

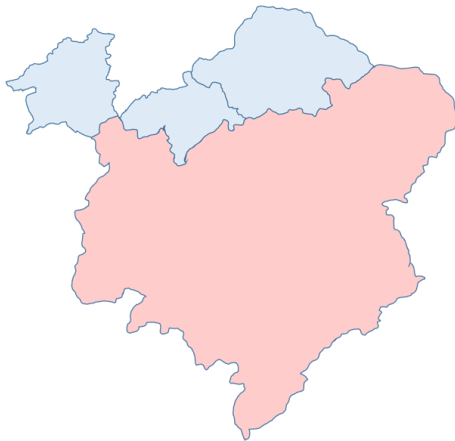
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Scottish Borders Area Command

The Lothians and Scottish Borders

Selkirkshire Community Councils
Multi Member Ward Report for December 2023
(1st December 2023 – 31st December 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



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.

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

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.

Selkirkshire had 20 mental health related calls and 2 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

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On 21/12/2023 report of pupil assaulting another pupil on school grounds. Selkirk High School, Selkirk. Enquiries ongoing.

On 26/12/2023 report of female assaulted by friend. Marion Crescent, Selkirk. No formal complaint made.

Anti-Social Behaviour

On 03/12/2023 report of youths throwing snowballs at vehicles. Chapel Place, Selkirk. Not ongoing on Police arrival.

On 03/12/2023 report of youths throwing snowballs at vehicles. The Valley, Selkirk. Not ongoing on Police arrival.

On 04/12/2023 report of youths throwing snow and ice at house windows. Halewell Hill, Selkirk. Not ongoing when Officers attended.

On 05/12/2023 report of youths kicking front door. Halewell Hill, Selkirk. Police to give passing attention.

On 07/12/2023 report of youths banging on front door. Halewell Hill, Selkirk. Police to give passing attention.

On 08/12/2023 report of youths kicking front door. Halewell Hill, Selkirk. Community Officers made aware.

On 09/12/2023 report of youths kicking front door. Halewell Hill, Selkirk. Community Officers made aware.

On 10/12/2023 report of youths trying to gain access to school. Knowepark Primary School, Selkirk. Not ongoing on Police arrival.

On 11/12/2023 report of youths stones thrown at front door. Halewell Hill, Selkirk. Community Officers made aware.

On 11/12/2023 report of youths throwing mud & stones at door. High Street, Selkirk. Enquiries ongoing.

On 12/12/2023 report of youths banging on window. High Street, Selkirk. Not ongoing on Police arrival.

On 13/12/2023 report of youths stones kicking ball at window. Halewell Hill, Selkirk. Youth spoken to and parents informed.

On 15/12/2023 report of youths stones thrown at front door. Halewell Hill, Selkirk. No youths present on Police arrival.

On 15/12/2023 report of youths stones thrown at front door. Halewell Hill, Selkirk. No youths present on Police arrival.

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On 17/12/2023 report of youths breaking into old Sainsbury's building, Selkirk. Building searched, nobody present, building re-secured.

On 21/12/2023 report of a group of youths knocking on door & being a general nuisance. County Hotel, Selkirk. Area searched, no trace of youths.

On 26/12/2023 report of a group of youths throwing stones at window. South Port, Selkirk. Youths have now departed, caller given suitable advice.

Vandalism

On 05/12/2023 report of Christmas lights being cut. Riverside Healthcare Centre, Selkirk. Enquiries ongoing.

On 10/12/2023 report of damage to vehicle. Scott Crescent, Selkirk. Enquiries ongoing.

On 16/12/2023 report of vehicle tyres slashed. Tower Street, Selkirk. Enquiries ongoing.

On 19/12/2023 report of fence spray painted. Elm Row, Selkirk. Enquiries ongoing.

On 21/12/2023 report of a group of youths damaging locks on gates. County Hotel, Selkirk. Enquiries ongoing.

On 27/12/2023 report of a brick thrown through window & front door handle ripped off. Market Place, Selkirk. Enquiries ongoing.

Reducing Acquisitive Crime

Theft by Housebreaking

Theft

On 13/12/2023 report of theft of alcohol. Co-op, Selkirk. Enquiries ongoing.

On 22/12/2023 report of theft of quad bike, 2 x cylinders of gas and around 250 litres of red diesel. Lindean Farm, Selkirk. Enquiries ongoing.

On 27/12/2023 report of theft of fuel. Hillside Filling Station, Selkirk. Enquiries ongoing.

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

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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:

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.

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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).

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:

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.