

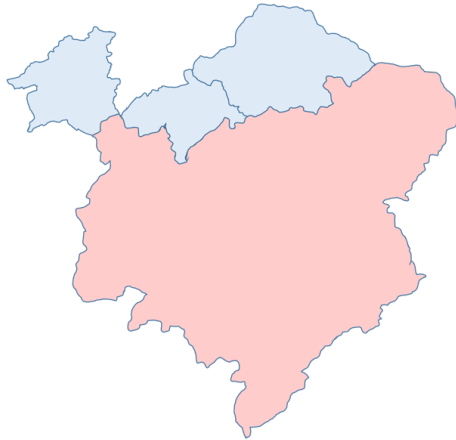
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## **Scottish Borders Area Command**

The Lothians and Scottish Borders

Kelso and District Community Councils  
Multi Member Ward Report for October 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

PC Ryan Stewart is continuing his partnership work with British Army Youth Development team, working to organise a programme of events for children in S4-S6 in schools across the Scottish Borders. These events are designed to allow students to develop TRIPLOC (teamwork / resilience / problem-solving / leadership / organisational / communication) skills. This has included Kelso High School whose students participated in these activities along with PC Carin Tait-Logan and PC Stewart on 25<sup>th</sup> October.



PC Tait-Logan and British Army Youth Development Team working with Kelso High School. The day was really enjoyed by all who took part.

Local Community Officers were out on Halloween making sure everyone had a safe and enjoyable evening. They've also been busy last week carrying out patrols and delivering inputs to schools regarding firework and bonfire safety alongside our partners from Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

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 as presented by CI Vinnie Fisher. As of Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October, we welcomed our new Local Area Commander, Chief Inspector Stuart Fletcher, who is looking forward to working in the Scottish Borders. We wish CI Fisher all the best in his new role based in Dalkeith.

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## 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 October 2023 Police in the Scottish Borders attended and were involved with around 170 mental health related calls, around 30 missing person enquiries and approximately 87 domestic related incidents.*

*Kelso & District had 22 mental health related calls and 5 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

On 01/10/2023 report of a male from Grafton Bank, Yetholm being assaulted. Male issued with Recorded Police Warning.

On 07/10/2023 report of a male being assaulted at Inchmyre, Kelso. Male youth charged and reports submitted.

On 12/10/2023 report of an assault in Roxburgh Street, Kelso. Officers attended and a male has been charged with minor assault and issued a Recorded Police Warning.

On 14/10/2023 report of a disturbance in Orchard Park, Kelso. Officers attended and a male has been charged with assault.

On 16/10/2023 report of assault at Heiton, Kelso. Male has been charged with assault.

#### Anti-Social Behaviour

On 16/10/2023 report of a disturbance in Horsemarket, Kelso. Female charged with threatening and abusive behaviour and issued with Recorded police warning

On 17/10/2023 report of a disturbance in Farrier Court, Kelso involving youths. Officers attended, relevant paperwork submitted.

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On 24/10/2023 report of youths causing a disturbance in Horsemarket, Kelso. Officers attended, no crimes detected.

On 29/10/2023 report of a disturbances at a property in Maxmill Park, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

On 30/10/2023 report of a female being approached by two males near to Rennie Bridge, Kelso making inappropriate comments. Enquiries ongoing.

### Vandalism

On 11/10/2023 report of damage to a BT pole and cables situated on Edinburgh Road, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

On 17/10/2023 report of vandalism to playpark equipment at Shedden Park Road, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

On 20/10/2023 report of vandalism to a motor vehicle whilst parked in Mayfield Gardens, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

On 22/10/2023 report of window damaged to business premises in Roxburgh Street, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

On 26/10/2023 report of vandalism to public toilets in Shedden Park Road, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

## Reducing acquisitive crime

### Theft

On 07/10/2023 report of youths within WH Smith, Horsemarket, Kelso causing a disturbance stealing sweets. Youths charged and reports submitted.

On 16/10/2023 report of theft shoplifting from Co-op Store, High Croft, Kelso on two separate occasions by the same male. Enquiries ongoing.

On 20/10/2023 report of theft shoplifting from Co-op Store, High Croft, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

On 22/10/2023 a female reporting theft of her mobile whilst shopping in Sainsbury's, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

On 22/10/2023 report of theft of defibrillator machine and first aid kit from Woodmarket, Kelso. The defibrillator machine and first aid kit were later recovered. Enquiries ongoing.

On 29/10/2023 report of theft shoplifting from Co-op Store, High Croft, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

On 29/10/2023 report of theft of a mobile phone from an address in Maxmill Park, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.



**Improving road safety**

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On 17/10/2023 Roads Policing carried out a speed check on B6350 at Sprouston where one warning was issued

On 18/10/2023 Roads Policing carried out a speed check at Shedden Park Road where 3 warnings were given.

On 23/10/2023 - a driver was issued a fine and penalty points for driving with no insurance in Smailholm.



## Tackling serious and organised crime

### Serious and organised crime enforcement – October 2023

The Scottish Borders CID Proactive Unit executed 6 Drug Warrants across the command area during October, all were positive and a variety of MDA charges were proffered against 6 persons. This included a large scale Cannabis cultivation which had a street value of £1,000,000, 2 males were traced within the Cultivation and are currently remanded in regards to this.

They have also been liaising with Northumbria Constabulary in regards to county lines offending. This resulting in 2 individuals being arrested and charged with multiple MDA offences. Enquires for other individuals involved in county lines are ongoing.

They also assisted reactive CID in our area with stolen property warrants for housebreakings across the Scottish Borders.

The CID Proactive Unit have a number of live inquiries in relation to Serious and Organised Crime which, once concluded, will be subject to media releases.

They would like to re-inforce the message to all wards that any drug related crime or organised criminality in the Scottish Borders can be anonymously reported via CrimeStoppers, who are an independent charity not connected to the Police. The public can of course still use 101 for this purpose too.

A number of bespoke business cards explaining the benefits of and reassuring any caller to CrimeStoppers 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](#)

### High Value Bike Thefts from Vehicles

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Following a spate of bike thefts from visitors vehicles in the Peebles area, work is ongoing to place warning signage at hotspot areas in Peebles, Innerleithen and Glentress. Prevention advice leaflets are also to be distributed to local businesses such as cafes, hotels etc.

### 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 highlighting the latest rural crime prevention advice. The partnership continues to meet regularly to address local priority rural crime throughout the year.

We continued to distribute free wireless perimeter security alarms 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.

### CAT Update:

**ROAD SAFETY** – SBCAT have continued carrying out road checks in numerous locations in the Borders and have issued 21 traffic tickets 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 and two drivers were issued with ASBO tickets in relation to their manor of driving.

**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 122 tickets have been issued.

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. 42 static checks were carried out throughout the Scottish Borders in October.

On Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October, SBCAT officers worked alongside ELCAT at Monymut, Berwickshire re off road bikes. During the day, CAT officers used quad bikes and off-road police vehicles traced 8 vans parked within the area. The Quads were deployed and flushed the riders out. 4 tickets were issued and further enquiry to trace another 4 drivers/riders who did not return to the vans. One HORT1 issued

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with the likelihood a no insurance charge will result. Letters issued to the vans left on site warning re use of off road bikes in the area. Many of the vans are works vans and contact will be made with companies.

Contact was made with the gamekeeper, and farmers around the land who had called in re the bikes. They were delighted with Police attendance.

**ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR** – High visibility patrols have continued in Burnfoot, Hawick as well as near derelict sites in Hawick to address concerns at these locations. Further from the action taken in September an initiative undertaken CAT and CPT looking at ASB driving in Galashiels. A number of drivers spoken to and two ASBO tickets were issued as detailed above.

Further to that, officers have repeatedly attended at Monymut windfarm, Berwickshire, to deter and detect off road motorbikes.

4 youth warning letters were issued during the month of October. Two were in relation to youths entering and causing bother at the Cinema in Galashiels and two were in relation to youths repeatedly knocking on doors in Peebles.

**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. Two individuals of particular interest have been sought during the month, both prolific domestic abusers. One was traced and appeared at court and subsequently returned to prison.

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT** – SBCAT took part in executing 4 drug search warrants in the SBC area. During one of the searches no drugs were found, however £1500 was seized under the Proceeds of Crime Act. In interview the unemployed occupant declined to say where the money came from.

A second warrant was executed by Proactive CID and CAT in Hawick, where a large amount of cannabis was recovered. Two males were arrested and charged with drug supply charges and theft of electricity.

A third warrant was executed in the Hawick area, however no drugs were found. One male was arrested on the result of other substance analysis and charged with being concerned in the supply of controlled drugs and road traffic offences. His BMW motorcar was seized for having no insurance.

On top of this CAT officers attended an incident in Kelso where a vehicle was seized for having no insurance and the occupants were searched in terms of MDA 1971 and a personal amount of cannabis seized. A report has been sent to the PF for all offences.

On 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023 CAT officers were on youth patrol in Tweeddale for Halloween and engaged with a number of youth resulting in positive MDA searches.

### 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:

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