

# Public Document Pack



## BERWICKSHIRE AREA FORUM THURSDAY, 3RD MARCH, 2016

A MEETING of the BERWICKSHIRE AREA FORUM will be held in the COUNCIL OFFICES,  
NEWTOWN STREET, DUNS on THURSDAY, 3 MARCH 2016 at 6.30 pm

J. J. WILKINSON,  
Clerk to the Council,

29 March 2016

BUSINESS		
12.	<b>Police Scotland</b> (Pages 1 - 4)  Quarterly update report by Police Scotland.	10 mins

### NOTES

1. Timings given above are only indicative and not intended to inhibit Members' discussions.
2. Members are reminded that, if they have a pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest in any item of business coming before the meeting, that interest should be declared prior to commencement of discussion on that item. Such declaration will be recorded in the Minute of the meeting.

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**Membership of Committee:-** Councillors M. J. Cook (Chairman), D. Moffat (Vice-Chairman), J. Campbell, J. A. Fullarton, J. Greenwell and F. Renton

Community Councils:-

Abbey St Bathans, Bonkyl and Preston

Ayton

Burnmouth

Chirnside

Cocksburnpath

Coldingham

Coldstream and District

Duns

Edrom, Allanton and Whitsome

Eyemouth

Foulden, Mordington and Lamberton

Gavinton, Fogo and Polwarth

Gordon and Westruther

Grantshouse

Greenlaw and Hume

Hutton and Paxton

Lammermuir

Leitholm, Eccles and Birgham

Reston and Auchencrow

St Abbs

Swinton and Ladykirk

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Please direct any enquiries to Pauline Bolson Tel (01835) 826503.  
E-mail: [pbolson@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:pbolson@scotborders.gov.uk)

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"Keeping People Safe"

## **Berwickshire Area Forum – 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2016**

### **Police Report**

**Inspector John Scott**

**East CPA (East and Mid Berwickshire Multi Member Ward's)**

### **Purpose of the Report**

To update the Berwickshire Area Forum on performance, activities and issues across the Ward for the period up to 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

### **Policing Plans**

The Multi Member Ward plan priorities, which were obtained following the public consultation surveys in 2014 are published on the Police Scotland website. The plans focus the work of our officers on the issues that you have told us are important to the community.

### **Ward Plan Priorities:**

#### **East Berwickshire**

1. Road Safety
2. Misuse Of Drugs
3. Rural Thefts
4. Antisocial Behaviour

#### **Mid Berwickshire**

1. Road Safety
2. Inconsiderate Driver Behaviour

## NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

### 3. Antisocial Behaviour

#### **Road Safety and Inconsiderate Driver Behaviour**

Local officers have carried out dedicated parking patrols to both enforce legislation and discourage inconsiderate parking, we continue to get complaints from the public and recognise this is an issue which is of concern. We have issued 33 parking tickets in the Berwickshire area in the past 3 months.

The Berwickshire Community Safety Panel in partnership with Scottish Borders Council Safer Communities Team have arranged for one of the highly successful young drivers courses to be hosted in Duns. The police would encourage all members of the community to promote and encourage young people to participate. This is in effect free training for businesses and farms to improve the driving ability of their employees. The course is being hosted in Duns at the Berwickshire Housing Association premises and runs over a period of 6 weeks on alternate Sundays. Dates are as follows

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April**

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May**

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June**

from 09.30am to 4pm on each day.

Too many accidents occur due to driver error. Young drivers are the highest risk group and we need to work together to improve the skills of our young people.

The course details can be accessed at the following link.

[http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/1529/road\\_safety/1076/free\\_sponsorship\\_to\\_become\\_an\\_advanced\\_driver](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/1529/road_safety/1076/free_sponsorship_to_become_an_advanced_driver)

#### **Misuse Of Drugs**

Officers are continuing to target drugs offences, we need intelligence to support us in detecting offenders. There were 11 drugs related offences detected in Berwickshire during the reporting period. The police are always interested in obtaining information and intelligence in relation to drugs offences. This can either be passed to local officers or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800555111.

#### **Antisocial Behaviour**

Anyone who is the victim of antisocial behaviour should report this at the time of the incident to the police. If it is an ongoing issue, this can be reported to the Antisocial Behaviour Unit helpline on **0800 028 5711**.

#### **Rural Thefts**

## **NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED**

There have been a few minor rural crimes over the last few months but nothing of major concern. Officers are now out and about at farms with the Select DNA information packs and using the opportunity to provide security advice to those living in rural areas. Community Officers are also carrying out the majority of firearms and shotgun enquiries and a large amount of these are at farms and rural properties meaning officers use the opportunity to pass on security advice as appropriate.

### **Sheep Worrying**

At this time of year the police and other agencies see an increase in the reporting of sheep worrying across the Scottish Borders. It is important for all dog owners to act responsibly when exercising their dogs. Keep them on a lead at all times when in the countryside and take measures to ensure livestock are not put at risk. A campaign across Scotland will be carried out by the Police in partnership with other agencies in a bid to deter and prevent sheep worrying. Where offences are reported officers will undertake enquiries in a bid to identify the dogs and their owners.

### **Other Information**

The festive period saw an increase in the number of foot patrols and road checks carried out during December. Overall there were not the same levels of violence or drunken disorder that can normally be associated with this time of year. Revellers were sensible and enjoyed the festive celebrations. This continued through the New Year, where there was very little disorder and few calls to the Police.

The weather had a significant impact across the whole of the Scottish Borders and whilst the worst of the flooding was in the West of the region, a number of alerts and localised flooding took place in Berwickshire, in particular in Coldstream in December and January.

On 11 January 2016 the Recorded Police Warning Scheme was introduced. This allows police officers to use their discretion when dealing with minor crimes and it replaces the Formal Adult Warning system. It has been extended to include 16 and 17 year olds.

Recorded Police Warnings provide frontline officers with the ability to address low level crime they are called upon to deal with through an on the spot disposal. The disposal options now open to officers start with a verbal warning, a Recorded Police Warning, a Fixed Penalty Notice and ultimately officers may still submit a formal Standard Prosecution Report to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, depending on the circumstances and nature of each incident or crime. Warnings will provide a consistent, swifter, more effective and proportionate way of dealing with low-level offences.

The Recorded Police Warnings significantly shorten the length of time that it can take for the same disposal to be achieved, by reducing the volume of

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formal reports in the criminal justice system and giving officers the ability to exercise their professional discretion on the spot.

This change demonstrates Police Scotland's commitment to working with all of our criminal justice partners in delivering a modern and more effective justice system.

John Scott  
Community Inspector  
ECPA  
Scottish Borders

Email: [john.scott@Scotland.pnn.Police.uk](mailto:john.scott@Scotland.pnn.Police.uk)

Website: [www.scotland.police.uk](http://www.scotland.police.uk)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/PoliceScotland](http://www.facebook.com/PoliceScotland)  
Twitter: [twitter@BordersPolice.com](https://twitter.com/BordersPolice.com)

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