

**OFFICIAL**



## **Scottish Borders Area Command**

The Lothians and Scottish Borders

Leaderdale and Melrose Community Councils  
Multi Member Ward Report for July 2021



**The information provided within this report, is predominately based on the Leaderdale & Melrose 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 Crime, 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 Sergeant Update

### PS Stephen Granger

The majority of you will have seen the national media coverage of the water related incidents over the weekend from Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July to Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July which resulted in a number of tragic deaths. The warm weather makes open water swimming and paddling very appealing but it is extremely dangerous and conditions can change quickly. I would urge everyone to exercise extreme caution as there are often hidden risks like deeper water and strong currents. It is better to stay a safe distance from the water where possible. If you do see someone in the water and distressed call 999 immediately. Remember you could get into difficulty yourself trying to help so take care and seek help as soon as possible.

Continuing on a personal safety theme I would like to bring attention to the location finding tool what3words who have launched their #KnowExactlyWhere safety campaign to highlight the importance of the app.

The campaign aims to raise awareness of how the **free** app can be used when members of the public are at lochs, beaches or in rural areas and an emergency situation arises.

What3words, which was introduced for use by operational police officers and police staff in March, works by gridding the Earth into 3x3 metre squares - the coordinates of each are then given three unique words to pinpoint an exact location.

Contact Command and Control now accept what3words locations from members of the public calling 999 and 101. This is a critical resource for members of the public who are contacting us from rural or unknown areas. It is important to note that when a member of the public calls 999/101, a postal address is always asked as default – this has not changed. What3words is utilised as an additional location sharing tool and has not replaced any existing systems.

The app is free to download for both iOS and Android and works entirely offline – making it ideal for use in areas of the country with an unreliable data connection, such as lochs, beaches, national parks and campsites.

What3words is now used by over 85% of UK emergency services – police, fire and ambulance.

#### Key Points

- Members of the public calling 999/101 are able to give their location via what3words if they are in an unfamiliar area, rural location or one that is difficult to describe.

## OFFICIAL

- Police controls rooms will always ask for a postal address as default when a member of the public contacts 999/101- this will not change. The app gives three simple words to help pinpoint a particular location in emergency situations. These words never change.
- The app works without phone or Wi-Fi signal (although caller will still need a signal to share location).
- The app is free for use for emergency services, charities and members of the public.
- What3words will not replace current systems and is an additional resource.
- More information about what3words can be found on the what3words [website](#).

## 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 July 2021 Police in the Scottish Borders attended and were involved with around 138 mental health related calls, around 17 missing person enquiries and approximately 58 Domestic related incidents.*

*Leaderdale and Melrose district had 12 mental health related calls and 5 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 ASB

#### Assault

On 13/07/2021 report of assault Hoebridge Road East Melrose. Enquires continuing.

#### Anti-Social Behaviour

On 03/07/21, police were called to St Aidans Court, Melrose regarding youths on the roof of an abandoned mansion house. Police attended no trace of youths.

On 03/07/21 report of youths fighting in the street at East Port Melrose. Police attended no trace of youths.

OFFICIAL

## OFFICIAL

On 03/07/21 report of large group of persons drinking and shouting at East Port Melrose. Police attended and found patrons leaving a local public house no noise no street drinking.

On 04/07/21, police were called to St Aidans Court, Melrose regarding youths gaining entry to an abandoned mansion house. Police attended youths made off. Company who own the abandoned building contacted to erect secure fencing.

On 05/07/21 report of youths causing a disturbance and throwing items at vehicles in Queen Elizabeth Square. At request of caller no further police action.

On 08/07/21, police were called to East Port, Melrose regarding shouting. No trace on police arrival.

On 08/07/21, a report was made to police of youths throwing stones at vehicles near to the Borders General Hospital. No trace on police arrival.

On 09/07/21, police were called to St Aidans Court, Gattonside regarding windows being smashed at derelict buildings. No trace on police arrival.

On 09/07/21, a report of youths throwing tennis balls at caravans at Gibson Park, Melrose. No trace.

On 10/07/21, police were called to 100 Aker Wood, Melrose, regarding a disturbance. Two males were issued with recordable police warnings.

On 11/07/21, police were called to Scotts Place car park, Melrose, regarding a disturbance. No complaints on police arrival.

On 17/07/21, police were called to East Port, Melrose regarding shouting coming from the location. Male and female traced male issued with a Recorded Police warning female cautioned and charged.

On 18/07/2021 report of male causing a disturbance within the Borders General Hospital Melrose. Male warned regarding his conduct no complaints.

On 18/07/21, police were called to East Port, Melrose regarding an ongoing disturbance. No trace on police arrival.

On 22/07/2021 report of youths gathering and playing music close to Chain Bridge Melrose. Police attended, area search but no trace. Ongoing issue, extra attention and patrols will continue.

On 24/07/21, police were called to Market Square, Melrose regarding 10 people fighting. No trace on police arrival.

### **Vandalism**

On 02/07/2021 report of damage to garden pots in Morow Gardens, Melrose. Male issued with a recorded police warning.

On 06/07/2021 report of graffiti sprayed on the over pass bridge near to Borders General Hospital. Enquiry ongoing.

OFFICIAL

## OFFICIAL

On the 13/07/2021 report of damage to a door belonging to a business premises in Summerfield Earlston. Enquires continuing.



### Reducing acquisitive crime

#### Theft

On the 14/07/2021 report of vehicle failing to pay for fuel at Lauder Petrol Station, Edinburgh Road, Lauder. Enquires continuing.

#### Theft by Housebreaking

**NIL Reported**



### Improving road safety

Within the Selkirk Sheriff Court Jurisdiction there were 24 parking tickets issued in May.

On 06/07/21, a vehicle was stopped after acting suspiciously. The driver was found to have no driving licence or insurance. Driver charged vehicle seized.

On 07/07/21 motorist charged with careless driving on A68 at Lauder and issued a vehicle ASBO.

On 12/07/2021, driver received a fine and points after exceeding the speed limit on the A68 Soutra.

On 18/07/2021, driver received a fine and points for careless/inconsiderate driving on the Melrose Bypass Melrose.

On 19/07/21 driver arrested/charged for driving whilst intoxicated in Lauder.

On 21/07/2021, driver received a fine for having no MOT on the A68 Lauder.



### Tackling serious and organised Crime

On 10<sup>th</sup> of July 2021 officers Galashiels Police Station responded to an incident whereby a male had breached a non-harassment order and conducted himself in a threatening manner. Officers subsequently executed a General Evidence warrant at an address in Galashiels and the male was arrested and appeared at Court the next day.

On 13<sup>th</sup> of July 2021 following an incident involving the reported discharge of a firearm in Hawick, officers from across the division executed multiple warrants at addresses in Hawick, following systematic searches £600 worth of Cannabis was found within a property. During the course of the

OFFICIAL

## OFFICIAL

investigation the firearm was recovered and a report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal regarding the offences.

On 14<sup>th</sup> of July 2021 officers from Musselburgh Police Station supported by the Community Action Team executed a Drugs Search Warrant at an address in Galashiels. A male was traced within and was arrested and reported for Human Trafficking offences across the East of Scotland.

On 24<sup>th</sup> of July 2021 officers stopped a vehicle in Hawick. Following a systematic search of the vehicle and surrounding area £420 worth of Class A drugs were found. Two males were arrested and a report was submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

## Campaigns

### National speeding campaign

Police Scotland will be undertaking a period of enforcement from the 19<sup>th</sup> of July 21 to the 08<sup>th</sup> of August 21.

- **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.



OFFICIAL

## OFFICIAL

- 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 at Fisher Avenue, Hawick has been established
- A refresh of the existing zone at Bennecourt Drive in Coldstream is ongoing (new road signs and house packs)
- 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/>



OFFICIAL

## **Online Survey**

### **Body Worn Video – National Consultation**



Police Scotland recently asked the public for their views on our Armed Police Officers using body worn video cameras to record certain incidents.

Almost 9,000 people took part in a national survey and the majority thought the use of body worn video cameras would increase trust and confidence in the police and make them feel safer.

The response was so positive, we are now considering giving these cameras to police officers and staff, in other roles across Scotland.

This means that cameras would be worn on their uniform to record what they see and hear in certain situations so everyone involved has a clearer picture of exactly what happened.

So again, the organisation is asking the public for their views and has launched a national consultation which will run for three months between 1 June and 31 August, 2021.

The consultation is an opportunity for the public to be part of an ongoing conversation to help shape the use of Body Worn Video cameras by police officers and staff when interacting with communities in Scotland.

Your views will help inform protocols, code of practice and training to ensure that things are done in an appropriate and proportionate way, each and every time.

Please take some time to take part in the national survey by visiting the Body Worn Video pages at [scotland.police.uk](https://scotland.police.uk) or using the link: <https://consult.scotland.police.uk/strategy-insight-and-innovation/police-scotlands-use-of-body-worn-video-public-con>

We are committed to ensuring our communications meet accessibility standards.

We can provide:

- BSL video and transcript with link to BSL survey.
- Easy read messaging and FAQs with link to easy read survey.



## OFFICIAL

- Gaelic translation

If you require any other specific translated material then please get in touch

with: [CorpCommunicationsProjectsandDelivery@Scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:CorpCommunicationsProjectsandDelivery@Scotland.pnn.police.uk)

- QR Code



The QR Code can be shared as a link to the survey on print material, within an email and as part of an email signature.

This is the hyperlink:

<https://consult.scotland.police.uk/strategy-insight-and-innovation/police-scotlands-use-of-body-worn-video-public-con>

## Victim Support Scotland Survey– National Consultation

A survey carefully designed by the Research and Insight Team within Police Scotland and in collaboration with Victim Support Scotland is requesting feedback about the aftercare options provided by Officers of Police Scotland when people experience or witness a crime.

The survey seeks individual views about how Police Scotland can best support survivors/witnesses of crime when it comes to officers providing immediate support and information.

Police Scotland are requesting your assistance in completing and sharing this online survey within your networks and communities in which you work. The survey can be found @ [this public survey](#) .

Full details are included on the link. The survey was launched on 3<sup>rd</sup> June and closes on 31<sup>st</sup> August.

### **CAT Update:**

**ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR** – During July the CAT have completed targeted foot and mobile patrols, paying particular attention to youth hot spot areas in Peebles, Jedburgh, Galashiels, and Eyemouth. As per previous months youth calls are continuing to decline. Due to the Euro's 2020 and the relaxing of COVID regulations CAT officers completed a number of Licensed Premise focusing mainly on the town centres. During St Boswells Fair, a number



OFFICIAL

## OFFICIAL

of CAT officers were deployed to carry out foot patrols and engage with both the locals and travellers to ensure the event past without any disruption.

**DRUGS** – CAT officers continue to carryout intelligence led stop and searches, with quantities of drugs being recovered. They have also executed a number of drugs warrants in Hawick and Galashiels, with a quantity a drugs and POCA cash seized. Of note during one Warrant a person was also arrested and charged with Human Trafficking.

**ROAD SAFETY** – CAT have issued a number of tickets to drivers for various offences. Mobile patrols have been carried out in hotspot areas including Hawick, Galashiels and Peebles and a number of ASB vehicle warnings have been issued. High visibility road checks have been carried in targeted hot spots. A focus has also been on parking issues with patrols carried out mainly in Galashiels, Innerleithen, Selkirk, Eyemouth and Hawick and a number of parking tickets issued.

## 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:

[LeaderdaleMelroseCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:LeaderdaleMelroseCPT@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.



OFFICIAL