

A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News



ISSUE 67–March 2010

‘Work With Us’

Divisional Commanders Message



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

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 and www.talktofrank.com

Local News

Welcome to the March 2010 Police Newsletter for the South Morningside, Greenbank and Braids area – the SM44 Beat.

This newsletter provides you with a summary of incidents that occurred in your area during February 2010.

It also provides advice on Bogus Callers

INCIDENT SUMMARY

During February 2010 there were 76 incidents reported to the Police, 16 less than January 2010. A large majority of these incidents were of a minor nature and did not result in crime reports.

Of these calls only 2 were emergencies that required an immediate response. These were a domestic incident (see arrests) and an alarm call, which was a false alarm.

The remainder of the calls were more routine being dealt with by a Shift Officer a member of the Safer Neighbourhood Team or another agency.

CRIME SUMMARY

In February 2010 24 Crime Reports were generated from the above incidents, 2 less than January 2010.

9 Crime Reports were solved including the above emergency call that related to the domestic incident. Other solved offences included road traffic incidents and a breach of the peace.

15 Crime Reports remain unsolved they relate to vandalism, theft, theft from a motor vehicle, attempted theft from a motor vehicle, theft of a vehicle, attempted housebreakings and a breach of the peace

No one has been cautioned or charged with these offences but enquires remain on going into these crimes.

HOUSEBREAKING

February 2010 saw 2 attempted housebreakings

reported to the police.

Between the 28th February and 1st March, Braid Avenue, an attempt was made to break into 2 garages by forcing the doors. The attempt was unsuccessful no entry gained

VEHICLE CRIME

February 2010 saw 3 thefts from motor vehicles, 1 attempted theft from a motor vehicle and 1 theft of a motor vehicle.

On the 1st February, Midmar Drive, a bag and contents were stolen from a parked car. Access was gained by smashing a window.

Between 12th February and 13th February, Greenbank Place, a car was stolen. The car was later recovered abandoned in the Asda Car Park at the Jewel. The car door had been forced and the vehicle hot-wired.

Between 21st and 22nd February, Braid Hotel, Braid Road, an attempt was made to break into a parked car by forcing the door. The attempt was unsuccessful no entry was gained.

On the 26th February, Greenbank Grove, a bag and contents were stolen from a parked car. Access was gained by smashing the rear window.

Between 27th February and 3rd March, Hermitage Gardens, an ipod and CD player were stolen from a parked car. No forced entry was made.

ARRESTS

On the 5th February, Greenbank Road, police were called to a domestic incident. A male and female were thereafter arrested for assaulting each other. At this time the male was found to be in breach of undertaking conditions and he was also cautioned and charged with this offence.

On the 14th February, Greenbank Terrace, a male was arrested for drink driving at this time it was discovered that he only held a provisional driving license, he had no insurance and he

had taken a relatives car without their permission. The male was also cautioned and charged with these offences.

On the 19th February, Comiston Road, police were called to attend a disturbance. A male was subsequently arrested for a Breach of the Peace and issued with an anti-social behaviour ticket.

On the 20th February, Braid Road, a male was arrested for drink driving.

BOGUS CALLERS

Most callers are probably quite genuine, but some are not. They could be confidence tricksters or thieves. That's why it is important to take precautions when people call at your home.

Thieves won't go to the trouble of breaking in if they can knock and be invited in. So always be on guard when anyone you're not expecting – a man, a woman, a child – either singly, in pairs or in groups, turns up at your door. Men, women or children may use any excuse to gain entry to your home. Young people can sometimes ask to use the toilet, men and women may use the excuse that their car has broken down or they require water for the radiator. If you feel it is necessary to assist, then call a neighbour before allowing them into your home.

Bogus Officials

May be smartly dressed and claim to be from a Council Department, Health Authority or other organisation e.g. utilities. Their aim is to talk their way into your home to see what they can steal.

Bogus Dealers

May offer to buy your antiques, furniture or jewellery, at what seems to be a good price. Chances are that they are trying to trick you into selling something for a lot less than it is worth. Never sell to a doorstep dealer.

Bogus Workmen

Never believe a casual or speculative caller at your door. Such Bogus Workmen, on the pretence of offering to make urgent repairs to a water or building fault or to tarmac your drive, really want to gain access to your home to steal your property. They often operate in pairs where one tries to distract you whilst the other gains free access to your home to search for valuables.

Often they will ask for cash in advance and may

even offer to drive you to your bank, building society or a nearby cash dispenser to withdraw money to buy materials. Never do this. Once paid they could simply disappear.

Bogus Uniform Callers

Do not not assume that all uniformed callers are genuine. Look at their clothing. Some official callers will have a uniform bearing the organisation's name or symbol. If possible, check to see if any vehicle they are using also carries the Company's logo.

If you don't know the caller, ask to see their identity card. Check carefully, and keep the chain on as you do so. Genuine callers won't mind if you close the door while you do this. If they do not allow you to inspect their identification card thoroughly – do not let them into the house.

IF IN DOUBT KEEP THEM OUT AND CONTACT THE POLICE

Remember, it would be helpful to the police if you could provide good descriptions of any persons and vehicle, including make, colour and registration number, where possible.

The Law

You do not need to allow any one into your home.

Only the POLICE and FIRE BRIGADE can FORCE or DEMAND entry to your house – but ONLY in exceptional circumstances. Utilities companies MUST have the POLICE with them to demand or force entry to your home, but only for reasons of safety.

The Facts

Most callers to your home will be genuine. UTILITIES COMPANIES will happily arrange to call on you when it is CONVENIENT FOR YOU. They may even use an agreed password. ALWAYS CHECK IDENTIFICATION BADGES BEFORE ALLOWING ANYONE INTO YOUR HOME.

If in doubt, phone the company BUT NEVER USE THE TELEPHONE NUMBER GIVEN BY THE CALLER.

EMAIL NEWSLETTER

If you would like to receive an email copy of the Police Community And Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter then please contact PC Carson on angela.carson@lbp.pnn.police.uk

Useful Numbers

PC11023A Angela Carson – SNT
E-mail: angela.carson@lbp.pnn.police.uk

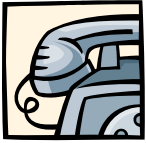
ST LEONARDS COMMUNITY SERGEANT:
Sergeant Peter Houston
E-Mail: peter.houston@lbp.pnn.police.uk

ST LEONARDS STATION INSPECTOR:
Inspector Ian Moffat
Email: ian.moffat@lbp.pnn.police.uk

ST LEONARDS POLICE STATION
0131-662 5794

FORCE COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE:
(For reporting non-emergency crimes or other disorder)
0131 311 3131

COMMUNITY SAFETY DEPARTMENT
0131 221 2050 / 2100
CRIMESTOPPERS (confidential)
0800 555 111.



How to contact police to report incidents:
URGENT: 999
Non-Urgent calls/general enquires:
0131 311 3131 or www.lbp.police.uk or
email: enquires@lbp.pnn.police.uk

And Finally....

March has been a very busy and productive month for all St Leonards Safer Neighbourhood Team officers in the Meadows and Morningside area.

The increased coverage provided by the new teams resources has been of great benefit with a more visible police presence. Both our partners and the public have commented this on favorably. We have had several successful initiatives running over the last month with police operations to combat theft of alcohol and cigarettes to underage children. Between 22nd and 30th March a successful Central Tollcross Initiative Week took place. This had the police working in strong partnership for a cleaner, greener, safer and well maintained environment.

Looking ahead a Pubwatch system is currently being put in place in the Tollcross area to increase information sharing between licensed premises. Starting on 2nd March there will be a high visibility police operation to deal with the increase in mainly youth related anti social behaviour in the school Easter holidays. This has been run in tandem with increased visits to local secondary schools prior to the holidays.

Ian Moffat, Inspector St Leonards Sector.

