

A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News

Lothian and Borders
POLICE



ISSUE 26 OCTOBER 06

'Working in Partnership for a Safer City'

Safer Scotland Update

CITY
MID

Police officers working across the City centre have confiscated 173 litres of alcohol from young people during a month long initiative. Activities focused on the acquisition and misuse of alcohol by young people and the associated violence and antisocial behaviour that adversely impacts on our communities.

The initiative included the monitoring of public transport networks, the use of metal detectors to locate knives or offensive weapons and 168 visits to off sales premises. Innovative 'Alco-dip' test kits also allowed police officers to test liquids in soft drink containers for the presence of alcohol.

The initiative is part of the ongoing Safer Scotland Anti Violence Campaign.

Chief Superintendent Allan Shanks, Divisional Commander

Antisocial Behaviour – Bonfires & Fireworks

FOUR
SCOTLAND

If you choose to have fireworks at home, rather than attend an organised event

- Tell neighbours, particularly if they are elderly or have children or pets
- Ensure pets and other animals are safely away from fireworks
- Consider Friday or Saturday as preferable nights for firework celebrations
- Avoid letting off fireworks in unsuitable weather, particularly if the conditions are still and misty or air quality is poor
- Let off your fireworks in an open garden space, as noise bounces off buildings and smoke and pollution can build up in enclosed areas
- If a neighbour complains that you are disturbing them or their pets – be considerate
- After your display, clear up firework fallout and dispose of it safely

In addition, remember the **Fireworks Regulations 2004** creates offences for

- anyone under 18 years to possess fireworks in public
- the use of fireworks at night between 11pm and 7am*

**Between midnight and 7am on the 5th November, Chinese New Year, Diwali and New Year's Eve*

Ward 55 – Moredun

Ward 55 - Moredun

Welcome to the local section of the Neighbourhood Newsletter for your ward. In September 2006, there were 59 crimes / offences recorded within our area.

HOUSEBREAKING

There have been no reported incidents of domestic housebreaking within our sector this month. Despite this, I would encourage you all to be vigilant and ensure the security of your home whenever it is left unattended.

Following on from last months Newsletter, I can reveal that the person responsible for the break-ins to the two flats in Gilmerton Road has been identified and a report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal in due course.

AUTOCRIME

September has seen ten incidents of Autocrime reported to us, from various locations within our sector. One incident of note occurred in Ferniehill where the doors of two vehicles were pulled back and access gained, fortunately the person responsible was unable to hot wire the vehicles concerned.

Our initiative team continue to concentrate much of their efforts in targeting car thieves active within the Southside. In the last month two individuals from the Ferniehill area have been charged, having been caught in the act of breaking into a vehicle in Fernieside Avenue.

The detention of these individuals was as a direct result of a phone call from a local resident that was unhappy with their behaviour in the vicinity of his home. Acting on this, he phoned us and officers were able to attend and trace the culprits nearby.

VANDALISM

During the month of September there were 23 reported incidents of vandalism within our sector. The majority of these incidents involved damage being caused to parked and unattended motor vehicles.

Now that the nights are closing in and with the imminent arrival of Halloween and Guy Fawkes night. I believe it would be a good time to avail you of current legislation as regards the possession of Fireworks and the offences connected to it. Hopefully this will assist you nearer the time and guide you when the children are demanding you purchase some of the products on offer.

Firework legislation Did you know the Law has changed?

New legislation has been introduced to help make fireworks safer to use and to tackle their deliberate misuse. It means that fireworks will be safer, less noisy and can only be let off at certain times. As a consumer, you along with retailers, have new responsibilities.

- You can't set off fireworks between 11pm and 7am except on November 5 when you can set them off until midnight and New Year's Eve, Chinese New Year and Diwali when they can be set off until 1am
- You must be over 18 to buy fireworks
- It is illegal for anyone under 18 to possess fireworks in public
- It is an offence to throw or set off fireworks in a street or public place.
- It is an offence for people who aren't firework professionals to buy and possess category 4 fireworks. These are only to be used at public displays by firework professionals.

YOUR COMMUNITY BEAT OFFICERS

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Standing Up to Antisocial Behaviour

Tackling antisocial behaviour isn't just about getting tough – it's also about working together to stand up to antisocial behaviour. It's about using the right intervention at the right time.

Local authorities and the police have gained additional powers to tackle antisocial behaviour. Now action can and is being taken.

Communities need to understand that they are not helpless and antisocial behaviour need not be tolerated. Everyone has a right to feel safe in their community. It's unacceptable for people to be afraid to leave their homes, to use public spaces or go about their day to day business.

Browse this website for more information [about the Act](#) as well as details on [how to get help in your local area](#)
PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN

Helping you use the new Antisocial Behaviour laws to stand up to nuisance neighbours and vandals.



[Download the Leaflet](#)

PDF 286KB (opens in new window)

Contact Numbers

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COMMUNITY SAFETY DEPARTMENT

0131-221-2050 / 2100

And Finally....

VICTIM SUPPORT

If you or someone you know has been a victim of crime, the above can help by supplying a free, independent and confidential service. They can help with emotional support, practical help, support in court, help with compensation and forward information about the criminal justice system .

They can be contacted on

0131.668.2556

