

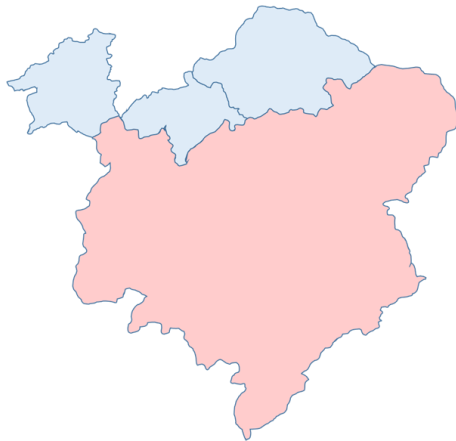
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Scottish Borders Area Command

The Lothians and Scottish Borders

Selkirkshire Community Councils
Multi Member Ward Report for September 2023
(1st September 2023 – 30th September 2023)



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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Community Policing News – Selkirkshire – PS James Harrison



The Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime (SPARC) is a multi-agency partnership involving key organisations collectively working together to prevent, reduce and tackle rural crime. Police Scotland are proud to be a part of this partnership and delighted that they chose the Scottish Borders as the location to launch a recent media campaign (see photo). By working together, we can reduce opportunities for criminals.

Police Scotland take an active part in this partnership and carry out static road checks at night in rural areas, frequently take part in Op Checkpoint (a cross-border exercise with English police forces to deter and detect travelling criminals), and thoroughly investigate all rural crime reported to us. However, the Borders is a vast rural area which can present some difficulties to police.

I believe that the local community are also part of this partnership. You can help by reporting anything suspicious to police, using 101 if not an emergency or 999 if you suspect a crime is ongoing. You can also report online via the Contact Us form. Report suspicious vehicles or persons, with a description (including vehicle registration plate if possible). Police may not always be able to attend immediately, but every piece of information helps us build a picture, and allows us to focus resources more accurately. Please also try to prevent crime. Join Neighbourhood Watch (see neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk) or Rural Watch (scottishparc.co.uk), or contact Crimestoppers (0800 555111). Ensure you secure your property and belongings properly, lock bikes away and don't leave keys in vehicles. We are currently training more Community Beat Officers on Crime Prevention, if you want more advice or guidance please contact your CBO via the CPT mailbox on the bottom of this MMWR.

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There are also some guidance documents attached to this e-mail, please can you distribute widely to your rural communities.

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 Vinnie Fisher.

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 September 2023 Police in the Scottish Borders attended and were involved with around 187 mental health related calls, around 36 missing person enquiries and approximately 91 domestic related incidents.

Selkirkshire had 16 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 09/09/2023 report of male assaulted by male. High Street, Selkirk. Enquiries ongoing.

On 29/09/2023 report of male assaulted. Dryburgh Arms Hotel, Newtown St Boswells. Enquiries ongoing.

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Anti-Social Behaviour

On 01/09/2023 report of female shouting abuse in the street. Burn Brae, Newtown St Boswells. Advice given.

On 02/09/2023 report of a group of around 11 youths shouting & swearing in the street. Youths ran off before Police arrival.

On 10/09/2023 & 11/09/2023 report of small child riding a motorbike down the road. Sergeants Park, Newtown St Boswells. Mother of child traced and suitable advice given.

On 16/09/2023 report of woman screaming, shouting, swearing & being threatening in the street. Burn Brae, Newtown St Boswells. Ongoing issue with neighbours, enquiries ongoing.

On 17/09/2023 report of two males on roof of the community centre, Newtown St Boswells. Ran off when approached by informant.

On 18/09/2023 report of a group of youths throwing items at property. Sprouston Cottages, Newtown St Boswells. Enquiries ongoing.

On 23/09/2023 report of youths throwing apples at passing cars. Co-op, Newtown St Boswells. Police to patrol area.

Vandalism

On 03/09/2023 report of window smashed. Community Wing, Sprouston Road, Newtown St Boswells. Enquiries ongoing.

On 23/09/2023 report of two youths jumping on vehicles. Whiterigg Farm, Melrose. Enquiries ongoing.

On 26/09/2023 report of house vandalised by pulling plastic sheeting from ceiling. Leslie Place, Selkirk. Enquiries ongoing.

Reducing Acquisitive Crime

Theft by Housebreaking

On 19/09/2023 report of house broken into and medication taken. Shawburn Road, Selkirk. Enquiries ongoing.

On 26/09/2023 report of theft of various items from house. Leslie Place, Selkirk. Enquiries ongoing.

Theft

On 01/09/2023 report of theft of numerous outdoor cushions. Roberts Avenue, Selkirk. Enquiries ongoing.

On 01/09/2023 report of shoplifting. Co-op, Selkirk. Enquiries ongoing.

On 08/09/2023 report of shoplifting. Co-op, Selkirk. Enquiries ongoing.

Improving Road Safety

On 02/09/2023 - a driver was issued a fine and penalty points for careless/inconsiderate driving in Lilliesleaf

Killed or Seriously Injured



Tackling Serious and Organised Crime

Serious and organised crime enforcement – September 2023

The Scottish Borders CID Proactive Unit executed 9 Drug Warrants across the command area during September, all except one were positive and a variety of MDA charges were proffered against 10 persons. Heroin, cocaine, benzodiazepines and cannabis were all recovered during these searches in addition to large sums of cash and suspected stolen property.

They also assisted other CID departments in the area with stolen property warrants for housebreakings across the Scottish Borders and in relation to serious sexual offences. In total 14 warrants were executed across the division by CID.

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

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 \(iammescotland.co.uk\)](https://iammescotland.co.uk)

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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.

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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/>



CAT Update:

During the past month SBCAT officers carried out High Visibility foot patrols and worked alongside other community agencies at Coldstream Civic Week, Lauder Common Riding and Eyemouth Herring Queen festival.



During the past month SBCAT officers carried out High Visibility foot patrols and worked alongside other community agencies at the Ex-standard Bearers Cycle/horse ride (0900-1600 hours) and Yarrow and Ettrick agriculture show (0900-1400 hours) Quad present and community engagement. Kelso Ewe Sales were also attended for community engagement. On 24/9/23 CAT assisted with the PMRA September Ride (Peebles)

ROAD SAFETY – SBCAT have continued carrying out road checks in numerous locations in the Borders and have issued 14 traffic tickets throughout the month. PARKING TICKETS – Officers have been carrying out high visibility patrols in Peebles, Kelso, Eyemouth, Duns, Selkirk, Galashiels, and

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Hawick, and addressing parking concerns there. Advice has been given to drivers and 112 tickets have been 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. 43 static checks were carried out throughout the Scottish Borders in September (and the CAT attended the launch of a national rural crime initiative and also attended two events (Kelso and Yarrow) at which numerous members of the public were spoken to regarding rural crime prevention.

ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR – High visibility foot and mobile patrols have continued in highlighted areas of the Scottish Borders to deter and detect offenders. Further to that, officers have repeatedly attended at Monynut windfarm, Berwickshire, to deter and detect off road motorbikes.

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. These individuals are aware they are wanted and enquiries to trace them are continuing. This month 3 offenders have been arrested by SBCAT and put to court. SBCAT officers took part in the Community Safety Advice day for Sensory Services at the Corn Exchange, Melrose. This involved working with partner agencies such as SFRS and Health meeting with members of the public from all over the Borders area who are deaf or hard of hearing, giving community safety advice and promoting ways they can contact the Police Service of Scotland and report any concerns.

DRUG ENFORCEMENT – SBCAT took part in executing 2 drug search warrants in the area. During one of the searches, a personal amount of drugs were recovered. Enquiries with social services under way to establish if the 85 years old occupant is being the victim of 'Cuckooing' by the individual charged with the possession.

Other – Report received regarding a youth on a motorbike in Newtown St Boswells. On SBCAT arrival there're was no youth on a motorbike, family spoken to and indicated that their 7 year old son had permission from the land owner who owns the field directly adjacent to the home address to ride his bike there. Advice was given to the family regarding this. During the month SBCAT officers took part in Operation Checkpoint, a UK wide police initiative combating County Lines criminal travelling to commit crime. During this, a number of vehicles and person were stopped and checked. No offences were detected

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](mailto: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.