



"Keeping People Safe"

## **Berwickshire Area Locality Committee – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

### **Police Report**

**Inspector John Scott**

**East CPA (East and Mid Berwickshire Multi Member Wards)**

### **Purpose of the Report**

To update the Berwickshire Area Forum on performance, activities and issues across the Ward for the period up to present date.

### **Local Events**

I am pleased to report that the various events across Berwickshire posed little problems throughout the summer months. It is a credit to the organising committees in all of the towns on how well prepared they are and with the ability to work in partnership with the Police and other agencies to deliver safe community based events. All of the main events engage with the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) process, led by Scottish Borders Council.

This was also the case for the Tour Of Britain cycle race that was staged in the area last weekend and again was delivered safely and securely.

### **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

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2. Misuse Of Drugs
3. Rural Thefts
4. Antisocial Behaviour

### **Mid Berwickshire**

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

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

This week the Drivewise Project is being run in partnership with the emergency services, The Institute Of Advanced Motorists, Scottish Borders Council and supported by John Cleland and Volvo UK. All schools across the Borders are sending their young people to get a driving experience at the Charterhall airfield.

In October the Get Ready For Winter road safety campaign will be run and I would encourage all members of the public to take heed of the advice regarding preparing for winter driving. This is especially important to keep your vehicle well maintained to cope with all conditions on rural roads.

There was one drink driving offence detected in the reporting period.

### **Misuse Of Drugs**

Officers are continuing to target drugs offences where we need intelligence to support us in detecting offenders. There were 11 drugs offences detected including 6 for supplying drugs and 1 for producing Cannabis.

This is an increase on previous reporting and I am pleased to see information being reported to the police in respect of suspected Cannabis Farms. We will always follow up on information being passed to us from the communities and ask that people remain alert to premises that might be used for the production of cannabis and if you have concerns or consider the behaviour of people renting a property to be unusual, please don't keep the information to yourself, report it to the police or call anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

### **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**.

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### **Rural Thefts**

There have been a number of rural thefts in Berwickshire in the reporting period. These include properties under renovation or that are isolated and used as holiday homes. We recommend that all possible security measures are undertaken to make it harder for criminals to break into properties. Security advice is available on the Police Scotland website.

Following a number of reported incidents of Hare Coursing in 2016 and 2017, local officers were trained in targeting offenders. This has resulted in a number of detected offences including one man recently sentenced to 80 hours community service, fined £1200 and banned from keeping dogs for a year. Another man from the same group was fined a total of £6320 and disqualified from having custody of dogs for 5 years. These are significant sentences for a crime that was being widely reported by farmers and member of the public. Members of the public are encouraged to continue to report these offences, where possible details of vehicles and descriptions of those present including their dogs will assist in identifying offenders.

### **Other Information**

#### **One Punch**

Police Scotland are presently running the 'One Punch' campaign as part of the Safe Summer – Action Against Violence campaign, aimed to reduce the number of violent incidents and improve the safety and wellbeing of individuals and communities.”

During recent public surveys, violent crime was ranked as a key concern, placing it as one of Police Scotland's top priorities. As such, the One Punch Can Ruin Two Lives campaign has been introduced to raise awareness of the consequences that one punch can have on two people's lives.

“One punch can kill and could result in facing a jail sentence. We want people to enjoy their nights out but at the same time to drink responsibly and consider how much alcohol they are consuming and the effect it has on their decision making and judgement.”

More details are on the Police Scotland website.

#### **Special Constable Recruitment**

In August an information event was held at Eildon Mill, Tweedbank, encouraging members of the public to consider volunteering with the Police as a Special Constable. This was very successful and well attended and is part of long term plan to recruit more Special Constable officers. More information is available on the website along with all of the information you need to apply. We presently have a number of officers volunteering alongside their full time

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colleagues, they are an important and valued support in delivering first class services in the area.

### Student Safety Campaign

As half a million students in Scotland start to settle into University and College life, with thousands leaving home for the first time, they are entering an exciting period of their lives. Police Scotland is delivering vital safety advice to students at Freshers' Weeks around the country as part of the Student Safety Campaign, which is being launched today (5 September 2017).

The campaign provides tips on how to enjoy student life while avoiding potential dangers, and covers advice on home and property security, Online Safety, Party Safety, Identity Safety, Water Safety and Illicit Trade.

Students are encouraged to think about how secure their accommodation is, and giving useful tips on how best to prevent their home being targeted by thieves.

Students are also being reminded to record details of all valuables, such as laptops, phones etc which can be logged into [immobilise.com](http://immobilise.com), so if they do experience a theft and the police recover the items, they can be returned to the owner.

With social media being a large part of a student's life, there's useful advice reminding students that "what goes online stays online" and not to leave themselves open to criminal charges or vulnerable to blackmail.

Sometimes the image of student life is of continuous partying, so guidance is given that when socialising stay safe by sticking with friends, don't leave drinks unattended and always tell friends where you are going if you're leaving with someone else.

[www.scotland.police.uk](http://www.scotland.police.uk)

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