

A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News



ISSUE 66 –February 2010

'Work With Us'

Divisional Commanders Message

This month sees 'A' Division preparing to implement increased community policing efforts in the South and East of the city.

As you will be aware, there are currently Community Beat Officers dedicated to particular beats within the city. In line with our increased focus on community engagement, Safer Neighbourhood Teams will be formed on the 1st March at Howdenhall, St Leonard's, Portobello, and Craigmillar police stations. These teams will combine the existing Community Beat officers, Neighbourhood Action Unit officers and officers funded by the Scottish Government to form a team dedicated to serving each Ward area in partnership with officers from the City of Edinburgh Council. Our officers will be spending even more time out in the community, gathering local concerns and setting local priorities based on both information from the public and various outstanding community issues. Safer

Neighbourhood Teams and Community Safety teams will deal with these as a priority over an agreed period of time. An important aspect of this work is reporting back successes to communities and we will do that through a variety of different means, including the community newsletter. Our evolution of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams is a long term process that is designed to empower communities to make changes to their local areas and improve quality of life.

While the initial stages of the project will only be in the South and East of the city, we aim to roll the Safer Neighbourhood Teams out across the city in the coming months.

Chief Supt Gill Imery, A Division Commander

CITY
WIDE



HOT
TOPICS

Housebreaking – Don't Become A Victim

Before leaving your home make sure all windows are properly secured and importantly any window locks fitted are used. Good window locks prevent the window from being opened and would require the housebreaker to remove all glass before they would consider climbing through for fear of cutting themselves. Almost every housebreaker is a repeat offender whose DNA is held by the Police and the tiniest blood trace left behind will lead us directly to them. As a result most will not consider climbing through a broken window. Ensure that you don't leave the window lock key where it can be easily reached by the housebreaker or they will simply reach the key through the broken window and use it to open the window frame to gain access.

Do not leave tilt & turn or hopper windows slightly open, even if you lock them, as it is much easier to lever them open.

Top Tips:

Don't leave valuables like a laptop or a purse where they can be viewed through a window. They may tempt a break in.

Valuables left near windows are a smash and grab risk.

Be aware of the real risk of someone "fishing" valuables like car keys, purses or handbags through a letterbox or window using for example a long garden cane.

Don't leave keys in locks.

By taking these simple steps you can greatly reduce your risk of having your house broken into

Local News

Reported Crime in the Watch Area must have fallen to the **lowest** rate ever, with only **5** crimes reported over the preceding month with **2** of those being solved! I would like to hope that this trend continues, however, considering the spate of really bad weather recently – even those intent on committing crime must have gone into hibernation!! On a serious note though, this just goes to reinforce the Divisional Commanders message that Edinburgh really is a safe place to live, work and visit.

Of the crimes that were reported – a window was broken by unknown persons in Templeland Road. A shed was entered in Riversdale Crescent, and two rare Mountain Bikes were stolen, they were valued at £2700 in total. The thieves must have known they were stored there, as they used a unique method of entry by removing the door hinges to gain access! There were only 2 Anti-social behaviour calls to the area, and both again were snowballer's !!

There is a lot of information available about staying safe 'on-line', but have you ever thought about 'off-line'?

1. Shred or destroy documents that contain your personal details before you throw them away – particularly receipts, bank statements and other financial mail. A cross-shredder (which is the best one to buy) can cost a few pounds but will make up for itself in security. Just a few personal details from your discarded post or junk mail can provide all the information a criminal needs to commit ID fraud.
2. Never give out passwords, personal or bank details over the phone or by e-mail. If someone calls claiming to be from your bank or utility company, ask for their name and call them back by using the official number printed on their communications
3. If going away for a holiday, ask a family member or trusted neighbour to regularly pop in and remove any mail from your letterbox or from behind the door if it can be seen. If going away for longer periods, you could use the Royal Mail 'Keepsafe' service which can store your mail for you for up to two months. You can contact the Royal Mail on **08457 740740** or at **www.royalmail.com**
4. Check your bank statements as soon as they arrive. If any unfamiliar transactions are listed, contact the company concerned immediately.

Just a few simple tips, but ones that may go some way into protecting your identify from theft.

During the coming months there are going to be 'Days of Action', where the Police and the Local Authority (such as Environmental Wardens and Community Safety Officers) will team up to target various areas of the Ward, and tackle problems such as Anti-Social Behaviour, Dog fouling, etc thus providing valuable Community re-assurance.

If you wish advice on any matter, please don't hesitate to stop me when I am out and about, drop me an e-mail or call me on the number opposite.

PC John Gittens Community Beat Officer

Useful Numbers

Corstorphine Police Station:0131 311 3131

Inspector Andrew Gilhooley
andrew.gilhooley@lbp.pnn.police.uk

Sgt Liz Duthie
elizabeth.duthie@lbp.pnn.police.uk

PC John Gittens Ext 2834
john.gittens@lbp.pnn.police.uk

**All Community Beat Officers can be
contacted on Extensions 2834/2835/2836**

And Finally....

Despite changing crime trends, methods of identification and enquiry we continue to rely heavily on information supplied by local people about local issues. It is seldom that a crime or offence is committed where someone does not see or hear something that may help either prevent or solve it. We depend on you, the public, assisting us and notifying us promptly if you see or hear anything of a suspicious nature. You can imagine how frustrating it is when we call on a neighbour whilst investigating a break-in to be told that they heard the sound of breaking glass or saw a stranger in the garden but did not want to bother us! Unfortunately this sort of things happens all to often.

If you have any doubts about something or someone please pick up the phone and call the police- we would genuinely rather attend false alarm calls than miss the opportunity of preventing a crime occurring or catching those responsible.

Inspector Gilhooley
Sector Inspector

