

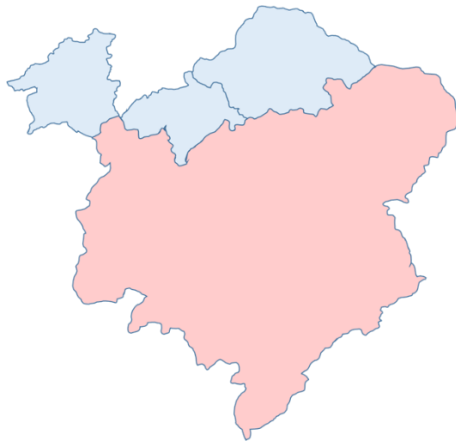
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Scottish Borders Area Command

The Lothians and Scottish Borders

Kelso and District Community Councils
Multi Member Ward Report for April 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

School Link Officer, PC Tait-Logan has been busy in Kelso High School with more visits from the British Army Youth Development Team delivering inputs to S2 students focussed on team building, confidence, and resilience. She has also been delivering the inputs to senior pupils for the New Driver Early Intervention Scheme, designed using a real-life example to make new drivers think about the potential risks of driving on the roads, as mentioned in last month's report.



Officers from Roads Policing have been carrying out speed checks in Ednam. We receive many complaints from small villages throughout the Scottish Borders regarding speeding and attempt to spread our resources as effectively as possible, and the location of schools do influence our deployment. PC Tait-Logan is in communication with Scottish Borders Council and Ednam, Stichill & Berry Moss CC regarding the concerns of local residents in relation to speed of vehicles on the B6461.

The Your Police Survey for 2024/25 has recently launched, the link below gives access. We value your input and would appreciate your time in completing the survey.

<https://consult.scotland.police.uk/strategy-insight-and-innovation/your-police-2024-2025/>

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 the Local Area Commander CI 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 April 2024 Police in the Scottish Borders attended and were involved with around 221 mental health related calls, around 22 missing person enquiries and approximately 104 domestic related incidents.

Kelso & District had 19 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

On 01/04/2024 report of a male having been assaulted whilst within an address in Sydenham Court, Kelso. Officers attended and a male has been charged with assault, reports submitted.

On 27/04/2024 report of a male being assaulted near to Inchmyre, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

Anti-Social Behaviour

On 03/04/2024 report of a disturbance outside a property in Inchmyre, Kelso. Officers attended and spoke to all parties, no complaints made, no criminality.

On 08/04/2024 report of males having a verbal altercation in Edinburgh Road, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

On 12/04/2024 report of a disturbance outside a property in Oakfield Court, Kelso. Officers attended and noted statement from occupier of property. Enquiries ongoing.

On 27/04/2024 report of verbal abuse by youths in Shedden Park. Youths have been charged and relevant reports submitted.

Vandalism

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On 03/04/2024 report of damage to public toilets in Shedden Park, Kelso whereby toilets have been blocked with paper, paper stuck to the walls and ceilings and slates have been thrown off the roof. Enquiries complete.

On 16/04/2024 report of damage to a motor vehicle parked in Maxwell Lane, Kelso whereby a tyre was slashed. Enquiries ongoing.

On 29/04/2024 report of damage to public toilets in Shedden Park, Kelso whereby a window has been smashed. Enquiries ongoing.

Reducing acquisitive crime

Theft

On 01/04/2024 report of theft shoplifting from the Co-op Store, High Croft, Kelso whereby two males have removed sweets and cakes from the store without paying. Two youths identified and charged relevant reports submitted.

On 08/04/2024 report of theft shoplifting from The Co-op Store, High Croft, Kelso. Male youth charged and relevant reports submitted.

Theft Housebreaking

On 01/04/2024 report of a window being smashed to Semi Chem, Roxburgh Street, Kelso and several vaping items have been stolen. Enquiries ongoing.



Improving road safety

Roads Policing officers have carried out speed checks in Ednam during April with 4 warnings being issued as a result.

On 14/04/2024 a driver was issued a fine for driving with no MOT in Kelso.

On 15/04/2024 a driver was issued a fine and penalty points for use of handheld mobile phone while driving in Ednam Road, Kelso.

On 29/03/2024 a driver was issued a fine for driving with no MOT in Kelso.

On 14/04/2024 a driver was issued a fine and penalty points for driving with no insurance in Kelso.



Tackling serious and organised crime

Serious and organised crime enforcement – April 2024

The Scottish Borders CID Proactive Unit executed 7 Drug Warrants across the command area during April, four were positive and 12 persons were charged with drug related offences. A number of stop

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and searches were also conducted in identified hotspot area where drugs misuse was prevalent across the Scottish Borders.

Serious and organised crime impacts local communities across the Borders and anyone with information on criminal activity are asked to contact Police Scotland on 101, report it at any Police Station or report it anonymously via the Crime Stoppers Charity. This information can be on any criminal matter but includes an individuals unexplained financial gain or wealth or persons who are vulnerable in our communities and being targeted or exploited by others for any reason.

Campaigns

Motorcycle Safety

Our annual motorcycle safety campaign urges drivers to look out for motorcyclists as riders take to the road this summer. In 2023/24, there were 151 road deaths and 27 were motorcyclists. Motorcyclists make up around one per cent of all road users yet account for 14 per cent of deaths. Engagement and enforcement activity will take place throughout the spring and summer months using both marked and unmarked police vehicles. Police Scotland officers, including those from the national motorcycle unit, will be carrying out intelligence led patrols to engage with all drivers and riders.

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.

Special Constables – Recruiting

With a long and impressive history, the Special Constabulary is a part-time, volunteer body consisting of voluntary officers with identical powers to that of police officers. As a special constable, you'll work alongside our police officers in your spare time – forging strong partnerships in the community, patrolling our streets, preventing crime, and interacting with all kinds of people to give back, keep your local community safe and make a real difference.

You can work full time and be a Special Constable in just 96 hours per year or a few hours a week. The role is diverse, demanding, and rewarding. You could be doing anything from policing a football match to assisting at a road accident. Special constables also police major sporting and public events and provide an excellent bridge between the Police Service and the public, representing both the community within the police service and the police service within local communities.

Special Constables can act as a positive force for change - bringing with them an extensive pool of skills, talents, experience, local knowledge, and diverse backgrounds - as well as enhancing the overall level of service provided by the police. So, whatever your walk of life, step forward now and find out how being a police volunteer could be the perfect fit to suit your lifestyle.

[Police Scotland Special Constable Recruitment - Police Scotland](#)

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.

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Throughout April numerous hi- vis speed and static road checks along with foot patrols have been carried out at schools throughout the Scottish Borders at dropping off and picking up times. Including primary schools in Kelso, Galashiels, Duns, Peebles, Hawick and Lilliesleaf.

On 17th April SBCAT officers took part in Operation Checkpoint on the A1 along with Roads Policing and the DVSA. Numerous vehicles were stopped and 4 drivers were issued with traffic tickets.

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 75 tickets have been issued.

Passing attention was given to Traquair Road, Innerleithen (no issues) The War Memorial in Coldstream (ticket issued) Galashiels Town Centre and Bridge Street in Kelso were also regularly checked by officers along with Duns Industrial Estate (no issues), ambulance parking bays at the health centres in Hawick (several tickets issued)

In March the Central Ticket Office ran out of parking tickets. The SBCAT has very few blank tickets left, which has affected the figures for this month. We will be given new ticket books as soon as they are available.

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. 13 static checks were carried out throughout the Scottish Borders this month along with numerous hi-visibility patrols of rural areas..

At Monynut vehicle patrols and a quad bike patrols were completed on weekends with the following to report

On Sunday 7th April officers from SBCAT, ELCAT and Edinburgh conducted a joint day of action with patrols of Monynut and the surrounding area on quad bikes, off road motorcycles and off road motor vehicles. On this occasion no offences were detected.

However, the following day officers were conducting a mobile patrol at Monynut when a farmer made them aware of 2 young males driving a vehicle erratically and generally messing about endangering lambs. The vehicle was traced in the area and the driver was charged with careless driving.

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

Similar high visibility foot patrols are being completed across the Borders with a focus on Peebles, Innerleithen, Kelso, Newtown St Boswells and Burnfoot in Hawick due to youths causing ASB. As well as Jedburgh Sheriff Court on court days due to previous reported issues with members of the public.

2 youth warning letters were issued during the month of April in relation to youths.

On 13 April the SB CAT assisted at Melrose 7s conducting foot patrols across Melrose. This continued into the evening where we were once again joined by the Specials Initiative Team (SIT). They stopped 4 youths who had been drinking and contacted parents to collect. Alcohol was seized from several other youths and disposed of, and some other minor issues were dealt with 2 recorded police warnings were issued.

On 27th April the SIT returned to work with the SBCAT in Peebles, Innerleithen and Hawick. Some youths were taken home following ASB. 3 tickets were issued for minor offences, 5 licensed premises were checked, and 60 vehicles were stopped.

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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 16th April 24 CAT officers carried out a bail check on a male in Hawick. The male was found to be in breach of his conditions and was reported for warrant.

DRUG ENFORCEMENT – SBCAT officers have taken part in 4 drugs search warrants in the Scottish Borders.

On 5/4/24 the SBCAT executed 4 search warrants in one day. The first 2 were completed in Hawick with the Proactive Crime Team. Over £1000 in cash was seized from one of the addresses. A further MDA search warrant was then executed in Selkirk with the Proactive Crime Team. About £7000 of heroin was recovered along with Over £3000 in cash. Following this the SBCAT executed a MDA search warrant in Galashiels with assistance from a Public Order team to force entry. Personal amounts of cannabis, cocaine and controlled tablets were seized from within.

OTHER ISSUES OF NOTE-

On 10th April 2024 a suspicious device was found within a property in Selkirk. Due to a risk it could be an explosive device the MOD's bomb disposal unit attended along with other specialists. The SBCAT assisted in securing the area, evacuating elderly residents and ensuring that the public were safe.

On 15th April 2024, CAT officers following a report of a S127 comms offence towards a Borders MP, traced, arrested, interviewed and subsequently charged a male for the offence, with him being released on a undertaking to appear at court.

New legislation relating to fox hunting came into effect last year. The new laws have been compiled with across most of Scotland but there have been reports of offences in the Scottish Borders. Over the past couple of months SBCAT have been investigating and this month 1 male was charged under the new legislation, another was arrested, interviewed and released without charge. This was the first time this legislation had been used in Scotland and this was reported by the press at a National level.

As of 20th May the SBCAT will be reduced to 1 Sergeant and 6 Constables.

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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