

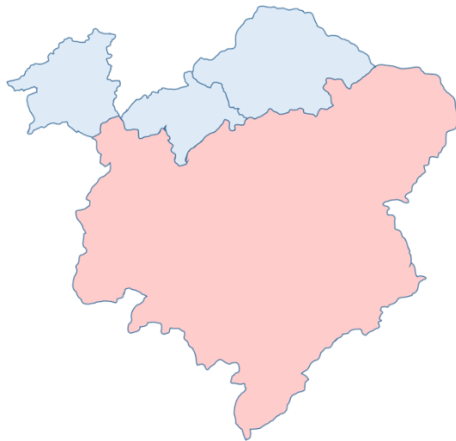
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Scottish Borders Area Command

The Lothians and Scottish Borders

Selkirkshire Community Councils
Multi Member Ward Report for November 2024



The information provided within this report, is predominately based on the Selkirkshire 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 Crawford Laing

With the Festive period fast approaching I would like to appeal to people to ensure that they take care of themselves and others when on nights out. Alcohol is often a factor in putting ourselves and others at risk and so moderating alcohol consumption can go a long way to keeping ourselves safe. Don't become separated from friends when out and plan ahead in relation to getting home.....always have a Plan B!

Winter weather can be challenging when out on the roads. Making sure that your car is well maintained will help reduce the risk of problems during your journey and having a few items (food, water, phone charger) in the car in case of emergency is always a good idea.

The Festive period can be a challenging time for some however there are organisations out there that can help.

Breathing Space – 0800 83 85 87

NHS 24 – 111

Samaritans – 116 123 or email jo@samaritans.org



School Link Officers conducting a Speed Check with Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSO) from St Boswells Primary School.



PC Porter met the big man at a recent event in Selkirk.

The Your Police Survey for 2024/25 is still open, 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.

[\(Public Pack\)Item No. 5 \(a\) - Police Scotland Agenda Supplement for Police, Fire & Rescue and Safer Communities Board, 13/12/2023 09:30 \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#)

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 as presented by the Local Area Commander CI 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 October 2024 Police in the Scottish Borders attended and were involved with around 179 mental health related calls, around 14 missing person enquiries and approximately 84 domestic related incidents.

Selkirkshire had 20 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 09/11/2024 a report of a male assaulted by another male near to Selkirk Golf Club. Enquiry ongoing.

On 28/11/2024 report of male assaulting a number of individuals at Dickson Drive, Newtown St Boswells. Male arrested and charged with 3x assault.

Anti-Social Behaviour

On 02/11/2024 report of two youths on roof of County Hotel, High Street, Selkirk shouting at passers-by. No youths present on Police arrival.

On 03/11/2024 report of youths causing disturbance at Bowden Road, Newtown St Boswells. Police attended, no apparent damage and no youths present.

On 23/11/2024 two reports of youths causing annoyance at a shop on Market Place, Selkirk.

On 25/11/2024 report of a group of youths causing a disturbance within shop on Market Place, Selkirk.

Vandalism

On 01/11/2024 report of kitchen windows smashed. East Port, Selkirk. Enquiries complete, culprit not identified.

On 11/11/2024 report of a wilful fire-raising at Blanagowan Road, Selkirk. Enquiries ongoing.

On 15/11/2024 report of vandalism to telecommunications site at Megget Reservoir, Selkirk. Culprit not yet identified.

On 25/11/2024 report of intoxicated male punching light fitting, causing it to shatter. Market Place, Selkirk. Enquiries ongoing.

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On 29/11/2024 report of window smashed by youth. West Port, Selkirk. Enquiries ongoing.

On 30/11/2024 report of caravan on fire, believed to be deliberate. Tweedsmuir, Selkirk. Enquiries ongoing.

Reducing Acquisitive Crime

Theft by Housebreaking

Theft

On 11/11/2024 report of theft of 3 garden chairs from Newtown Community Wing, Newtown St Boswells. Chairs were later found and returned.

On 13/11/2024 report of shoplifting at High Street, Selkirk. Enquiries ongoing.

On 24/11/2024 report of number plates stolen from vehicle at Hallidays Park, Selkirk. Enquiries ongoing.



Improving Road Safety

On 06/11/2024 – a driver was issued a fine for driving with no MOT in Selkirk

On 25/11/2024 – a driver was issued a fine for driving with no MOT in Selkirk



Tackling Serious and Organised Crime

Serious and organised crime enforcement – November 2024

The Scottish Borders CID Proactive Unit executed 6 Drug Warrants across the command area during November, four were positive and 6 persons were charged with drug related offences.

Another industrial sized cannabis cultivation was discovered at a business premises in an industrial estate in Eyemouth. This had a value conservatively of £895,000 and one male was arrested at this premises. A report has been sent to the Procurator Fiscal and this was widely reported in local and national news outlets.

We would like to remind readers of this document that this type of criminality is not only attributed to disused premises but also to premises owned and rented out by unsuspecting landlords and we would ask all persons who own such premises to thoroughly complete their due diligence before renting buildings to anyone, particularly if the rent is agreed as cash payments.

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A number of stop 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.

Campaigns



As the nights get darker earlier Police Scotland is reminding you to review your home security.

Some advice on keeping your home secure.

- Use timer switches on lights and radios to make it look as if your home is occupied
- Ensure all doors and windows are secure when you leave and when you go to bed
- If possible use security lighting at the front and back of your property
- Make sure all garden tools and ladders are locked away when not being used
- Use a good quality lock on any garden sheds and outhouses
- Make a note of all makes, models and serial numbers of your property
- Create a FREE private and secure inventory of all your personal property at www.immobilise.com

If you notice anything suspicious in your neighbourhood report it to Police Scotland on 101.

 scotland.police.uk  [@PoliceScotland](https://twitter.com/PoliceScotland)  [PoliceScotland](https://www.facebook.com/PoliceScotland)



Winter road safety

Winter means changes in the roads, shorter days, and changing weather.

We all have a responsibility to keep Scotland's roads safe during the winter months.

Advice if you are out walking during winter:

1. Dress for the weather by wearing reflective or bright-coloured clothing so other road users can see you when it is dark, or visibility is poor.
2. If you are walking home late at night, make sure someone knows where you are going and when.
3. Vehicles can take up to ten times longer to stop on slippery road surfaces so take extra care crossing the road.
4. Stick to pedestrian crossings.
5. If there are no crossings nearby, find a place with a clear view and wait for long gaps in the traffic before crossing the road.
6. Don't cross the road between parked vehicles, unless it can't be avoided then take extra care (look out for vehicles that suddenly pull out or reverse)
7. Never cross the road behind a bus.
8. If there is no pavement, keep to the right-hand side of the road so you can see traffic coming towards you.

Advice to consider if you are cycling during winter:

1. Make sure your bike can be seen by people on the road.
2. Use a good set of front and rear lights (white at the front, red at the back)
3. Wear clothes that help you be seen on your bike, such as bright and light reflective items
4. Pay attention to road signs, markings, and particularly red lights.
5. Do not cycle on the pavements, they may be slippery and can also endanger pedestrians.
6. Be mindful of the effects poor weather can have on other road users.
7. Make sure you know about the dangers around you.
8. Cars can take twice as long to stop in wet weather.
9. Braking can be unpredictable in ice and snow.

Advice for drivers during winter:

1. Make sure your car is ready for winter.
2. Check that your tyres, brakes, windscreens, wiper blades and windows are free from defects and clean.
3. Drive to the road conditions. Road conditions can change without warning, stopping distances will be affected by the weather.
4. Make sure your windows are clean and aren't misted up.
5. Make sure there is no snow and ice on your windows before you drive.
6. When the roads are icy, drive at a slow speed in a high gear.
7. Accelerate and brake very gently.
8. Driving distracted (for example, using a Sat Nav) can cause additional stress. It is dangerous to yourself, passengers, and other road users.

CAT Update:

MMW REPORT:

ROAD SAFETY – SBCAT have continued carrying out road checks in numerous locations in the Scottish Borders.

On the 18th of November CAT officers completed a joint static road check with traffic officers. One driver failed the roadside drug test and was arrested. Another had his vehicle seized as it was in a dangerous state of repair.

Speed checks have been completed in several towns near to schools along with foot patrols looking for parking issues at drop off and pick up times, including Newcastleton.

PARKING TICKETS – Officers have been carrying out high visibility enforcement across the Borders and addressing parking concerns there.

Passing attention was given to Galashiels, Selkirk, Kelso and Duns.

RURAL ACQUISITIVE CRIME – We carry out high visibility mobile patrols across rural areas at varying times while completing static road checks. A number of static road checks were completed this month

On the 13th of November the CAT took part in Operation Checkpoint. This is an operation across the North and England and South of Scotland targeting cross border rural acquisitive crime. Several vehicles were stopped but no offences were detected.

ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR – High visibility patrols have continued in targeted areas of the Scottish Borders to address concerns highlighted as per our taskings. This includes outside Jedburgh Sheriff Court on Monday court days.

In response to the ongoing ASB in Burnfoot at Morrison's on Mart Street in Hawick the CAT have been doing plain clothes patrols on the after-school bus from Mart Street up to Burnfoot. During one of these patrols on the 13th of November officers witnessed youths shouting abuse at a family with disabilities. Upon trying to stop the youths they ran off the bus and after a foot chase they stopped them. The youth shouting the abuse was taken home to his parents and he was reported via the vulnerable persons database for a disability hate crime.

During the evening of Saturday 23rd of November CAT officers attended several calls in Hawick and Newtown St Boswells for youths throwing snowballs at homes of vulnerable people. Although the youths made off from police, many were identified and their details were passed to the ASB unit.

As we enter the festive season we have increased our checks of licensed premises especially on Friday and Saturday evenings over the last month.

PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE – During the previous month several priority arrest warrants were issued by the courts in Jedburgh and Selkirk. These were for individuals who pose a risk to their ex-partners or the public. These are allocated to the CAT to ensure they are arrested as quickly as possible. 3 have been arrested by the CAT this month. With several others handing themselves in after the CAT made enquiries with their family, friends or employer.

DRUG ENFORCEMENT –

On the 12th of November the SBCAT conducted an MDA search in Kelso along with response officers. Unknown tablets were recovered along with a personal amount of cannabis.

On the 21st of November the SBCAT joined a team of over 30 officers from across the South of Scotland and Cumbria Police. This was to execute a series of MDA search warrants in the Borders as part of an enquiry which has taken years to investigate and was targeting a male involved in serious and organised crime. About an hour later the male was traced by 2 of the CAT and arrested. They subsequently found that he was found to be in possession of 5kg of cannabis. The quick arrest prevented him from destroying any evidence.

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:

SelkirkshireCPT@scotland.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.