



Teviot & Liddesdale Area Forum

Tuesday 21st February 2017

Report from
Inspector Carol Wood

Multi Member Ward Plans

Consultation with residents has allowed us to prepare priority plans based on local concerns. The combined Ward plan Priorities are:

- ❑ **Drug Dealing and Misuse**
- ❑ **Road Safety**
- ❑ **Violent Crime**
- ❑ **Antisocial Behaviour**

Drug Dealing and Misuse

We have, through intelligence gathered, carried out operations against people and premises involved in drug dealing and misuse, and where appropriate reported them to the Procurator Fiscal. We patrol areas where it has been identified people involved in the misuse of illegal drugs gather. We continue to deliver inputs at schools, highlighting the dangers of drug misuse.

We continue to be visible in the community to develop intelligence on people who deal in and use controlled drugs. We will continue to work with our partners, combining education and enforcement strategies. During the reporting period of November:

- On 4th January 2017, whilst in custody on another matter, a 36 year old male was found in possession of a class B drug. He was reported to the Procurator Fiscal for this offence.
- On 17th January 2017 and as a result of intelligence received, a 36 year old male was detained from a bus when travelling to Hawick. Following a search, the male was found in possession of a class A drug and was charged accordingly.
- Officers on patrol stopped a 32 year old male in Dickson Street, Hawick. The male was searched and found in possession of a class C drug. He was charged with possession of this.
- A 23 year old male was charged with possessing a class B drug following a house search in Burnfoot on 26 January 2017.
- Following a vehicle being stopped on 28th January 2017, a 24 year old male was charged with two offences after being found in possession of a class B

drug. This male was also charged with driving under the influence of drugs. All offences have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

- We continue to receive intelligence from the public in relation to drug matters whether that is persons being in possession or persons dealing drugs and we would encourage this. Completely anonymous information can be left on Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Road Safety

Speeding/Inconsiderate Driving

Community officers continue to give attention to areas where we have received complaints of speeding or inconsiderate driving. We continue to link in with Scottish Borders Council in obtaining data for areas of complaint and where appropriate have discussions on road improvements. The camera safety vehicle continues to make an appearance in the Teviot and Liddesdale area. To find out where the camera safety vehicle will be located go to www.lbsafetycameras.co.uk

Officers patrol in identified locations and carry out periodic road checks to positively influence driver behaviour. We will continue to educate drivers at every opportunity. We also communicate with young drivers who travel to meeting points to meet with friends and other car enthusiasts. Officers pay particular attention to these drivers and the vehicles and thorough examinations are conducted of their vehicles to ensure compliance with road vehicle construction and use regulations.

In certain circumstances, motor vehicles can be seized by Police where there is evidence that the vehicle is being driven carelessly, or off road. It is essential that all complaints about driving behaviour are notified to the police via 101 at the time.

Parking and Road Traffic Issues

We continue to issue parking tickets and warn drivers for parking longer than they should or breaching yellow line restrictions throughout the town. We will continue to give illegal parking attention whenever possible. However I would continue to ask members of the public not to park in prohibited areas or remain longer than they should in timed zones.

- Whilst on patrol in Newcastleton on 9th January 2017, officers stopped a vehicle and engaged with the driver. Enquiries established the 37 year old male was driving without insurance or a licence. He was reported for these offences and the vehicle seized.
- On 25th January 2017, officers stopped a vehicle travelling on Buccleuch Road, Hawick. The driver was charged with a number of driving offences and his vehicle was seized.
- During January two other drivers were charged for failing to have valid test certificates for their vehicles.
- A number of road checks were carried out during the month resulting in two fixed penalty tickets being issued for speeding.

Violent Crime

We continue to work in close partnership with licensed premises and their staff to tackle issues of drunkenness and disorderly behaviour to reduce these types of incidents.

We will continue to focus our patrols, targeting areas where violent crime has been reported and robustly deal with any person involved in this behaviour.

There was one serious assault reported in Hawick during January.

- During a family argument at a house in Burnfoot on 19th January, 2017, a 23 year old male assaulted the 45 year old occupier of the house. As a result this male sustained a laceration to his head and he required medical attention. The suspect was detained and subsequently charged with serious assault. He was kept in custody for his appearance at court the following day.

Antisocial Behaviour

We have carried out high visibility patrols with the aim of reducing disorder and delivering high levels of public reassurance. We have worked with partners to deal with unruly residents and taken proactive measures to combat their behaviour.

We will continue to work in partnership with local housing associations to target those who persistently behave in an antisocial manner. We will make best use of Antisocial Behaviour Orders and the ASB team in our area.

Police are continuing to give attention to areas where youths congregate and we receive complaints about their behaviour. Partners are involved in supporting officers and looking at interventions longer term that can target and deter those involved.

Throughout December there were nine recorded police warnings and one fixed penalty ticket given for anti social behaviour.

During the early hours of 11th January 2017, a 21 year old male was arrested in Croft Road, Hawick for breaching an anti social behaviour order imposed on him. He was detained in custody for court the following day.

Other issues

Rural Crime

A report was received that whin bushes had been deliberately set alight near Upper Tofts Farmhouse. Enquiries identified a suspect for this, however following interview the suspect was released without charge due to insufficient evidence. Enquiries continue into this crime.

Sheep Worrying – Campaign

Monday 13th February 2017 saw the launch of a national campaign highlighting the responsibility dog owners or dog walkers have when taking their dogs into the countryside. A number of partners have come together on this campaign, which is aiming to raising awareness about the devastating effects of livestock worrying.

Police Scotland's advice is that dog owners who live in rural areas or anyone walking and exercising their dogs in the countryside should ensure that their dogs are under

control at all times. They should avoid going into any field where livestock is grazing. This does not just relate to the physical harm a sheep can come to but also the financial cost to the farmer when livestock is killed or injured. This is particularly relevant at this time of year when the fields are full of pregnant ewes.

Farmers and land managers can download signs from the Scottish Outdoor Access Code website to make sure it's clear to dog walkers what areas they should avoid at this time of year. Dog walkers can also find a lot of practical tips on staying safe with their dog at www.JesstheDog.org.uk."

Police Scotland will fully investigate any reports of sheep worrying and charge individuals where there is sufficient evidence to do so.

Your View Counts – Public Consultation

We continue to ask communities to contribute to the Your View Counts consultation. We want to hear from all sections of the community including minority groups and young people (aged 13-16). Your views matter and can shape the future priorities of the police in the area.

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.

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

Should you have any queries regarding the content of this report please feel free to contact me.

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