

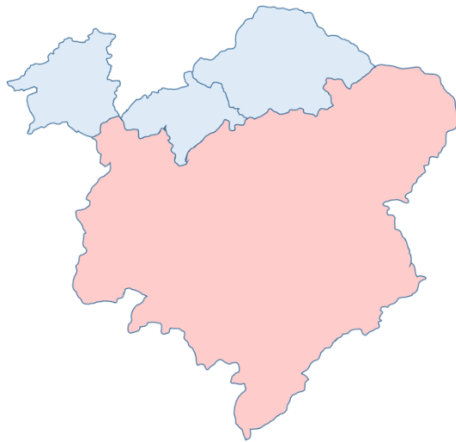
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Scottish Borders Area Command

The Lothians and Scottish Borders

Kelso and District Community Councils
Multi Member Ward Report for March 2024



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 – PS Ali Granger

We are aware that antisocial behaviour continues to be a concern for local residents in Kelso. Last month we arranged for a deployment of special constables known as the Special Initiative Team to deploy in Kelso to help tackle these issues by carrying out high visibility patrols, engaging with members of the community and gathering intelligence. Anybody interested in becoming a special constable can get more information from [Police Scotland Special Constable Recruitment - Police Scotland](#)

Information provided by the local community is key to tackling antisocial behaviour and vandalism and this can be provided anonymously via Crimestoppers 0800 555111 or [Giving information anonymously | Crimestoppers \(crimestoppers-uk.org\)](#)

PC Tait Logan will be in Kelso High School in the coming weeks delivering Early Intervention Driver inputs to S5 and 6 students. This is a hard-hitting case study programme exploring the reasons behind the death of a young driver and what can be done to prevent these devastating collisions in future. This input is in the early stages of delivery and we aim to spread it across the Scottish Borders. Education surrounding this issue is key in tackling our priority of Improving Road Safety. PC Tait Logan will continue to develop this programme in the coming months, and it is hoped we can incorporate a driving simulator to enhance the learning outcomes.

Local Area Commander, CI Fletcher also accompanied PC Tait-Logan on a visit to Kelso, including Kelso High School on 21st March. He was keen to familiarise himself with the area and is hopeful to attend the next Cheviot Area Partnership meeting on 29th of May in order to meet more community representatives.

Livestock Worrying



A Police Scotland campaign is running throughout March with aim of ensuring dog owners understand the distressing nature of livestock attacks, as well as emotional and financial impacts.

NFU Scotland have stated that from their data, figures show that dog attacks on sheep and cattle in Scotland quadrupled in in the last two years and are running at an all-time high – costing Scottish agriculture over £300,000 a year.

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Scottish Borders Police are working with partners to enhance intelligence, prevention and enforcement activity through SBPARC (Scottish Borders Partners Against Rural Crime).

The following advice is given to all dog owners -

- 1 Don't take your dog into fields where there are lambs, calves or other young farm animals.
- 2 If you go into a field with farm animals, keep your dog on a short lead and stay as far away from animals as possible.
- 3 Keep your dog under control at all times and don't allow it to venture into fields unattended.

If you have concerns about a dog not being under control, please call 101 for non-emergencies and in an emergency call 999. More information can be found at [Livestock worrying - Police Scotland](#)

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 \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#)

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 Vulnerable People in a Physical & Digital World
2. Reducing violence and Anti-Social Behaviour
3. Reducing acquisitive crime
4. Improving road safety
5. Tackling serious and organised crime

Protecting Vulnerable People in a Physical & Digital World



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 85 domestic related incidents.

Kelso & District had 42 mental health related calls and 1 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

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On 12/03/2024 report of two males fighting in Roxburgh Street, Kelso. A male has been charged with minor assault.

On 13/03/2024 report of a disturbance within a public house in Crawford Street, Kelso. A male has been charged with assault.

On 25/03/2024 report of assault at Co-op Store, High Croft, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

On 30/03/2024 report of an assault in Inchmyre, Kelso. Officers attended and arrested and charged a female who was held for court.

On 31/03/2024 report of a male having been assaulted in Mercers Court, Kelso. Officers attended, and after speaking to witnesses, a male has been issued with a Recorded Police Warning.

Anti-Social Behaviour

On 04/03/2024 report of a disturbance within a property at Inchmyre, Kelso. Officers attended and noted nothing ongoing, all persons had left, no complaints made.

On 23/03/2024 report of a male being verbally abused at Washington Avenue, Kelso. Officers attended and after speaking to witnesses a male has been issued with a Record Police Warning for threatening and abusive behaviour.

Vandalism

On 01/03/2024 report of glass panel on communal door has been smashed in Horsemarket, Kelso. Enquiries complete.

On 04/03/2024 report of damage to lanterns on Old Rennie Bridge, Kelso, 3 youths charged and relevant reports submitted.

On 12/03/2024 report of damage to wall outside premises in Woodmarket, Kelso. Enquiries complete

On 15/03/2024 report of a disturbance outside Kelso Police Station whilst officers were dealing with a witness within the station. A male has been issued with a Recorded Police Warning for a breach of the peace.

On 15/03/2024 report of damage to a motor vehicle whilst parked in High Croft, Kelso. Enquiries complete.

On 20/03/2024 report of damage to a vehicle parked at Border Ice Rink, Golf Course Road, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

On 21/03/2024 report of damage to French doors of a property in Dyers Court, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

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On 31/03/2024 report of damage to boundary fence of property in Inch Road, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

Reducing acquisitive crime

Theft

On 03/03/2024 report of theft of motorbike from storage at Eccles Tofts Farm, Greenlaw. Enquiries ongoing.

On 04/03/2024 report of theft of milk from outside Browns Newsagents, Woodmarket, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

On 11/03/2024 report of theft of fallen trees from woodland near Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

On 12/03/2024 report of theft of a shipping container from a yard at Hunters Hall, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

Theft Housebreaking

On 30/03/2024 report of Border Aggregates having been broken into overnight, however, nothing appears to have been stolen. Enquiries ongoing.



Improving road safety

On 14/03/2024 vehicle observed in motion with no MOT, Edinburgh Road, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

On 29/03/2024 driver issued with a fixed penalty for driving with no MOT in Horsemarket, Kelso.



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

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Campaigns

Doorstep Crime – Shutout Scammers

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](#)

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

We continue to provide security, crime prevention and livestock worrying advice to farmers and rural business. This 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 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 13th 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.

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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 11th 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 19th 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 16th 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.

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 4th 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. 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.

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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 3rd 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.

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 enquiries are continuing.

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:

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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