



Teviot & Liddesdale Area Forum

Tuesday 21st March 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:

- Officers searched a house in Galalaw Road on 8th February 2017. During the search officers recovered class A drugs. The 23 year old male householder was subsequently charged with possession and being concerned in the supply of drugs. He was also charged with contravention of the new air weapon legislation after officers found a gas powered air weapon during the search.
- On 28th February 2017 a 29 year old male was charged with obstruction within Hawick police station after being arrested for separate offences and officers attempted to retrieve drugs from him. Class A drugs were subsequently recovered from his possession and he was charged with this.
- 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, including the new areas that have recently been marked up. 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.

- On 3rd February 2017, a member of the public contacted Police concerned about the actions of a driver in Kenilworth Avenue, Hawick. Officers attended and traced the driver, a 36 year old man. The male was arrested and charged with various driving offences including taking a vehicle without the owners consent and being unfit to drive whilst under the influence of drink or drugs. The male was released from custody and reported to the Procurator Fiscal.
- During late afternoon of 4th February 2017, motorists travelling south on the A7 contacted police regarding the actions of a driver, whom they reported as driving dangerously. Officers traced the vehicle and 36 year old driver in Burnfoot. The male was arrested and charged with driving under the influence of drink or drugs and with dangerous driving. He was kept in custody for his court appearance.
- On 13th February 2017, officers were carrying out a road check in Commercial Road, Hawick when they stopped and checked a vehicle. The driver was found to be driving without an appropriate driving licence or insurance. He was charged accordingly and his vehicle was seized.
- About 2200hrs on 25th February 2017, officers were on patrol when a vehicle exited from the Burnfoot junction on the A7, crossed the carriageway in front of them and narrowly missed the traffic island. Officers followed the vehicle into Guthrie Drive however it failed to stop for them. The car was then found abandoned. Officers were unable to trace the driver at the time but a positive line of enquiry is being progressed and the offender will be charged with a number of road traffic offences.

- A number of road checks were carried out during the month resulting in two fixed penalty tickets being issued for speeding and warnings were administered for the anti social use of a vehicle.

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 February.

- An argument occurred between a number of males whilst they were within the Station Bar, Dovemount Place on 4th February 2017. One male required medical attention to a wound on his forehead. Enquiries are ongoing into this incident.

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. Police and Partners continue to work together in tackling youth issues and look at longer term interventions that can target and deter those involved.

Throughout February there were five recorded police warnings and one fixed penalty ticket given for anti social behaviour. Community officers also issued two dog fouling tickets in the town.

Other issues

Rural Crime

Overnight on 13th/14th February 2017, red diesel was stolen from an old tractor parked at a farm near to Newcastleton. There were no other items stolen and this appears an isolated incident.

Break-Ins to Vehicles

Between the 4th and 9th of February, a number of cars were entered in Hawick and property stolen. Following enquiries a 30 year old male was detected and charged with five offences. After his arrest he was detained in custody for appearance at court.

Hate Crime Awareness Week

Police Scotland will launch the above campaign on 27th March 2017 as tackling hate crime is a key priority for the organization.

Hate crime is an issue that is widely unreported but it is a problem that occurs commonly across all communities. Police Scotland are launching this campaign to encourage reporting by those affected, which will enable us to effectively tackle and reduce the problem.

Hate crime is defined as any crime, which is perceived by the victim or any other person as being motivated by malice or ill will towards a social group. Providing individuals with knowledge on this subject matter will enable people to be able to identify when a hate crime occurs, and how to report this to the police in order for the police to tackle it.

The aim of the campaign is to communicate the impact of hate crime on people's lives and encourage reporting from both victims and bystanders.

All the information relating to the campaign will be on the Police Scotland website following the launch.

Police Scotland 2026 Project – Consultation

Policing 2026 is a collaborative and strategic programme of work established in 2016 by the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) and Police Scotland to establish a strategy for policing in Scotland to meet emerging and projected need over the next decade.

The strategy identifies ways to develop the range of policing services and increase the operational capacity of policing to focus on prevention and protection in the public, private and virtual space.

It sets out how Police Scotland can become a flexible and adaptable workforce to address new and changing demands and to improve outcomes for people, communities and places.

The strategy identifies the huge potential for new technology and new approaches to contribute to improved outcomes but recognises that these are not decisions for policing to take in isolation.

You can read the full 2026 strategy on the Police Scotland website, where you can also access the consultation page and participate in helping the future of the Police Service of Scotland for years to come.

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/policing-2026/>

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 latest update on how the consultation is progressing can be found on the Police Scotland website.

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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