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## **Scottish Borders Area Command**

The Lothians and Scottish Borders

Leaderdale and Melrose Community Councils  
Multi Member Ward Report for March 2022



**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 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 Sergeant Update**

### **PS Stephen Granger**

Crime in our rural communities is a policing priority in the Scottish Borders. The issue of rural properties being targets for theft of machinery, particularly quad bikes, unfortunately continues despite our local officers continuing to patrol and conduct checks. Using information passed from the community enables us to develop our intelligence picture and focus police activity. Criminals often undertake cross-border reces in the days and weeks before crime occurs and make unannounced visits to farms or other isolated locations on the premise of looking for scrap or some other false guise. The more alert residents can be to this sort of behaviour, the better, and by sharing their concerns and information with us, the more chance we stand of deterring criminals and detecting them when they do commit crime.

With this in mind always contact police immediately if you see suspicious activity on or near your property:

- Use 999 if it is ongoing
- Otherwise call 101
- Or you can report the matter via the police Scotland website.

As I have referred to in previous reports our community policing teams have been engaged in conducting crime prevention surveys at rural locations upon request. These visits offer up not only free-of-charge security advice but also deliver free practical solutions in the form of signage and security marking kits. These kits are used to mark valuable machinery and quad bikes with uniquely identifiable 'DNA'. This allows equipment to be identified as stolen and returned to the owner if they are found at a later date.

If anyone wishes such a visit to be conducted by police this can be requested via emailing the Community Policing Team Mailbox at the end of this report.

Staying on the rural crime theme, as part of the National Wildlife Crime Prevention and Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime (SPARC) Strategy officers have been engaged in days of action looking to deter/detect incidents of hare coursing. Most recently between Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2022 and Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2022 across East Lothian and Scottish Borders local officers working with officers from the Tweed Commission and council carried out patrols across identified hot spot areas previously targeted by person's hare coursing. Positive engagement was made with

farmers, including crime prevention advice relating to the theft of quad bikes across the area. Between September 2021 and March 2022, 14 such days of action have been carried out in targeted areas. This multi-agency crime prevention activity has resulted in over a 55% reduction in hare coursing incidents reported to police over the last 3 years within the policing division.

## 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 March 2022 Police in the Scottish Borders attended and were involved with around 119 mental health related calls, around 21 missing person enquiries and approximately 89 domestic related incidents.*

*Leaderdale & Melrose had 7 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

**NIL**

#### Anti-Social Behaviour

On 17/03/2022 report of female refusing to leave local hospital. Female later charged with Breach of the Peace and taken home. Crime Report submitted.

On 18/03/2022 report of youths hanging around Earlston Primary School. Police attended all in order. Some Children playing football, no issues and not causing any trouble.

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On 20/03/2022 report of male being a nuisance at BGH, Melrose. Officers attended and male issued with Recorded Police Warning.

### Vandalism

On 05/03/2022 report of damage to trailer in High Street, Melrose. Enquiries ongoing.



## Reducing Acquisitive Crime

### Theft by Housebreaking

NIL

### Theft



On 02/03/2022 report of theft in Gun Knowe Bank, Tweedbank. Enquiries ongoing.

On 05/03/2022 report of theft from Melrose Road, Earlston. Enquiries ongoing.

On 06/03/2022 2 x reports of theft of fuel from Melrose Road, Earlston. Crime Report submitted for one and genuine mistake for other.

On 18/03/2022 report of theft & damage to caravans, Lauder. Crime report submitted and further enquiries to be made.

On 20/03/2022 report of a theft from a Licensed premises in Melrose. Crime report submitted for Fraud.

On 24/03/2022 2 x different reports of thefts of fuel from garage in Lauder. Further enquiries revealed error by drivers. All in order.

## Improving Road Safety

Due to a change in police systems, we are unable to access the figures for parking tickets issued in March, this will be rectified next month when both sets of figures will be provided.

On 05/03/2022 a driver was issued penalty points and a fine for speeding on Soutra Hill

On 07/03/2022 a driver was issued a fine for having no MOT on Soutra

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**Killed or Seriously Injured**



## **Tackling Serious and Organised Crime**

### **DRUGS**

During March, search warrants at premises in Hawick, Jedburgh, and Galashiels were executed. In Hawick an address was searched and class A and B drugs recovered, along with over £6000 in cash, which has been seized for further enquiry.

A search of a premises in Jedburgh recovered Class A drugs with a potential value of £2800. A male has been arrested and interviewed and further enquiry is ongoing at this time.

A further search of an address in Galashiels recovered Class A drugs with a potential street value of £10400. A male has been arrested, interviewed and charged with being concerned in the supply of drugs.

In addition, a proactive stop for a known male in Hawick recovered over £1000 in cash, which has been seized under proceeds of crime legislation.

### **HUMAN TRAFFICING**

Various retail premises across the borders have been proactively visited by detective constables in order to gain information and intelligence on any possible instances of human trafficking in the area.

## **Campaigns**

### **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.

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- 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**

- 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/>

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## **CAT Update:**



### **DRUGS**

During March, SBCAT have executed search warrants at premises in Hawick, Jedburgh, and Galashiels. In Hawick an address was searched and class A and B drugs recovered, along with over £6000 in cash, which has been seized for further enquiry. A search of a premises in Jedburgh recovered Class A drugs with a potential value of £2800. A male has been arrested and interviewed and further enquiry is ongoing at this time. A further search of an address in Galashiels recovered Class A drugs with a potential street value of £10400. A male has been arrested, interviewed and charged with being concerned in the supply of drugs. In addition, a proactive stop for a known male in Hawick recovered over £1000 in cash, which has been seized under proceeds of crime legislation.

### **ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

Targeted patrols have been completed in current tasking areas, including Hawick, Peebles, Galashiels and Kelso. Alcohol has been seized from young persons in Peebles and Hawick. There have been foot patrols carried out at the Transport Interchange at Galashiels, and at School Brae in Peebles, as well as other youth hotspots.

### **ROAD SAFETY**

Road checks have been carried out throughout the Scottish Borders, with speed checks also being completed near to various schools.

Parking initiative has been undertaken in Hawick, with multiple parking tickets issued, and a letter drop carried out to local businesses in relation to vehicles being parked in restricted bays.

### **RURAL CRIME**

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Patrols have been carried out of the Moneynut forest area following further reports of off road bikers in the area. No persons traced at this time however patrols will continue. Officers also assisted in a day of action in relation to Hare Coursing, with officers working alongside staff from the Tweed Commission, patrols areas where this activity is common, and engaging with local farmers.

### **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.

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