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**December**  
**2023**

Dear All

After an exceptionally busy six months I can finally take time to do an end of year report. I have had to give priority to matters that are pressing over the last six month, I am very grateful to everyone for keeping in touch with me to help address matters important to our communities.

### Walk in Surgery.

My next open surgery will be held in Auchencrow on 18<sup>th</sup> December 10am -12pm at the Craw inn.

My January open surgery will be held in Eyemouth on 15<sup>th</sup> 10am-12pm in the Pods on Eyemouth Harbor pavilion. These are all walk in Surgeries so please feel free to come along.

### 16 Days of Action

I was happy to join Eyemouth Harbour Trust, St Abbs Lifeboat, Eyemouth United Amateurs, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Community Firefighter, Eyemouth Parish Church Eyemouth High School The Rotary Club of Eyemouth & District , Independent in supporting #16DaysOfAction 'Tackling Violence against Women and Girls' at EHS Christmas Showcase.



### Community champion

I attended Berwickshire Club Sport awards 2023, There was a fantastic show of local talent and sportsmanship as clubs from across Berwickshire received acknowledgement of their fantastic achievements. Winning the Special Achievement Award, Jock Shiells from the Eyemouth and District Rehab Support Group.

In April 2004, Jock was diagnosed with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). When Jock was diagnosed with a chronic lung condition, he was shocked to discover there was no support available for him apart from some basic rehabilitation.

Determined to improve his health, Jock decided he would try to set up a rehabilitation group which would offer exercises as well as social interaction. In 2013 Jock introduced the Eyemouth & District Rehab support group to the Scottish Borders and it ran from Eyemouth Leisure Centre. Several years on, the rehab group has become such a success that it is now one of the biggest of its kind in Scotland with GP's referring new members on a regular basis. From its inception in 2013, with an initial membership of 6 people – all of whom, like Jock has COPD the group has expanded to include members with Parkinson's, Cerebral Palsy, spinal injuries, and other disability conditions.

The group now has now over 90 members aged from 40 upwards and there are referrals from Borders General Hospital, Eyemouth Health Centre and Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland.

Unfortunately, Jock was unable to attend the awards, however, his friend Arlene Rawlins received the trophy on his behalf. Well done Jock for all your hard work – changing many people's lives for the better!

### A flag for Berwickshire

The new Berwickshire Flag has been announced, after many years and attempts Berwickshire finally has its own flag. Well done to all involved in making this happen.



### Recognition

Saltgreens in Eyemouth has been recognized by Keep Scotland Beautiful for its ever improving living areas. This time outdoors was looked at in details with KSB coming along to look at what has been happening to improve the lives of the people living and working in Saltgreens. They received a level two award showing the improvements and acknowledging the community work in around the home.





**Eyemouth High School Showcase 2023** was a fantastic evening full of local groups and organizations. I attended with Eyemouth Enhancement group setting up a wellbeing stall showcasing baby tortoise. The enhancement group visit Schools and nursing homes with the Tortoise. The showcase really showed all the great things happening in the School including Christmas cakes pictured above.

### **Big Community clean up.**

The 2023 Big Community clean up saw a good turn out on a cold and wet morning. Across Berwickshire 100s of people took part in litter picking, river cleaning. A few wee rewards after facing the cold with coffee and rocky road at the Tavern. A really good community effort and a nice way to meet new faces.



### Community recognition

This year has been a good year for Eyemouth, Gaining awards on a local government and national level. I have been proud to be part of the work behind the scenes, supporting community groups and trying my best to bring everyone together.



### Attendance record for formal meetings.

Up to June 2023

Attendance statistics for Councillor James Anderson

Statistic	Count	Percentage
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Total expected attendances:	16	
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Present as expected:	16	100%
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Absent (incl. apologies):	0	0%
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June 23 – December 23

Attendance statistics for Councillor James Anderson

Statistic	Count	Percentage
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Total expected attendances:	15	
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Present as expected:	13	87%
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Apologies received:	2	100% of absences
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Absent (incl. apologies):	2	13%
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Overall attendance rate since being elected **96.2%**

The Two absences were recorded due to the Migraine I suffer at times. .

### Community council meeting attendance

All CCs have been attended when not conflicting with other meetings. Coldingham CC has a new full CC with ten members. Reston and Witsome/Allanton conflict each month so I try to catch up with everyone as much as possible.

Ayton after a long absence has a full CC with 12 members. Other CCs are running well. A huge thankyou to all CCs for working with me over the last year, there have been many issues to resolve from battery storage planning issues to lost toilets.

Working with CCs has helped to identify new ways to find support for our communities by bringing motions to council. Examples as follows.

### Supporting our bus service with Motion to Council.

Bus Motion October 2023

Members agree:

The Leader of Scottish Borders Council, Cllr Euan Jardin Write to the Scottish Government requesting a review of Free bus travel reimbursement, specifically the following:

The National Bus Travel Concession Scheme for Young Persons (Scotland) Order 2021 (legislation.gov.uk) & Notes: Under 22 concessionary card scheme has two reimbursement rates 43.6% for under 16s and 81.2% for over 16s.

The National Bus Travel Concession Scheme for Older and Disabled Persons (Scotland) Order 2006 (legislation.gov.uk)

& Notes: Currently the reimbursement rate is £55.0% per fair which is significantly low adding immense pressure to services.

Council agrees:

To use as an example, SBC reimbursement from Transport Scotland on £1787.55 of bus pass fares was £974.65, a reduction of £812.90 on the original fare.

Rural areas such as the Scottish Borders are disproportionately affected with no busy city bus services to support them.

Council agrees:

The Scottish government has fallen short in its legislation, adding to disproportionate pressures on Scottish Borders Council and commercial Bus services.

The legislation states the following:

Reimbursement of operators

12.—(1) It is to be an objective (but not a duty) of the Scottish Ministers to provide that operators are financially no better and no worse off as a result of their participation in the Scheme, taking account of the costs (including a reasonable profit) of a well-run undertaking that is adequately equipped with the means to provide the eligible service.

Foreword,

The community of Eyemouth while getting to grips with the permanent closure of the toilets in Eyemouth have a very agreeable proposal. To open one accessible toilet in the FMA car park toilet block for a period of six months, supported by SBC. This enables the community to have time to adapt and agree a way forward with potential community asset transfer or whatever may happen going forward.

If ever there was an opportunity to utilise the covid recover fund I feel this would be it. Toilets closed over covid lock downs being reopened for six months, utilising the recover fund to allow the community an opportunity to look forward. While ensuring a busy summer season has the right facilities in the right place.

### **Supporting reopening of public toilets**

Motion to council June 2023

Council agrees to utilise the Covid recover fund to enable the opening of the accessible Eyemouth public toilets, located at the FMA car park.

The fund should cover six months cleaning as well as six months stock of cleaner, toilet rolls and staffing costs. This period will allow joint working with the community to ensure Eyemouth has the appropriate opportunity to address the permanent loss of the toilets.

### **Fighting against bank closures and the cashless society any way possible.**

Motion to council

Council Agrees that the leader Euan Jadine write to The Scottish Government & UK Government, demanding action against the closure of banks in the Scottish Borders.



Request Governments open an enquiry into Banks claims that customers are moving to online banking willingly.

Request government open an enquiry into lack of consultation on bank closures with customers.

Request Governments open an Enquiry into the lack of consultation with the public, over the introduction of Central bank digital currencies (CBDC) and the cashless society that awaits the public.

### **BERWICKSHIRE AREA PARTNERSHIP**

Thanks to all who attended the BAP meetings over the last year. It has been great to have agendas set by the public and to welcome some great guests like Berwickshire Swap as well as support by local businesses like Giacopazzis. Unfortunately, the December meeting was canceled due to bad weather. The Area Partnership meetings change town and location each quarter to ensure we reach as many communities in Berwickshire as possible.



Eyemouth Community center was a full house in the summer.

### **GRIT BINS**

If you have a grit bin that is running low get in touch ASAP and SBC staff will refill it. Staff are working hard to ensure Bins are full however it really helps when people get in touch before the bins are empty so they can be refilled ASAP.

### **POTHLES**

When driving around the area I continually look for pot holes to report. However I do need help and we must help each other to fight the pot hole problems by reporting them. The pot holes that will develop over the winter can and will be filled if they are reported. Please report the pot holes in a way that the area can be identified for staff to attend.

### **A special mention.**



A special mention to the lads who do the dirty jobs nobody else wants to do. Its really important for me to ensure the staff who are out in all weathers are given the credit they are due! From cleaning up human waste to cutting grass, neighborhood services have a vast number of jobs. None of the communities in Berwickshire could manage to achieve everything they have this year without a bit of support form some of these people. So thankyou very much!

### Employability Champion role.

Taking on a new role that didn't have a brief was difficult. The most important thing was to have a full understanding of the issues presenting to people. I am really pleased after 6 months working with a young person supported by the SBC employability services and seeing that person not just join in with volunteering, but work hard to create new opportunities for themselves. Seeing how the SBC service works first hand was for me the only way forward. Supporting apprentices learning new skills while watching them win awards and recognition for their efforts was a joy. I look forward to 2024 to put the new learning I have to good use when looking at policy on a local government level.



KSB awards with Dr Lymer, Lucy Anderson from Eymouth Enhancement group and Kenzie one of the 2023 employability students.

### Community Voice

This year has been a really positive one for giving a voice to our communities. An example of this is Billy Grant below. Billy sat down with ITV to give his views on parking issues to push for a way to resolve the road safety issues on Harbour road Eyemouth. The community also have a parking and road safety group working with SBC, police, D R Collin, Harbour users group and Eyemouth Harbour Trust. New plans are being looked at to address safety during busy summer months.



#### **Police, fire, rescue and safer communities.**

This committee is streamed online with elected members from across the Borders being briefed by Police, Fire services, Local Housing association reps, with a safer communities reps from SBC giving full reports. These meetings are instrumental in giving Elected members the information needed to do their job in the area they represent. The figures and statistics given give an excellent overview of the work being done by the emergency services.



## **MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPY NEW YEAR**

Wishing everyone a merry Christmas and a happy new year for 2024. I look forward to another year working with all the communities I am lucky enough to represent.



## **Police report**

Thanks to Alison Granger for her regular updates and to officers for coming along to the Area partnership meetings as well as CCs when possible.

Scottish Borders Area Command

The Lothians and Scottish Borders

East Berwickshire Community Councils

Multi Member Ward Report for November 2023 (up to 30/11)

The information provided within this report, is predominately based on the East Berwickshire Multi Member Ward Policing Plan and the areas you have identified as priorities.

The data provided in this report is for information purposes only and is not official crime statistics. Due to delayed reporting or

recording of crimes, incidents or road accidents and the management of crime enquiries, there is likely to be differences between the

information in this report and the final Police Scotland statistics. It would not be appropriate to refer to, quote or use any data in this

report as official statistics.

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Community Update – East Berwickshire – PS Ali Granger

As mentioned in October's MMWR, Chief Inspector Stuart Fletcher is now in post as the Local Area Commander. He has made the following comments to local press -

"I am delighted to have the opportunity to work in the Scottish Borders again as your Local Area Commander and to put my years of policing experience to use in delivering a high quality of service. I know that the Borders is made up of many unique, and proud, communities and I want to be as visible as I possibly can, both to my colleagues, partners and local people. We know that Police Scotland faces significant financial pressures at this time, but I am committed to working to ensure a policing response to issues that is both proportionate and appropriate, whilst working collaboratively to ensure our resources are deployed to the greatest benefit of the communities that we serve" – CI

Stuart Fletcher – Local Area Commander, Scottish Borders

All officers have been involved in White Ribbon Campaign – 16 days of action against gender based violence. It started on 25th November 2023, which is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and concluded on December 10th 2023 which is International Human Rights Day. During this period we were holding stalls offering domestic abuse advice and raising awareness in various locations across the Scottish Borders.

Local community officer PC Jacobs and School Link Officer PC Cameron worked hard with our colleagues in Scottish Fire and Rescue Service on delivering messages to the local community regarding Bonfire and Fireworks safety in the days leading up to 5th November. This prevention work meant there was a very low level of antisocial behaviour related calls in the community on Bonfire night. Officers were also busy policing the many Remembrance Day Services in towns across the Scottish Borders.

Berwickshire community officers work closely with PC Cameron to engage with young people across the community and from all age groups.

PC's Jacobs and MacLeod visiting Seashells nursery earlier this month

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The below link gives access to the latest Police document for the Scrutiny Panel for the Police, Fire and Rescue and Safer Communities Board, which sits every quarter at Scottish Borders Council.

<https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s75749/Item%20No.%205%20a%20-%20Scottish%20Borders%20Q4%20CI.pdf>

Once you click into this link, please scroll down to read the full report. It provides progress and updates on service matters from Police Scotland as presented by the Local Area Commander CI Vinnie Fisher.

Local Policing Priorities

1. Protecting most vulnerable
2. Reducing violence and Anti-Social Behaviour
3. Reducing acquisitive crime
4. Improving road safety
5. Tackling serious and organised crime

Protecting most vulnerable

In November 2023 Police in the Scottish Borders attended and were involved with around 196 mental health related calls, around 25 missing person enquiries and approximately 78 domestic related incidents.

East Berwickshire had 15 mental health related calls and 1 missing person enquiries. Due to GDPR and protection of victims/subjects involved, we are unable to share any more specific information in relation to these type of call within this report.

Police Scotland work in collaboration with key partners to assist the most vulnerable within the communities and to provide support.

Reducing Violence and Anti-Social Behaviour

Assaults

On 02/11/23 report of two youths being assaulted on Northburn Road, Eyemouth. One youth cautioned and charged in presence of parent. School Link Officer made aware.

On 28/11/23 report of a female being assaulted at Lamberton. One female traced and issued with a Recorded Police Warning.

Anti-Social Behaviour

On 03/11/23 report of male causing a disturbance within The Tavern Public House, Eyemouth. Officers attended and male removed, no criminality and relevant paperwork submitted.

On 04/11/23 report of disturbance in Coldingham Road, Eyemouth. No criminality involved, relevant paperwork submitted.

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On 10/11/23 report of male causing disturbance in Hurkur Crescent, Eyemouth. Area searched no trace of male in area. Advice given to complainer.

On 10/11/23 report of verbal abuse in Lamberton. Advice given.

On 15/11/23 report of a disturbance within a property in Upper Burnmouth. One male arrested and taken to Hawick Police Station. Male issued with a recorded police warning for threatening and abusive behaviour.

On 20/11/23 report of male having a verbal altercation in High Street, Eyemouth. One male issued with a Recorded Police Warning.

Vandalism

On 17/11/23 report of window being smashed at the Masonic Lodge, Masons Wynd, Eyemouth. Enquiries ongoing.

On 19/11/23 report of the glass canopy of a pick-up truck at Acredale Industrial Estate having been smashed. Enquiries ongoing.

On 26/11/23 report unknown persons having spray painted graffiti on the wall of the café at Grantshouse. Enquiries ongoing.

Reducing Acquisitive Crime

Theft by Housebreaking

On 05/11/23 report of male having entered property in Haymons Cove, Eyemouth and stealing from within. Male charged and relevant paperwork submitted

On 05/11/23 a report was received of a caravan being broken into and the window being damaged on Queens Road, Eyemouth. One male was traced within caravan. Male arrested and caution and charged for theft and vandalism to caravan and theft in Haymons Cove earlier that morning.

Appeared at court from custody.

Theft

On 06/11/23 report of theft of wheelbarrow on footpath opposite Netherbyres Lodge, Eyemouth. Enquiries ongoing.

On 25/11/23 report of theft of CCTV camera from a property in Hurkur Crescent, Eyemouth. Enquiries ongoing.

Improving Road Safety

On 13/11/2023 - a driver was issued a fine for driving with no MOT in Reston.

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On 25/11/2023 - a driver was issued a fine and penalty points for tyre – ply/cord exposed at Grantshouse.

On 26/11/2023 - a driver was issued a fine for driving with no MOT at Eyemouth.

Killed or Seriously Injured

No accidents where persons were killed or seriously injured.

Tackling Serious and Organised Crime

Serious and organised crime enforcement – November 2023

The Scottish Borders CID Proactive Unit executed 7 Drug Warrants across the command area during November, four were positive and 8 persons were charged with drug related offences. This included another large / industrial scale Cannabis cultivation which had a potential street value of £1,250,000 which was well publicised in local and national media.

They have also been liaising with a number of forces in England in relation to further criminality involving county lines nominals and rural acquisitive crime, particularly in the Eastern are of the Scottish Borders. Inquiries here are ongoing.

Five warrants were also executed in conjunction with other departments in relation to stolen property searches across the Scottish Borders.

They would also like to highlight that the local communities across the Borders may have information which they deem insignificant in relation to people being seen at disused large premises over a period of time. Any suspicious activity will be followed up by this team but it is important that the public know they can report such matters in person at any Police Station, by use of 101 or anonymously via the Crime Stoppers charity.

A number of business cards explaining the benefits of and reassuring any caller to Crime Stoppers have been produced and can be circulated amongst the Wards should this be deemed useful.

Campaigns

Scams

Victims of Phone / Internet / Doorstep Scams continue to be provided with an incident follow-up information pack containing advice intended to prevent repeat victimisation. This pack now includes a copy of the latest “Little Book of Big Scams” which covers a huge variety of common scams. Little Book of Big Scams – Cyber Scotland

As Christmas approaches, details are being distributed to retailers to make them and customers aware of Gift card scam. Fraudsters target the vulnerable and elderly who are induced to buy gift cards with the promise that they will receive a prize or a cash sum.

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After Dark

Although housebreaking can occur at any time of year criminals will often take advantage of darker



nights and shorter daylight hours. A Social Media campaign has highlighted the need for householders to keep their windows and doors locked, consider the fitting of intruder alarms, CCTV and outside security lighting, record and security mark valuable property, secure car keys out of sight and the use of Faraday pouches for keyless car entry systems.

#### Keep Safe Initiative

Primarily aimed at disabled members of the community helping to tackle disability hate crime, Keep Safe is a national network of over 800 safe places (including shops, libraries, pubs etc.) for anyone who may feel lost, scared or vulnerable when out in the community. About Keep Safe ([iammescotland.co.uk](http://iammescotland.co.uk))

All Scottish Borders Co-ops have signed up to the scheme with staff training, business packs and store signage being provided.

#### No Cold Calling Zones

□ Any community organisation interested in setting up a new zone or wishing to refresh an existing zone (those with the old Lothian and Borders Police signs) or should contact their local community policing team <https://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/contact/>

#### Rural Crime

□ Scottish Borders Partnership against Rural Crime (SBPARC) exhibited at the Border Union Show and the Ram Sales highlighting the latest rural crime prevention advice. The partnership continues to meet regularly to address local priority rural crime throughout the year.

We continue to provide security, crime prevention and livestock worrying advice to farmers and rural business. This can be requested by Farmers / Rural businesses using the Contact Us Form on the Police Scotland Website.

#### Domestic Abuse

Community Officers have been conducting pop up events raising awareness in Domestic Abuse and promoting the #DontBeThatGuy and White Ribbon Scotland Campaigns.

#### CAT Update:

During the past month SBCAT officers carried out High Visibility foot patrols and worked alongside other community agencies at various locations throughout the Scottish Borders during the three days around bonfire night

**ROAD SAFETY** – SBCAT have continued carrying out road checks in numerous locations in the Scottish Borders and have issued 8 traffic tickets for various offences throughout the month.

Following concerns regarding antisocial driving at Tesco, Galashiels, regular checks were carried out during the month in line with direct CAT taskings, 1 driver was charged for no insurance and his vehicle was seized.

**PARKING TICKETS** – Officers have been carrying out high visibility patrols in Peebles, Kelso, Eyemouth, Duns, Selkirk, Galashiels, and Hawick, and addressing parking concerns there. Advice has been given to drivers and 119 tickets have been issued.

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Passing attention was given to Traquair Road, Innerleithen (no issues) The War Memorial in Coldstream (no issues) Galashiels Town Centre and Bridge Street in Kelso were also regularly checked by officers, which was also carried out as a result of requests made at the previous meeting.

**RURAL ACQUISITIVE CRIME** – We continue to carry out static road checks in rural areas at all times of day to deter and detect rural acquisitive crime. 57 static checks were carried out throughout the Scottish Borders in November.

Regular patrols have been carried out at Monynut with nothing to report.

During the month, SBCAT officers took part in Operation Checkpoint alongside neighbouring forces. As a result of this, a number of traffic offences were detected and tickets issued.

**ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR** – High visibility patrols have continued in targeted areas of the Scottish Borders to address concerns highlighted at these locations.

4 youth warning letters were issued during the month of November in relation to youths entering and causing bother at the Cinema in Galashiels.

**PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE** – Part of the SBCAT role is to trace persons wanted on warrant/missing person/and bail curfew checks. SBCAT have carried out regular checks on multiple individuals who are wanted on warrant. During the past month there has been two high priority warrant executed. Both males subsequently appeared at court on these matters.

On the 28th November SBCAT officers took part in Border Rape Crisis Reclaim the Night March in

Galashiels and worked alongside partner agencies providing advice and support for interested parties.

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT** – SBCAT officers have taken part in two drugs search warrants in the Scottish Borders.

One in Galashiels, unfortunately the search was negative, however disruption to the supply chain continues.

A second warrant was executed at an apparently disused mill on Dunsdale Road, Selkirk. Owing to the dilapidated state of the building, the clearing took longer than usual, with officers having to do locus protection for a number of days. Eventually following an in depth structural survey, limited amounts of officers were able to enter the building and dismantle the set up. There were approximately 1400 plants with a street value of over one million pounds.

Feedback from a meeting/contacting your Community Policing Team

Anyone with information relating to any criminal activity can contact Police Scotland by dialling 101 or alternatively anonymously by calling CRIMESTOPPERS on 0800 555111.

Should the Community Council wish to discuss any matters highlighted in the report, please contact: [EastBerwickshireCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:EastBerwickshireCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

We will endeavour to provide you with this information, however some information is sensitive and as an organisation we have to ensure compliance with GDPR