submitted.

On 27/11/2023 report of vandalism to the front door of a property in Horsemarket, Kelso. A crime report has been submitted.

On 29/11/2023 report of vandalism to public toilets within Horsemarket, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

Reducing acquisitive crime

Theft

On 28/11/2023 report of theft of fuel from vehicles parked at an agricultural merchants in Pinnaclehill Industrial Estate, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

Theft Housebreaking

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Improving road safety

On 04/11/2023 a driver was issued a fine and penalty points for having L driver with unqualified passenger in Kelso.

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

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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:

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.

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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:

KelsoDistrict@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.

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