

**Teviot & Liddesdale Area Forum – 15 September 2015**  
**Police Report**

**Inspector Carol Wood**

This report focuses on what work is being undertaken in addressing the ward priorities. The report will also detail what activities are being planning both locally and nationally.

The combined Ward Plan Priorities are:

**Drug Dealing and Misuse**

As reported previously, Police Scotland is undergoing a test phase on a new stop and search database, which went online on 1 June 2015. Validation and testing of the data is still ongoing. Data collected since this began is not available but statistical information will be provided to the local scrutiny board.

- A number of stop/searches were carried out in August. Thirteen individuals have been reported for possession of drugs and another two for the cultivation of drugs.
- As you are aware there was significant police activity following the admission of a number of youths to hospital after they had ingested tablets. Following extensive enquiries a 19 year old male was reported to the Procurator Fiscal for ten charges of supplying prohibited substances, as well being charged with possession of drugs. A number of partnership meetings have been held following these incidents to ensure we are doing all we can to tackle this issue jointly through prevention, education and enforcement.
- Three house searches were carried out under misuse of drugs warrants and drugs were recovered at each of them. Individuals have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal as a result of the recoveries made.

**Road Safety**

- There were 11 road checks carried out in both ward areas during the reporting period.
- Nine conditional offers were issued for speeding offences and one for failing to wear a seatbelt. Two warnings were given for the anti social use of a vehicle.
- As a result of quick actions by officers on patrol and their subsequent tenacity, two local males who had made off from them in a vehicle were

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traced and charged with a number of road traffic offences including dangerous driving, driving whilst disqualified and without insurance.

- Following reports of a vehicle having struck a telegraph pole in Newcastleton, officers attended and traced the driver of this vehicle. He was thereafter charged with driving whilst under the influence of alcohol alongwith other road traffic offences. Thanks go to the resident in Newcastleton who reported this incident to the Police.

### **Violent Crime**

- There was one serious assault reported in August and a 25 year old female has been charged with this offence.
- During the early hours of 30<sup>th</sup> August a male was assaulted and robbed in Howegate, Hawick. Also during this time reports were received of two shops having been broken into. As a result of enquiries, a 20 year old male was charged with all of these offences and two other males were also charged with the assault and robbery. The victim received minor injuries and is making a good recovery.
- Whilst on patrol officers had cause to stop and search an 18 year old male. This male was found in possession of an offensive weapon, namely a knuckleduster. He has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

### **Anti Social Behaviour**

- We continue to monitor closely all anti-social behaviour incidents. We work in partnership with Scottish Borders Council and Registered Social Landlords in dealing with those people who cause a nuisance for their neighbours and in the wider community.
- During August there were five anti social behaviour fixed penalty tickets issued.
- Vandalisms continue to cause problems in various parts of the town and over two nights in August a total of 14 vehicles were damaged in the Stirches and Burnfoot areas. This mindless, wanton damage causes distress for complainers as well as the cost incurred. If anyone has information that could assist with enquiries into these or any other incidents, please direct them to Crimestoppers or call the 101 numbers.
- Numerous 999 calls were received from the public during the early hours of 4<sup>th</sup> August, reporting a group of youths behaving in a disorderly manner along High Street, Hawick. They had smashed windows, damaged vehicles and destroyed one of the flowerbeds. These youths were traced and following enquiries, two males aged 16 and 19 were charged with a total of seven vandalisms as well as other offences.

### **Initiatives/Planned Activity**

During August a parking initiative was carried out in Hawick and Denholm. As a result 31 parking tickets were issued. Officers will continue to address this when other duties allow.

As the darker nights are approaching, there will be an increase of patrols by the community officers in an effort to deter and prevent incidents of youth calls, which can be prevalent at this time of year.

### **Farm/Rural Crime Prevention**

Our Safer Communities Dept based within SBC has secured funding to purchase forensic marking kits. These will be distributed in the main to farms throughout the

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Borders and assistance will be given to farmers in utilising these kits to mark their property. Scottish Fire & Rescue Service community officers will work alongside our own community officers to carry this out. The opportunity will also be taken to give prevention and fire safety advice during these visits.

### **National Hate Campaign**

Police Scotland continues to promote the National Hate crime campaign, which is in it's final week. The purpose of this was to raise awareness on what hate crime is, how it affects victims, families and communities and included information on the methods available for reporting such instances/crimes. The campaign has been advertised on various social media platforms and a series of posters have been circulated in the local communities.

### **Student Safety**

This year's campaign launched on 31 August 2015. More information is available on the Police Scotland website with links to information on how students can keep themselves safe. Social media sites have used to full advantage and have included a film and interactive quiz. Police Scotland also launched the messaging system Instagram with this campaign.

### **Policing Plans**

Your 2015-2016 Multi Member Ward plans can be found on the Police Scotland website and can be accessed via the following links:

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/your-community/the-lothians-and-scottish-borders/scottish-borders/hawick-and-denholm/>

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/your-community/the-lothians-and-scottish-borders/scottish-borders/hawick-and-hermitage/>

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

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