

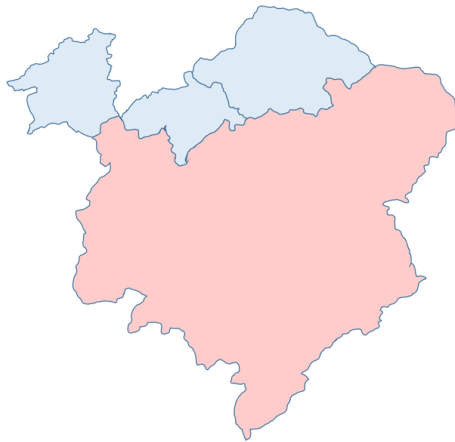
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Scottish Borders Area Command

The Lothians and Scottish Borders

Tweeddale East and West Community Councils Multi Member Ward Report for December 2023



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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Community Policing News – Tweeddale East and West – PS James Harrison



Over the winter months the Scottish Borders Community Policing Team were delighted to support the TD1 Youth Hub walks in memory of PC Sean Wright, Galashiels Community Beat Officer, who sadly passed away last year. I took part in the first one and was impressed at the dedication and professionalism of the volunteers, and the enthusiasm of the younger people that attended. The walks took place around Galashiels and Selkirk, and are hopefully to become a regular fixture.

As highlighted in the ‘Tackling Serious and Organised Crime’ section below, there have been a number of large cannabis cultivations discovered in the Scottish Borders recently. These have been discovered in a variety of situations, such as old farm buildings, disused hotels, nightclubs or mill buildings. I feel this would be a good opportunity to raise awareness of these.

What to look out for

You may notice new owners bringing in equipment with them when they move in, such as ventilation equipment or lighting. The premises will be adapted shortly after, and the ventilation and lighting installed. Once the premises has been set up, you may not see many people as they wish to keep a low profile.

There are a couple of other signs. Cannabis’ strong and sickly sweet smell is one of them, the other is covered up windows. Often constantly pulled curtains or black out blinds. If the building has glass, there may be frequent condensation on windows due to the heat within.

A cultivation uses a large amount of electricity, so criminals often bypass electricity meters, or break into the main meter. There may be strange cables leading to the building, or in some cases holes will have been dug in the ground to join street supplies. This may often be carried out by ‘fake’ workmen.

The final sign to look out for is large amounts of compost or soil contained in plastic bags, often dumped by rubbish bins.

What can you do

If you suspect that there may be a cannabis cultivation near you, you can either contact Police Scotland on 101, or if you prefer to remain anonymous you can contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Your anonymity is 100% guaranteed and the information will reach the police, and may be acted on. Further information about Crimestoppers can be found at their website below

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/about-the-charity/crimestoppers-in-scotland>

Please see below for proactive report on this subject.

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 December 2023 Police in the Scottish Borders attended and were involved with around 200 mental health related calls, around 29 missing person enquiries and approximately 89 domestic related incidents.

Tweeddale East and West had 15 mental health related calls and 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

On 03/12/2023 report of an assault in Rosetta Road, Peebles. Crime report submitted for assault.

On 05/12/2023 report of an assault in Elliots Park, Peebles. Crime report submitted for assault.

On 08/12/2023 report of an assault in Cuddyside, Peebles. Crime report submitted for assault. For further enquiry.

On 12/12/2023 report of an assault in Provost Walker Close, Peebles. Crime report submitted.

On 16/12/2023 report of an assault in Innerleithen. Crime report submitted for assault. Further enquiry to be made.

On 23/12/2023 report of an assault outside a bar in Peebles. Crime report submitted for assault to injury.

On 31/12/2023 report of an assault in Buccleuch Street, Innerleithen. Crime report for assault.

Anti-Social Behaviour

On 03/12/2023 report of issues with neighbour in St Michaels Bank, Peebles. Informant spoken to and did not wish to make any complaints. She was safe and well in her house.

On 04/12/2023 report of youths causing nuisance in Dovecot Road, Peebles. For further enquiry. Crime report submitted.

On 05/12/2024 report of a neighbour issue in Kingsland Square, Peebles. Parking issue, contact made with community policing team.

On 06/12/2023 report of youths kicking bins in Kingsland Square, Peebles. No apparent damage, youths had left prior to police attending. Advice given.

On 08/12/2023 report of youths causing a nuisance in Northgate, Peebles. Area searched, no trace of youths on arrival of police.

On 09/12/2023 report of loud music in Rutherford Gardens, West Linton. Wedding taking place at locus, advised them of complaint.

On 09/12/2023 report of ongoing issues with thudding door in Waverley Road, Innerleithen. No trace of anyone in area on arrival of police.

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On 12/12/2023 report of ongoing issues with youths causing a nuisance in School Brae area of Peebles. No damage caused.

On 12/12/2023 report of youth issues in Provost Walker Court, Peebles. Officers attended and noted details of all concerned. No complaints made at this time. Extra attention to be given to area.

On 14/12/2023 report of threat to harm at an address near Innerleithen. Crime report submitted for threats. For further enquiry.

On 14/12/2023 report of a disturbance within a hotel in Cardrona. Fixed penalty notice issued to one female. Crime report submitted.

On 17/12/2023 report of threatening phone calls in George Terrace, Peebles. Informant spoken to, no threats have been made. No crimes detected. Advice given.

On 18/12/2023 report of nuisance rowdy youths in Springwood Road, Peebles. School dance being held at school. No youths hanging around on police arrival.

On 19/12/2023 report of a disturbance in Victoria Park Drive, Peebles. Both parties spoken to and advice given. No formal complaints being made.

On 19/12/2023 report of loud music from Kingsland Square, Peebles. No noise ongoing on police arrival.

On 20/12/2023 report of a disturbance in a house in Edinburgh Road, Peebles. All parties spoken to, family dispute. All in order.

On 21/12/2023 report of nuisance youths in Northgate, Peebles. No damage to property. Advice given to caller.

On 23/12/2023 report of nuisance youths in Morningside, Innerleithen. No damage to property, no trace of youths on arrival of police.

On 24/12/2023 report of loud music in Hall Street, Innerleithen. No sets free to attend at the time and no further calls received.

On 25/12/2023 report of fight outside licensed premises in Northgate, Peebles. Nothing ongoing on police arrival. No complaints being made.

On 25/12/2023 report of male causing nuisance outside address in Old Town, Peebles. Male traced at locus. No complaints being made. Male conveyed home.

On 26/12/2023 report of loud music from an address in Forest View, Peebles. Householder spoken to and made aware of complaint.

On 26/12/2023 report of noise from an address in North Street, Peebles. Occupier spoken to and warned re music. Agreed to turn it off.

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On 27/12/2023 report of male refusing to leave a premises in Eastgate, Peebles. Male spoken to and matter resolved. No complaints.

On 29/12/2023 report of youth issues in Waverley Mills, Innerleithen. A number of youths traced and details noted. Ongoing issues. No damage caused.

On 29/12/2023 report of nuisance youths in High Street, Innerleithen. Youths traced and details noted for Anti Social Behaviour Unit.

On 29/12/2023 report of youths causing nuisance in Morningside, Innerleithen. No trace of any youths on this occasion.

On 31/12/2023 report of youths banging on windows in Waverley Mills, Innerleithen. Details of youths noted and will be passed to Community Officer.

Vandalism

On 10/12/2023 report of smashed window in St James House, Innerleithen. Crime report submitted. For further enquiry.

On 12/12/2023 report of damage to vehicle in Buccleuch Street, Innerleithen. Crime report submitted for damage to car door.

On 22/12/2023 report of damage to shed in Hall Street, Walkerburn. Crime report for vandalism.

On 24/12/2023 report of damage to vehicle in Provost Kirkpatrick Court, Peebles. Crime report submitted for vandalism to vehicle.



Reducing Acquisitive Crime

Theft by Housebreaking

On 15/12/2023 report of theft by housebreaking to a premises in Main Street, West Linton. Crime report for Theft HB.

On 27/12/2023 report of theft by housebreaking in Dolphinton Road, West Linton. Crime report submitted.

On 29/12/2023 report of attempt theft housebreaking in Edinburgh Road, Peebles. Crime report submitted for attempt theft HB.

Theft

On 04/12/2023 report of a theft from premises in High Street, Peebles. Crime report submitted for theft.

On 04/12/2023 report of a theft of a bike from Caddon Court, Innerleithen. Crime report submitted for theft.

On 04/12/2023 report of a theft from premises in High Street, Peebles. Crime report submitted for theft by shoplifting.

On 15/12/2023 report of a theft of bicycle from St Mungos Lea, West Linton. Crime report raised for theft.

On 21/12/2023 report of a stolen motor bike from Dalatho Street, Peebles. Crime report submitted for theft.

On 29/12/2023 report of a theft in Innerleithen Road, Peebles. Crime report submitted for the theft of signs.

On 30/12/2023 report of theft from supermarket in Northgate, Peebles. Male traced with a quantity of goods. For further enquiry. Crime report for theft.



Improving Road Safety

Killed or Seriously Injured

Tackling Serious and Organised Crime

The Scottish Borders CID Proactive Unit executed 4 Drug Warrants across the command area during December, three were positive and 3 persons were charged with drug related offences.

They have also been liaising with a number of forces in England in relation to further criminality involving county lines nominals and rural acquisitive crime, particularly in the Eastern are of the Scottish Borders. Inquiries here are ongoing.

Three warrants were also executed in conjunction with other departments in relation to serious crime inquiries in The Scottish Borders.

They would again 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.

A recent news article about the discovery of another industrial scale cultivation in Dumfries again points to the fact this is an ongoing criminal enterprise affecting all areas of Scotland and people should remain vigilant in their communities for any suspicious activity and report it.

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.



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/>



For the whole of December SBCAT officers were attached to a planned Operation in which they carried out increased High Visibility foot patrols around retail areas throughout the Scottish Borders and also carried out Hi Visibility mobile patrols.

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.

Following concerns regarding antisocial driving at Tesco, Galashiels and Currie Road, regular checks were carried out during the month in line with direct CAT taskings but no issues were found.

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 142 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, 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. 68 static checks were carried out throughout the Scottish Borders in December.

On 13/12/23 following the report of a theft of Christmas Trees in the Newtown St Boswells area SB CAT officers carried out a search which resulted in them tracing and arresting two persons for theft. Enquiries are ongoing.

On 28/12/23 CAT officers deployed on the SB Quads to Monynut (1030-1330 hours). In addition regular patrols have been carried out in the area 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.

13 youth warning letters were issued during the month of December in relation to youth issues in Innerleithen and Peebles.

On 13/12/23 due to a reported increase of ASB involving youths, CAT officers carried out a foot patrol in Selkirk which resulted in 4 youths being identified for ASB and returned to their parents (no letters issued).

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During December CAT officers have also carried out 132 hi-visibility Licensed Premises checks throughout the Borders.

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 bail check on multiple individuals and there have also been 6 arrests of people wanted on high priority warrants, with the persons involved subsequently appearing at court.

During December CAT officers have also been involved in the protection of vulnerable people which has resulted in 8 social work referrals being submitted.

On the 1st December SBCAT officers attended at Mansfield Garden Centre, Kelso, where a surgery was held providing advice to members of the public regarding Borders Rape Crisis White Ribbon Campaign.

DRUG ENFORCEMENT – SBCAT officers have taken part in two drugs search warrants in the Scottish Borders, one of which resulted in a positive search.

[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:

TweeddaleEastCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk

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.