



“Keeping People Safe”

Berwickshire Area Forum – 2nd June 2016

Police Report

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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 25th May 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

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4. Antisocial Behaviour

Mid Berwickshire

1. Road Safety
2. Inconsiderate Driver Behaviour
3. Antisocial Behaviour

Road Safety and Inconsiderate Driver Behaviour

Drink Driving Offences

We have recently seen an increase in the number of detections for drink driving in the Scottish Borders, with people being caught in rural locations, having been drinking at a village pub and then choosing to drive home. Our message is very simple, if you are intending driving, do not drink. We would encourage the public to report all drink drivers either directly to the police on 101 or if you wish to report anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 55 111.

Younger Drivers Event at Charterhall, Duns

Over the weekend of the 21st and 22nd May, a young drivers event was held at Charterhall, where we saw about 90 young people experience driving, many of them for the first time. It was a great experience for the young people and allowed them to develop driving skills under the watchful eye of the Police, Fire and Ambulance services who were giving training throughout the day. The aim is to encourage young people to engage with the long-term sustainable driver education and casualty reduction programme in the Borders.

During May and June the Skills For Life programme, which provides free driver training to 17-25 year olds, is running in Duns. We have 7 drivers taking the course all of whom aim to pass. There are further courses being run during 2016 and these can be accessed through the Skill For Life page on Scottish Borders Council website.

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. On Wednesday 4th May, a drugs operation was undertaken in Duns when 3 houses in Duns, and premises near to Duns were searched by officers from across J division. This was a significant operation, which sent out a clear message that we will react to all intelligence with regards to selling drugs.

We could not have undertaken this work without a great deal of community intelligence, we are always interested in obtaining information and intelligence in relation to drugs offences and this can either be passed to local officers or through Crimestoppers on 0800555111.

Antisocial Behaviour

Anti social behaviour covers a wide variety of incidents, including everything from noisy neighbours to nuisance youths. Whilst incidents like this may appear minor, they can impact massively on someone's well being and quality of life.

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

Rural Thefts

Police Scotland has recently launched a series of information documents to keep our rural communities safe. The rural communities of Scotland are safe places in which to live and work. However, the nature of the environment and way of life means there are some crime prevention tips particularly relevant to rural life that are worth bearing in mind.

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Much of the crime prevention advice outlined in other areas of 'Keep Safe' is equally relevant to urban or rural area, but there are issues unique to rural communities such as:

- Protecting Livestock.
- Securing Farm Machinery.
- Theft from fuel tanks.
- Securing tools and horse tack.

This information can be accessed at the following link and is an excellent guide to farmers and wider community who live in rural areas.

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/home-and-personal-property/rural-crime>

Other Information

Your View Counts – Public Consultation

Police Scotland consults with the public every year on what their priorities are for policing in their community.

In the past this has always been by hard copy consultation questionnaires which were distributed by police officers within the community they work.

This year Police Scotland's consultation process is widening and becoming more flexible. The consultation process is moving online to a digital format and consultation will be open all year.

The public consultation is for you to tell us what is important to you in your community. Your opinion is valued – we need your opinion to inform our policing. Having your say in the decision making process of Police Scotland is a vital tool for residents of Scotland to be able to shape the way their public services should operate.

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Everyone's views across Scotland will be taken on board at a national and local level. We want you to help us focus on the priorities that will help communities most. There is no 'one size fits all' approach to local policing and all the needs and wants of individual communities will be considered.

This is the first time Police Scotland's public consultation is being hosted on a digital platform. This allows us to reach a much wider audience than ever before ensuring that everyone can have their say.

The online consultation is open all year which allows you to take part when it suits you but also gives the flexibility of being able to re-submit the consultation if your priorities change.

It's a very simple process that should only take a few moments of your time but will shape the way that policing is coordinated across Scotland and in your local community.

We will keep you updated on our quarterly results. The consultation will be a completely transparent process as it's all about your priorities.

The link for the survey is
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/8LMB9WX>

[Air Weapon Legislation](#)

With effect from 1 July 2016, new legislation comes into effect for air weapons. Any person who possesses, purchases, uses or acquires an air weapon will be required to have a certificate to legally hold them. Because this is a new process, the public have been given time to achieve the certification and no one will commit an offence of possessing an air weapon without the relevant authority or certification up until 1 January 2017. You must have your documentation in order by that date.

Police Scotland recognises that a number of these types of weapons will be lying about homes and are no longer used or required. As a result an 'amnesty' will be held where you can surrender air weapons at a police station. Provisional dates for the surrender campaign are Monday 23rd May to Sunday 12th June 2016. If you have any weapons for surrender, they should be taken to Galashiels police station on these dates between 8am

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and 10pm. Further information on the legislation can be found on the Police Scotland website www.scotland.police.uk

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