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Scottish Borders Area Command

The Lothians and Scottish Borders

Leaderdale and Melrose Community Councils
Multi Member Ward Report for May 2023



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 Policing News – Leaderdale and Melrose

As the summer and better weather approaches, we are aware that more people will be participating in more outdoor activities, including cycling.

Community Officers, alongside Roads Policing, will participate in Operation Close Pass which involves plain clothed officers on pedal bikes who will advise colleagues when they are passed too closely by drivers (1.5 meters is the law). These drivers will then be pulled over and given advice, and any relevant offences dealt with. The message is that everyone deserves to use Scotland's roads safely and it is for all road users to take responsibility.

Further to policing various events and common ridings across the Scottish Borders, Community Officer PC Porter has been carrying out foot patrols in Melrose, Oxtou, Earlston and Lauder.

He has also deployed "Pop up Bob" in Melrose, Lauder and Gattonside as a speed deterrent to encourage drivers to consider the speed limit and encourage safer driving.

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

[Item No. 5 a ii - Scottish Borders Scrutiny - Q1 2022-23.pdf \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#)

This document reporting on progress reports 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 May 2023 Police in the Scottish Borders attended and were involved with around 207 mental health related calls, around 31 missing person enquiries and approximately 85 domestic related incidents.

*Leaderdale & Melrose had ** mental health related calls and ** 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 09/05/2023 report of assault on a bus in Tweedbank. Diary appointment made to speak with complainer after work.

On 16/05/2023 report of assault at Drygrange Mains, Melrose. Officers attended, advice given.

On 18/05/2023 report of an assault on board a bus in Melrose. Crime report submitted for assault. For further enquiry.

On 26/05/2023 report of an assault within licensed premises, Lauder. Crime report submitted for assault.

On 27/05/2023 report of an ongoing fight at Earlston Rugby Club, Earlston. One male arrested for various offences including assault. Crime report submitted.

Anti-Social Behaviour

On 01/05/2023 report of threats in Queens Way, Earlston. Diary appointment made to speak with complainer.

On 01/05/2023 report of an aggressive male within local Hospital, Melrose. Male calmed on police arrival. No complaints.

On 03/05/2023 report of threats received within local hospital, Melrose. Crime report submitted for breach of the peace.

On 03/05/2023 report of a disturbance within hospital, Melrose. Male restrained and dealt with by staff. No police involvement required.

On 03/05/2023 report of youths getting within the grounds of a derelict building in Gattonside. No trace of any youths on arrival of police.

On 06/05/2023 report of nuisance from youths in Wyndhead Way, Lauder. Further call received prior to police arrival advising youths had left. Advice given to call back should they return.

On 20/05/2023 report of noise / loud music in Haining Drive, Tweedbank. No further complaints re this noise.

On 28/05/2023 report of reckless motorcyclists on main A68 near Lauder. Complainer will be downloading dashcam and still to be spoken to by officers.

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Vandalism

On 01/05/2023 report of damage in The Green, Earlston. Complainer still to be seen, arrangements have been made.

Reducing Acquisitive Crime

Theft by Housebreaking

On 25/05/2023 report of a theft housebreaking in a farm in Lauder, arranged made to see complainer on 27/05/2023.

Theft

On 27/05/2023 report of a theft from a house near Earlston. Crime report submitted for theft, for further enquiry.

Improving Road Safety

On 30/04/2023 a driver was issued penalty points and a fine for driving with no insurance in Leaderdale

On 29/04/2023 a driver was issued a fine for driving with no MOT in Earlston

On 04/05/2023 a driver was issued penalty points and a fine for not obeying white lines in Carfraemill

On 06/05/2023 a driver was issued penalty points and a fine for speeding in a 40mph speed limit in Carfraemill

On 06/05/2023 a driver was issued penalty points and a fine for speeding in a 60mph speed limit in Lauder

On 22/05/2023 a driver was issued penalty points and a fine for speeding in Melrose

On 27/05/2023 a driver was issued a fine for not wearing seat belts in Lauder

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Killed or Seriously Injured



Tackling Serious and Organised Crime

See CAT update

Campaigns

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 \(iammescotland.co.uk\)](http://iammescotland.co.uk)

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

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.



- 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.

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No Cold Calling Zones

- A new Zone has been set up in Eddleston covering 120 Houses – Road signs and house-packs have been provided.
- Implementation work is ongoing with Bowden and Newtown St Boswells community councils for zones in these areas.
- 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:

MISUSE OF DRUGS – SBCAT carried out 9 searches of premises throughout the Scottish Borders during May, 8 of which had positive results. These were as follows;



KELSO – personal amount of herbal cannabis and 105 blue pills (suspected Valium).

JEDBURGH – 38.5g herbal cannabis, knives, sword, BB gun and £620 cash.

PEEBLES – 6.7g cannabis resin, personal amount of cocaine, £4445 cash. Large bag of vapes also seized, suspected of being sold to children.

KELSO – 133g herbal cannabis.

JEDBURGH – 11.8g white powder, personal amount of cannabis, knife.

GALASHIELS – small cannabis cultivation, suspected LSD.

JEDBURGH – 33g heroin, 2.8g cannabis, 1g white powder, 200 valium, 100 benzo, £1250 cash.

GALASHIELS – 28g herbal cannabis, knife.

Of note, the recent introduction of the Offensive Weapons Act 2019 has allowed us to seize weapons that are now deemed illegal, such as martial arts type weapons, during searches of houses.

Although the month has been dominated by house searches, we were also deployed to provide locus protection and assist at a house search at an incident at MossPaul near Hawick, as well as assist at the Jim Clark Rally Event.

ROAD SAFETY – 3 conditional offer tickets for dangerous driving issued.

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH – A working group has been set up to help implement the Community Speedwatch initiative in the Scottish Borders. Community Speedwatch has already been successfully implemented in Fife. This will initially be on a trial basis, and consists of enabling local Community Group volunteers to monitor vehicle speeds in designated places, with a guidance letter being sent to speeding motorists by Police Scotland.

ARREST WARRANTS – 3 persons were arrest wanted on warrant in May by SBCAT.

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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

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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