



Local Police Report

Portobello Community Council

29th May 2017

(Non Restricted)

Constable Matt McPherson E0002 and Constable David Love E5977

Manchester Attack

Last week's events in Manchester were a tragic reminder of the constant threat we face across the United Kingdom and in many other parts of the world. As police officers, our thoughts are with the victims and their families, especially our colleague Elaine McIver of Greater Manchester Police.

As you will in no doubt be aware, these events led to the United Kingdom's government, on recommendation from the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre, raising the threat level from international terrorism from severe to critical. Thereafter, this threat level was reduced back to severe, and as of Monday 29th May 2017, Police Scotland has been working operationally as it was before the incident.

We wanted to highlight the above within our report for the attention of the community for two key reasons:

- i) Firstly, to provide reassurance to the community that policing will continue as it was before the incident; and
- ii) Secondly, to encourage the local community to remain vigilant at all times.

Further information can be found on the Police Scotland website www.scotland.police.uk.

For all non-urgent matters, you can contact the UK Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789 321.

Local Priorities

The priorities affecting the community of Portobello, in line with the 'Multi-Member Ward Plan' are:

- Anti-social behaviour
- Housebreaking and other thefts
- Drug dealing and substance misuse
- Assault and violent crime

Full details regarding the above can be found on the Police Scotland website in the 'Your Community' section.

Local Updates, Events and Initiatives

House Breakings and Pedal Cycle Thefts

- Police Scotland has received 18 reports of stolen pedal cycles since 1st February 2017, which is a sharp and notable increase
- Housebreakings over the Christmas 2016 period were almost identical to the equivalent period of 2017. However, throughout 2017 housebreakings to sheds and outhouses are up on what they were last year. Housebreakings to business premises have also seen an increase, but overall, housebreakings have seen a 17% reduction to last year
- 10 people have been cautioned and charged for housebreakings within our local area, and 2 of them have since been remanded, meaning that the community is safer
- Around four people have been charged in relation to pedal cycle thefts, and four further suspects have been identified. The majority of people involved in these incidents are children under the age of 16 and those known to police have been reported to the City of Edinburgh Council's social services and education departments
- PC McPherson and PC Love have conducted door-to-door enquiries within targeted areas, offering advice and information. A decoy pedal cycle operation is currently being planned, and marking events have been held locally. We have also used social media to spread as much advice as possible
- Operation Monarda has been running over the past week, with PC Love hosting a series of events at community and business premises in order to provide advice and assurance regarding doorstep crime. Over the past month, we have been conducting enquiries into several theft slip-ins targeting vulnerable persons, and attended to calls in which young persons had travelled from England to sell household items door-to-door

Organised Crime

- PC McPherson and PC Love have directly assisted with the execution of three warrants within the community, involving the recovery of large amounts of drugs, stolen property and counterfeit goods

Antisocial Behaviour

- Portobello continues to enjoy very low levels of complaints regarding alcohol-related antisocial behaviour. This relates to both adults and underage drinking
- One serious incident that occurred at Croleys Bar, Kings Place, has resulted in an increase of inspections conducted by PC McPherson in which staff have been engaging positively with police
- PC McPherson and PC Love caught one juvenile having made off from a vehicle accident involving a stolen motorcycle. He has been cautioned and charged with numerous offences and reported to the City of Edinburgh Council

- Following close partnership working with the Council's housing officers, one male has been evicted after causing numerous problems within Portobello High Street. We continue to assist the Council and relevant housing associations in carrying out joint visits and the issuing of warnings to properties that cause concern to the community
- The 20 mph speed limit along Joppa Road and the High Street has been enforced by speed gun by PC Love and PC McPherson, and we have attended on numerous occasions to the promenade to advise road cyclists to watch their speed as they pass the shops and beach
- Park Avenue, by the new Portobello High School, has been the subject of numerous and repeated high visibility patrols. This has resulted in PC McPherson and PC Love charging several young people for offences including culpable and reckless conduct, and working closely with the school link officer PC Ferry and school staff. This has resulted in several other children being excluded

Caravans on Kings Place

- Having been made aware of the growing number of caravans on Kings Place over the past two months we have kept a close eye on developments
- Joint patrols have been conducted with the Council's environmental wardens, and meetings have been held between ourselves, Police Scotland's specialist travelling liaison officers, and the Council's roads department. A range of legal options are currently being explored by the Council's legal department
- All caravans at this location have been issued with a 15 day notice to leave the area
- There have been no complaints to police regarding antisocial behaviour from these caravans, and numerous patrols have not found evidence of environmental or health hazards as a result of these caravans

Contact Us

As your new local beat officers, David and Matt are very happy to be contacted by the local community should you wish to seek advice, step-up police presence within a specific area or if you would like them to attend at a local event. Feel free to email them, telephone them on 101 or attend at their surgery.

The 101 telephone system continues to be the key facility for contacting police at any time other than in an emergency. The system charges a flat rate of 15p to help cover its cost, and allows any person to report an historic crime, speak to an officer or request updates for an ongoing enquiry. This line is available all day every day, and has alleviated pressure on the 999 system which continues to be used for emergencies. Should you wish to contact Police Scotland from out-with Scotland please telephone 01786289070.

CrimeStoppers allows members of the public to anonymously report crime or provide the authorities with intelligence. They can be telephoned on 0800555111 and are independent of Police Scotland.

The Police Scotland website continues to provide: updates on policing news, events, initiatives and local safety advice. It also contains the ability to contact the police about any non-urgent matter, whether it be a compliment or complaint, at the address www.scotland.police.uk/contact-us/contact-us-form.

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