

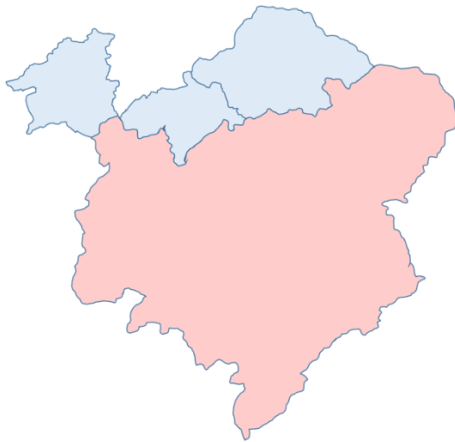
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## **Scottish Borders Area Command**

The Lothians and Scottish Borders

### **Tweeddale East and West Community Councils Multi Member Ward Report for March 2024**



**The information provided within this report, is predominately based on the Tweeddale East & West 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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**North Area Community Policing News – PS James Harrison**



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As you can see from the top picture here, the new youth shelter at Peebles has now been constructed and will hopefully provide younger persons a safe place to congregate. It is by engaging positively with younger people that we will help reduce antisocial behaviour, so projects like this are immensely important, along with the work the various youth workers, clubs and hubs do around the Borders. It is important to remember that not all younger persons are causing problems, and a group of boisterous teenagers is not necessarily a police matter.

Sadly, there are always a few who, for whatever reason, cause genuine antisocial behaviour problems within their community. I am aware of some recent antisocial behaviour in our area, and we are taking steps to address these issues. Where possible please provide accurate descriptions and / or names when reporting antisocial behaviour.

The second photo shows us at Galashiels Interchange with British Transport Police and Neighbourhood Watch as part of the Stay Safe Get On Board campaign recently, where BTP and NW travelled the length of the country visiting train stations and promoting crime prevention. Neighbourhood Watch can bring several benefits to your local community and help prevent crime, and it may also be a good way to help tackle antisocial behaviour. Please see the attached flyer for more details.

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.

[Item No. 5 a - Scottish Borders Scrutiny April - Sept.pdf \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

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 and also contains an input from Local Area Commander, Chief Inspector Stuart Fletcher.

## 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 2024 Police in the Scottish Borders attended and were involved with around 215 mental health related calls, around 23 missing person enquiries and approximately 95 domestic related incidents.*

*Tweeddale East and West had 11 mental health related calls 1 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**

15/03/24 – report of three males being assaulted in Eastgate and Northgate, Peebles. Two youths have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

### **Anti-Social Behaviour**

01/03/24 – report of youths shouting and swearing in St. Ronan's Way, Innerleithen

01/03/24 – report of youths intoxicated and smashing bottles in Newby Court/School Brae, and High Street, Peebles. Officers attended and found no trace of the youths.

01/03/24 – report of youths entering a close off High Street, Innerleithen and causing damaged. Officers attended and found no trace of the youths and no damage.

03/03/24 – report of youths ringing doorbells at Caerlee Mill, Innerleithen. Officers didn't attend due to no further calls and that they were dealing with higher graded incidents.

05/03/24 – report of youths banging on windows at Waverley Mills. Officers attended but no youths were traced.

09/03/24 – report of two females fighting within licenced premises on High Street, Peebles. Nothing ongoing on officers' arrival.

11/03/24 – report of youths banging on windows at Waverley Mills, Innerleithen

14/03/24 – Report of loud music coming from a property in George Street, Peebles. No noise of arrival of officers.

14/03/24 – report of doors being kicked in Waverley Road, Innerleithen.

15/03/24 – report of youths kicking door in Waverley Road, Innerleithen.

15/03/24 – report of youths running up and down Waverley Mills being noisy. Officers attended and found no damaged had been caused.

16/03/24 – report of loud music coming from property at Dalatho Crescent, Peebles. Officers attended and found that a party was finishing.

16/03/24 – report of door being knocked in Waverley Road, Innerleithen.

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16/03/24 – Officers carrying Anti-Social Behaviour patrols in Peebles issued a youth with a warning for a Breach of the Peace for shouting and swearing at Police on High Street, Peebles. Another youth who was on an E-Scooter was stopped and taken home and advice given re its use. Alcohol was also seized from youths.

23/03/24 – report of youths causing a nuisance in Waverley Road, Innerleithen. Officers attended and found no trace of the youths but gave passing attention to the area during their shift.

24/03/24 – complaint of youths playing loud music on the road up to the Sware. As there were no further calls officers didn't attend.

31/03/24 – report of window being struck at a property in Hall Street, Innerleithen.

### **Vandalism**

03/03/24 – report of a car being damaged whilst parked at Hall Street, Innerleithen.

11/03/24 – report of trees being damaged in Victoria Park, Peebles.

15/03/24 – report of seats on school bus being damaged.

16/03/24 – report of a car being damaged in Waverley Road, Innerleithen.

17/03/24 – report of a window being smashed at a property in Leithen Road, Innerleithen.

20/03/24 – report of a car being damaged near Carlops.

25/03/24 – report of a vehicle being damaged whilst parked in Waverley Road, Innerleithen.



## **Reducing Acquisitive Crime**

### **Theft by Housebreaking**

04/03/24 – a Scottish Borders Council owned welfare hut located on the A701 north of Tweedmuir was broken into and approx. £3000 worth of tools stolen – these were being used to repair a bridge on the A701.

14/03/24 – three slip-in thefts occurred at properties in West Linton. The properties were in Broomlee Road, Broomlee Crescent and Main Street a male has been reported for these incidents.

14/03/24 – Property at Kirklands, Innerleithen broken into.

### **Theft**

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05/03/24 – report of alcohol being stolen from Morrison’s Daily, Old Town, Peebles.

07/03/24 – report of building material being stolen from a property at Romanno Bridge.

23/03/24 – report of copper piping being stolen from a property near Lamancha.

28/03/24 – a vehicle was broken into, and items stolen while it was parked at Neidpath Castle, Peebles.

During March items were stolen from Sainsbury’s, Northgate, Peebles on four separate occasions.



## Improving Road Safety

### Killed or Seriously Injured

#### Road Traffic Offences

03/03/24 – a driver was issued with a fine and penalty points for driving unsupervised and failing to display L plates on the A701 near to Kaimrig End.

08/03/24 – a driver has been reported to the PF for Road Traffic Offences.

11/03/24 – a driver has been reported for various driving offences after an incident in Greenside Car Park, Peebles.

13/03/24 – a driver was issued a fine and penalty points for dangerous load on Innerleithen Road, Peebles.

13/03/23 – a driver was issued a fine and penalty points for careless driving on A72 at Eshiels.

13/03/24 – during police checks on A703 near Leadburn a driver was found to have no insurance, and another had not changed their address on their licence.

14/03/24 – a driver has been charged with Careless Driving after an incident at Mountain Cross, West Linton.

31/03/24 – Road Policing officers have reported two drivers for various road traffic offences including Dangerous Driving while conducting patrols on the A703 Peebles to Eddleston road.

## Tackling Serious and Organised Crime

### *Serious and organised crime enforcement – March 2024*

*The Scottish Borders CID Proactive Unit executed 9 Drug Warrants across the command area during March, all were positive and 12 persons were charged with drug related offences. This included another two large / industrial scale Cannabis cultivations which had a potential street value of £2.3 million.*

*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.*

## 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.

An advertisement for CrimeStoppers Scotland. The top half shows a field of sheep. Three sheep in the foreground have large red numbers painted on their backs: '0800', '555', and '111'. The bottom half of the ad is a purple diagonal section containing white and red text. The text includes the headline 'Help protect our livestock in Scotland', the website 'crimestoppers-uk.org', social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube, and the text 'Scotland CrimeStoppers. 0800 555 111 100% anonymous. Always.' The tagline 'Speak up. Stay safe. Tell our charity what you know.' is also present.

Help protect our livestock in Scotland

crimestoppers-uk.org

Speak up. Stay safe.  
Tell our charity what you know.

Scotland  
**CrimeStoppers.**  
**0800 555 111**  
100% anonymous. Always.

- 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 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/>

### CAT Update:

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.

### MMW REPORT:

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**ROAD SAFETY** – SBCAT have continued carrying out road checks in numerous locations in the Scottish Borders and have issued 10 traffic tickets for various offences throughout the month.

Throughout March numerous hi- vis speed and static road checks have been carried out at schools throughout the Scottish Borders at dropping off and picking up times. Speed checks were completed at the Primary Schools at Langlee, Melrose, Lauder and Earlston. Several drivers were warned regarding driving slightly over the speed limit.

On 13<sup>th</sup> March SBCAT took part in Operation Janaca at Leadburn, near Peebles along with the Mid Lothian CAT, Roads Policing, Trading Standards and the DVSA. 2 males were arrested, 18 minor offences were detected and 1 vehicle was seized. These figures have not been included in the SBCAT figures.

**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 91 tickets have been issued.

Passing attention was given to Traquair 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 along with Duns Industrial Estate (no issues), Duns town centre (tickets issued) ambulance parking bays at the health centres in Hawick (tickets issued)

**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. 18 static checks were carried out throughout the Scottish Borders in this month along with numerous hi-visibility patrols of rural areas. While doing these patrols SBCAT have been stopping to speak to local farmers and residents to gain an insight into any ongoing issues and to give advice.

At Monynut vehicle patrols and a quad bike patrol were completed on weekends with nothing to report.

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

9 youth warning letters were issued during the month of March in relation to youths.

On 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023, SBCAT officers traced a group of girls causing issues in Morrisons at Hawick. They escorted them outside and they were given a warning.

On 19<sup>th</sup> March SBCAT found a group of youths on the roof of WH Smith in Kelso. They were conveyed home to their parents.

Similar high visibility foot patrols are being completed around Burnfoot Primary School, Melrose Primary School and outside Jedburgh Sheriff Court on court days due to previous reported issues with members of the public.

During the evening of Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March. The Special Initiatives Team joined SBCAT officers in carrying out hi-visibility foot and mobile patrols in Kelso, Innerleithen and Peebles, in response to reported ASB. During their patrols alcohol was seized from 5 youths in Peebles (Youth warning letters to follow), 14 LP's checks carried out and as a result 1 ILP was submitted for Peebles. 1 male youth was arrested and C/C'd for a S38 offence in Peebles and was taken home and left with his parents, a male youth wanted for a Serious Assault in Peebles was also traced by CAT officers at which time he was arrested and subsequently charged for 3 offences. Mobile patrols carried out on A68, A699, A698 and A72 where 70 vehicle checks were also carried out.

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**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 a total of 3 people were arrested on warrant.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of March the County Lines Intensification Week started. This was a week of action targeting the use of vulnerable youths and adults to store controlled drugs or transport them across the UK. Unfortunately, groups have been targeting vulnerable people within the Borders. The SBCAT conducted additional foot patrols in the affected areas and along with a letter drops for Crimestoppers. We also spoke with our housing associations and public transport companies and provided them with posters and information for their staff.

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT** – SBCAT officers have taken part in 1 drugs search warrant in the Scottish Borders.

On 15/3/24- Acting on intelligence CAT officers executed a MDA warrant at an address in Selkirk, however the search proved negative.

Following on from an incident where CAT officers carried out a drug search on a male found in a car in the Selkirk area and he subsequently failed a roadside drug wipe and was arrested in January 2024. On 14/3/24 following analysis of samples obtained from the male he was reported for drug driving.

On 26/03/2024 SBCAT assisted the PCT and other officers in the execution of numerous search warrants in Galashiels which resulted in the seizure of approximately £2.5m worth of cannabis

### OTHER ISSUES OF NOTE-

On 3<sup>rd</sup> March a community police officer was bitten on the hand by a dog suspected of being an XL Bully. Following enquiries the dog was identified, searched warrants obtained and the dog was seized. The owner was charged under the dangerous dogs act.

Between 20<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024 CAT officers were heavily involved with the enquiry into the sudden death of a 16-year-old male in Peebles.

Throughout March SBCAT have been carrying out extensive enquiries with regards to the graffiti which has been spray painted around several locations in Hawick, including the flood defences. At this time there are no suspects but enquiries continue.



### [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**.

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Should the Community Council wish to discuss any matters highlighted in the report, please contact:

[TweeddaleEastCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:TweeddaleEastCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

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