

# A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News



ISSUE 67 –March 2010

## 'Work With Us'

### Divisional Commanders Message



CITY  
WIDE

This month has seen the introduction of Safer Neighbourhood Teams in the South and East of the city, which is further evidence of our strong commitment to community policing. I am determined to build on the current levels of community engagement at a local level by improving our approach to identifying and prioritising issues, and addressing local concerns affecting our communities. I look forward to reporting on the progress of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams and am confident they will continue to uphold the proud traditions of responsive community policing within the city of Edinburgh.

Indeed, the value of meaningful community engagement and the importance of the role played by our Community Police Officers have been demonstrated on a number of occasions in recent weeks. High profile public events, for example the recent attempted march by members of the Scottish Defence League and counter-demonstration by Scotland United Against Facism, and serious operational incidents, such as the shooting at Jock's Lodge, continue to place varying demands on our policing service. I have been impressed and encouraged by the excellent work carried out to prepare for and respond to these demands, always keeping the safety and well being of our communities uppermost in our minds.

**Chief Supt Gill Imery, A Division Commander**

### LEGAL HIGH SUPPLY

HOT  
TOPICS

Legal Highs are a very hot topic in the national press at the moment. They are substances made from herbs, chemicals and extracts which imitate the effects of some illegal drugs such as LSD and ecstasy but are not controlled by the Misuse of Drugs or Medicines Acts.

Rather than being labelled as recreational drugs, many of these products are badged up as everyday products such as alloy wheel cleaner. The Legal High substance known as Mephedrone is regularly sold as plant food.

Little is known about the long-term effects of these substances due to the short history of human consumption but it should be noted that just because they are sold legally, it does not mean they are safe to use. There is anecdotal evidence available to suggest that use of Legal Highs has had detrimental effects on the health and well being of users.

Parents should be aware that due to recent press coverage and the potential risks involved with ingesting Legal Highs, many shops in Edinburgh that were retailing these substances have stopped selling products containing Mephedrone and other Legal Highs. This has served to increase user hype and some young people have taken to using their parent's or older siblings credit cards for purchasing Legal Highs online where they are more readily available and cheaper.

More information on Legal Highs can be found at:  
[www.crew2000.org.uk](http://www.crew2000.org.uk) and [www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com)

## Local News

Here is the Murrayfield Sector newsletter covering activity from the 1<sup>st</sup> February to the 28th. I hope you find it informative as well providing you with a summary of the crime within your area, whilst also mentioning local and policing issues.

In my report this month, we see a total of 15 crimes being reported for the Sector, with 5 of these being solved and the other majority were of a minor nature.

### **HOUSE BREAKINS TO PREMISES**

There were 2 domestic house breakings reported for this period. The areas affected were Ravelston House Grove and Wester Coates Avenue. However, 2 males were identified for a break-in to Murrayfield Stadium between the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of the month. They were later arrested and charged with the offence.

### **VANDALISMS**

As I have mentioned in the past, vandalism remains a key focus for Murrayfield Policing activity and is a volume crime, which affects many people in the community, and has a financial implication in terms of insurance claims and premiums. As mentioned above, I am aware of the number of incidents of this type, which have been reported to us and again I urge the community to participate in efforts to curb this crime type. Can I re-emphasize this appeal and ask you to contact us in all circumstances where suspicious activity is seen so that both action can be taken, and a clearer picture of true 'hot spots' can be identified.

There are dozens of doorstep scams that bogus callers might use to gain access to your home - people may even pretend to be from the Council, a utilities company or in some cases, even from the emergency services. These people often work in pairs, with one person distracting you whilst the other is searching through your possessions. Be cautious - don't let anybody into your home unless you are expecting them. Representatives of companies rarely call without an appointment or if there is a real gas or water emergency, Police and firefighters are likely to be present. Council or Police Officers, including myself may not always have an appointment, but will always have an identification card. Remember,

1. Talk to people through the door, rather than opening it when they knock.
2. Ask questions & keep the door chain on when checking identification cards.
3. Phone the person's organisation to confirm they are who they say they are.
4. Make sure your back door is locked before answering your front door - thieves often work in pairs, with one entering through the back while the other knocks at the front.

There are several elderly persons residing alone within the Murrayfield sector, I urge you once again as a Community to look after these people and report any suspicious persons to me or by contacting Corstorphine Police Station.

Pc Prince Durant Murrayfield Community Beat Officer

## Useful Numbers

**Corstorphine Police Station:0131 311 3131**

**Inspector Andrew Gilhooley**  
[andrew.gilhooley@lbp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:andrew.gilhooley@lbp.pnn.police.uk)

**Sgt Liz Duthie**  
[elizabeth.duthie@lbp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:elizabeth.duthie@lbp.pnn.police.uk)

**PC Prince Durant**                      **Ext 2836**  
[prince.durant@lbp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:prince.durant@lbp.pnn.police.uk)

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

## And Finally....

Spring is fast approaching and experience has shown us that March is a very popular month for garden sheds being broken into. I'm sure DIY stores and Garden Centres are doing a roaring trade and the sales of garden equipment are soaring.

Understandably, most people spend considerable time and expense securing their home but tend to forget about the shed. Stop for a few minutes and list the amount of tools, electrical equipment and bicycles that are stored there, you will be amazed not only at the amount but also the overall value.

Why not spend that bit extra on a good quality closed shackle padlock, fit coach bolts to the hinge and hasp plate or burr the screw heads to prevent them from being removed. Also consider securing your cycles and equipment either to each other or to a fixed coach bolt in the shed. You can also purchase a battery operated garden shed alarm from the Community Officers at Corstorphine Police Station.

Inspector Gilhooley  
Sector Inspector

