

A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News



ISSUE 66 –February 2010

'Work With Us'

CITY
WIDE



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

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

Here is the Murrayfield sector newsletter covering activity from the 1st January to the 31st. I hope you find it informative as well as providing you with a summary of the crime within your area, whilst also mentioning local and policing issues.

I am happy to report that for the month, there has only been 26 crimes reported for the sector, with 11 being solved. In many respects these figures highlight the commitment, enthusiasm and professionalism of all the officers based at Corstorphine. On the other hand our reported success cannot be achieved without the participation of the community in our day-to-day activities and from our close partnership agencies, which includes the Antisocial Behaviour Division at City of Edinburgh Council. This division has worked in partnership with Safer Communities Unit and Neighbourhood Action Unit (NAU) to achieve positive results within the wider community as well as this specific area. I look forward to continued success in the near future.

TOUGH NEW LAWS FOR ILLEGAL MOBILE PHONE USE

Since 27th February 2007, motorists have faced tough new penalties driving whilst using a hand held mobile device. From that date, the fixed penalty has, for the first time, included the award of three penalty points as well as doubling the fine to £60. For cases that reach court, in addition to the penalty points imposed, the penalties will also involve discretionary disqualification and a maximum fine of £1000 (£2500 in the case of the driver of a bus/coach or goods vehicle).



for

After a lengthy campaign to raise awareness of the fixed penalties by the use of radio, press and online activity, many motorists are **still** driving whilst using these devices.

Lastly

Overall, January has been a relatively good month with a steep drop in reported crime. We'll be aiming to maintain this in the up and coming months ahead. I am aware by looking at the figures, that youth related issues within Roseburn and Coltbridge areas have dropped. Officers from the Neighbourhood Action Unit have worked closely with other agencies and myself to tackle these issues. Please do not hesitate to contact the Police regarding this problem if you are aware of its occurrence. Speedy action can assist greatly in dealing with those individuals responsible and improving the area for all local residents.

I encourage the Murrayfield community to look after itself and report all suspicious activities and individuals no matter how trivial it may appear. In that way the Police can take steps to prevent crime before victims are created. If you would like to highlight local issues please do not hesitate and contact me on the numbers opposite.

PC Prince Durant 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 Prince Durant Ext 2836
prince.durant@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 too 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

