

COMMUNITY POLICE NEWSLETTER

Issue 3



Summer is an extremely busy time for Highland police with events such as Belladrum/Orkney Island Games/Highland Pride Inverness/Black Isle Show/Thunder in the Glens/Highland Games and this summer there was also a visit from the President of United States to Scotland. Our city centre and community beats teams assist with all the summer events alongside our day-to-day business in our communities. We have also held street surgeries, road safety initiatives, school and youth group engagements and attended a range of other events across our area.

PC's Johnstone, Gibb, Macleod, Cooper, Mackenzie, Shield and Soley from our community beats and city centre teams were deployed to Aberdeenshire to assist with the Policing operation of the visit of the President of United States. The operation involved the deployment of over five thousand officers over several days. PC Macleod met Police Horse 'Harris' whilst deployed with the Police Liaison Team at the Menie golf course.

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CITY CENTRE POLICE TEAM VEHICLE



You may have spotted our newly allocated CCPT vehicle in the City Centre. This vehicle is to support officers working from the Town House. The vehicle will be used by officers to transport people to custody safely, for engagement events and to allow them to complete any enquiries they have out with the City Centre. The vehicle has a

marked parking bay on Castle Wynd and when not in use will function as a visible deterrent to crime and anti-social behaviour. The introduction comes following feedback from colleagues, the public and partners and it should prove a great asset to help keep everyone in our community safe.

CYCLE PATROLS



In the last couple of months, team members have completed their bicycle training allowing them to be active in the communities on bikes. This is a great advantage as allows the team to patrol their areas more efficiently. It also allows quick access to areas such as short cuts/back lanes/parks which are frequented by criminals to avoid detection by police.

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Safe Strong & Free



PC Bain had the opportunity to attend an event run by the charity Safe Strong & Free at Culloden-Balloch Baptist Church in relation to Bullying, Honour Based Violence and Racism. The speakers were inspiring with the focus on creating a culture of kindness together. A tasty lunch was provided by Inverness Masjid, Highland Central Mosque. Community Beats officers have been involved in several racist incidents recently and we are keen to collaborate with our partners to help reduce this behaviour in the Highlands.

Staff Changes

Nothing in the policing world stays the same for long and recently we have experienced more changes of staff with promotions and secondments. This month we welcome Paul Sutherland as the Inspector for City Centre and Community Beats as we wish Inspector Emma Wright all the best in her new national role tackling

retail crime. Community Beats also welcomes Ross Cooper as our new Sergeant as Brian Bisset has been promoted to Inspector on response policing. PC Mackenzie did a sterling job of Temporary Sergeant, but this has now allowed her to join PC Gibb in covering the rural communities.

Rural Joint Road Safety Initiative



Speeding continues to be an ongoing issue across the Highlands. PC Gibb spoke with residents in the rural villages who highlighted vehicles speeding through the villages was a major concern. He arranged a joint initiative with the Road Policing Department targeting key problem areas in Beaulie, Cannich, Drumnadrochit and Fort Augustus. A number of drivers were spoken to and warned about their driving.

Speed Checks



Although the Community Beats team has been abstracted cover other police stations and involved in the summer events, we have continued where possible to patrol parking/speeding at schools and carried out speed checks at a variety of locations highlighted by the communities including Ardersier, Farr, Culloden, Culcabock and Merkinch.

Community Involvement



Over the past year and a half, PC Macleod has developed a partnership with Inverness Foodstuff charity who operate twice weekly sessions at the Hilton community centre. The charity provides a crucial service to Hilton and the wider community by providing food, friendship, and

meaningful support to those in the community who face day to day challenges around social isolation, food poverty, reducing harm and enabling positive change in people's lives. PC Macleod works closely with the charity staff to support, divert and educate vulnerable people

in his beat. This positive engagement work is crucial community policing work to supporting victims of crime, cuckooing, and intervening to divert people from involvement in criminality and county line.

Street Surgeries



Street Surgeries were introduced across the Community Beats Team neighbourhoods. This was an opportunity for residents, businesses, and our partners to discuss with our team about any concerns/suggestions regarding their local area. Local school children also popped past at some of the events and got to meet their local police officer. A new Police Community Engagement van was received in the North which allows our team to use a more appropriate vehicle for attending our community events. We hope to expand these surgeries in further neighbourhoods in the future.

City Centre Taxi/Private Hire Initiative



The City Centre Police Team participated in a joint initiative with the Highland Council Trading Standards Team to provide reassurance and ensure that people using taxis in the area get home safely. Roadside checks were conducted on taxi private hire cars in the city centre to ensure drivers were operating withing the terms of their taxi licence and to ensure their vehicles

were roadworthy and had the correct documentation. During the operation, some issues were identified in relation to unsafe tyres and a vehicle being left running unattended. The drivers were charged with these offences and issued with fixed penalties. Numerous other warnings were issued to drivers.

Community Council Meetings

A few community councils have expressed disappointment that we no longer attend community council meetings. Due to our small team and the number of meetings held it was unsustainable for us to attend. We are using this time to offer further patrols in the evenings tackling anti-social behaviour which we believe is a high priority for local councils. We are still extremely interested to hear of any community issues. Please contact our teams via email if there are any policing concerns highlighted at your meetings.

School & Station Visits



PC Macleod delivered a talk to the supported education class at the University of Highlands & Islands campus around personal safety and hate crime. The class enjoyed displaying their work around personal safety both out in the community and online and had a plethora of questions about policing including about filming for Highland Cops.



PC Johnstone introduced pupils at Ness Primary to the world of policing and as part of this they got to experience our police equipment including being handcuffed. Children and young people are a vital part of the communities we serve, and we try to engage with them to encourage positive relationships.

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PC Johnstone provided pupils from St Clements School with a tour of Burnett Road Police Station. They enjoyed the opportunity to see the “backstage” of policing.



4th Inverness (Methodist) Girl Guides enjoyed a visit to Burnett Road Police Station and an opportunity to meet Police Dog Strike. Our Police Dogs and handlers are often remarkably busy, so it is an extra bonus for visitors if one is available.

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CONTACT US

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COMMUNITY BEATS TEAM					
Inspector Paul Sutherland					
Sgt Ross Cooper					
PC Nicola Bain	ARDERSIER	CROY	CULLODEN	SMITHTON	TORNAGRAIN
PC Katie Johnstone	BUGHT	DALNEIGH	KINMYLIES	SCORGUIE	TORVEAN
PC Cailean Macleod	CULDUTHEL	DRUMMOND	HILTON/MILTON	HOLM	LOCHARDIL
PC Andrea McIntyre	CROWN	DRAKIES	INSHES	MILTON OF LEYS	RAIGMORE
PC Liam Simpson	MERKINCH	SOUTH KESSOCK			
PC Abbey Montgomery	ASSISTING	ALL	AREAS		
PC Jonjo Gibb	RURALS				
PC Nadine Mackenzie	RURALS				

CITY CENTRE TEAM			
Inspector Paul Sutherland			
Sgt John Murphy	PC Siobhan Cooper	PC Aaron Mackenzie	PC Arizona Morence
PC Lucille Ritchie	PC Darren Shield	PC Lee Soley	PC Adam Wilsher

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