

Portobello Community Council Police Report – March 2012

Portobello/Joppa Beat Update

Crime Update

Recorded crime continues to reduce with 38 being recorded across the Portobello/Joppa area in March. The majority of these relate to acts of vandalism, theft shoplifting and some anti-social behaviour related offences.

Despite some significant arrests and reduction in housebreakings some properties both domestic and business have recently been broken into occurring during day-time hours and accordingly residents and business owners are encouraged to continue to be vigilant and take time to check their home security.

Crime prevention advice can be found by visiting Lothian and Borders Police website www.lbp.police.uk and clicking on the crime prevention link, or alternatively you can arrange for a Crime Prevention visit by contacting the Craigmillar SNT team. Tel 0131-652-4147.

Metal Theft – Day of Action

Metal, with its high resale value, continues to be stolen throughout the local and force area. The culprits will steal metal from a variety of locations including garden gates, lead roofing, electrical cables and manhole covers. Often these thefts cause real danger to the public and we would encourage all residents to be vigilant and report any suspicious persons or vehicles.

On 15th and 16th March a national day of action took place in the Portobello area targeting carriers and dealers of stolen scrap metal. Local road checks were done in conjunction with VOSA, SEPA and trading standards and preventative advice was given to metal dealers.

Radio adverts, posters, leaflets and postcards have been created to raise public awareness, and urge people to report anything suspicious. This can be done by contacting your local police station on 0131-311-3131 or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800-555-111.

Serious Assault - update

Following the last months appeal in relation to the investigation of the stabbing of a man on a garage forecourt in Portobello High Street on Friday, February 17. A 40-year-old man has been arrested and charged in connection with this incident. He was due to appear at Edinburgh Sheriff Court on Monday (March 26).

On the Beat

With the clocks springing forward and the arrival of lighter evenings local SNT officers are well aware the improving weather may bring an increase in youth calls and anti social behaviour. Craigmillar and Portobello SNT officers are committed to addressing any issues and have dedicated patrols in "hotspot" areas identified from the "You said - We did" information. Community engagement is a vital tool when addressing antisocial behaviour issues and we would encourage you to contact your local SNT officer with any information or issues you have. Details of all local SNT officers can be found on the Lothian & Borders Police website.

All local off-licence premises will be visited in the coming weeks and advice will be given regarding under age drinking and the responsibilities that staff have. Posters and leaflets will be distributed stressing the importance of ensuring persons buying alcohol are not under 18 and highlighting the penalties for committing offences. We are aware of the practice of adults "proxy buying" alcohol for persons under age and are encouraging members of the public and off licence staff to be particularly vigilant to this. Anyone caught buying alcohol for a person under 18 could cost them a £5000 fine, up to 3 months imprisonment, or both. Educational work is also being carried out at local schools highlighting the wider effect underage alcohol abuse has to the area. Outreach workers are also engaging with young people across the neighbourhood.

Local Policing/Community Priorities

The new policing priorities for the Craigmillar Portobello area are:

1. Tackle and reduce antisocial behaviour within common stairs in the Niddrie House area
2. Tackle and reduce antisocial behaviour and drug abuse within Bingham Way
3. Tackle and reduce antisocial behaviour and vandalism within the Cakemuir area.

We will be working closely with our partner agencies in an effort to address these priorities. These issues have been researched and identified as specific problems and we aim to tackle and reduce the issues providing feedback to the residents associations of progress made.

We are also aware that there are other issues affecting local residents. We would encourage attendance at local community meetings where you will have the opportunity to speak with your local police officer regarding issues in your area. Details of your local meeting can be found on the Lothian & Borders Police website at http://www.lbp.police.uk/my_neighbourhood/edinburgh/craigmillar-portobello.aspx

Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT)

The SNT continue to listen to your concerns and endeavour to tackle and/or find solutions to areas of complaint. If you wish to raise a concern regarding matters in your street please get in touch.

You can contact your community policing team on:

Tel: 0131 652 4147 (office)

Tel: 0131 311 3131 (24hours)

email: ADivSNTCraigmillarPortobello@lbp.pnn.police.uk