

COMMUNITY POLICE NEWSLETTER

Issue 5

The last few months have continued to be busy for the Community Beats Team and City Centre Police Team. We have been focusing on drugs and antisocial behaviour by supporting our drug units with intelligence and warrant execution, working together with other agencies to reduce antisocial behaviour, and targeting key areas in the communities for speeding. We continue to support our local schools and encourage them to contact us with any issues. Our focus recently has been social media talks, encouraging respectful and safe usage due to inappropriate use across both primary and secondary schools in the area. In the city centre there was an increased focus on shoplifting, and we continued to work together with other agencies to reduce the impact of antisocial behaviour. There have recently been some tragic incidents in Inverness, and we have been providing reassurance patrols in the communities affected.

Op Respect

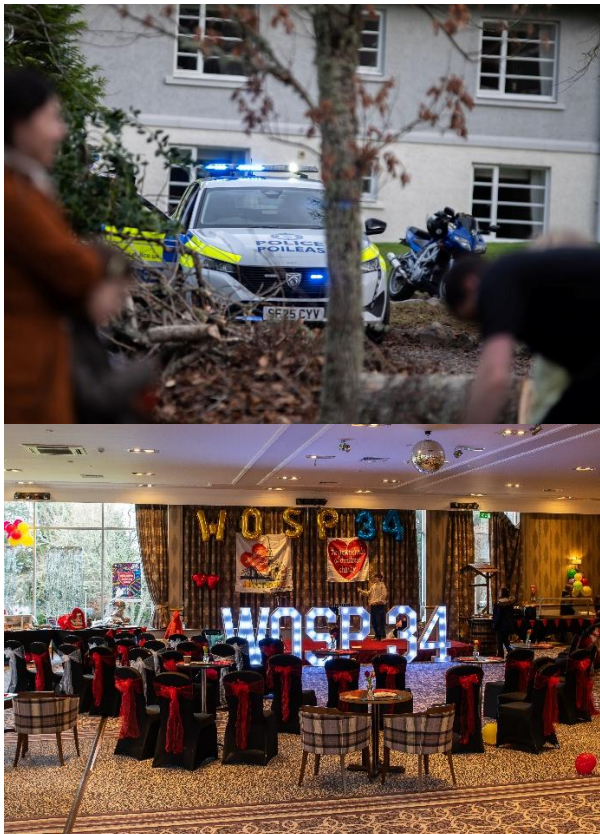


During the month of December, the City Centre Police Team and members of the Community Beats Team took part in Operation Respect. This is an initiative run by Police Scotland in partnership with other agencies and local voluntary partners. Together they tackle street disorder, anti-social behaviour, retail crime, violence against women and girls, fraud and scams along with other crime. The combined effort also provides assistance to vulnerable people whether linked to mental health concerns, alcohol, or substance abuse. At this time of year there is a high footfall in the city centre, and the aim is to make it a safe place to be for everyone.

Community Involvement



PC Bain was afforded the chance to have a guided tour of Cantraybridge College. It is an amazing facility offering young adults with learning disabilities, autism, or similar additional needs with personal development programmes to fulfil their life potential. Amy, Adam, and Rhea introduced PC Bain to feisty Turbo the tortoise and a host of other animals including sheep, goats, guinea pigs, rabbits, ducks, chickens, and cows. We recognise some people find us intimidating and opportunities like this allows us to create trust and bonds within our communities.



PC Bain had the privilege to attend The Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity at the Drumossie Hotel, Inverness. This is the biggest charity event in Poland which has been running since 1993. The funds raised are used to purchase specialised equipment for children's hospitals in Poland. Over the years, the event moved beyond Poland, and this is the second year volunteers have run the event in Inverness. It is a terrific opportunity for the community to come together celebrating, learning, and raising money.

PC Bain was warmly welcomed and gave the kids a chance to explore the police car and equipment. She can confirm the Polish sausages were amazing!

Partnership Working



A new community and partnership initiative No Place for Hate Campaign was launched in Inverness and is supported by the Operation Respect partners. Inspector Sutherland said *“Everyone in our community has a right to live free from hate and discrimination. Being targeted because of age, disability, race, religion, sexual orientation, transgender identify or variations in sex characteristics, is not just offensive, in some cases it can be a criminal offence. Too often, people feel isolated or unsure if what they have experienced qualifies as a hate crime but if something feels wrong, it is always worth reporting, as we take all incidents seriously.”*

The Community Beats Team are involved with providing a trauma informed approach to ensure victims of hate crime are fully heard and supported. Some of our teams have had additional training in relation to hate crime with further staff attending courses in the near future.

Motorbikes

Dirt bikes continue to be an ongoing issue across Inverness. Community Beats are currently carrying out background work into this. Our officers have been carrying out regular foot and bike patrols around the Merkinch Nature Reserve and Canal to try and deter this behaviour. A multi-agency meeting has been scheduled for later this month to find solutions to tackling the problem.



Road Safety

Parking and speeding around our schools is a problem across most of Inverness. Community Beat officers regularly conduct foot patrols at school start and finish times to encourage safe parking. PC Johnstone enlisted the assistance of our local traffic warden, jointly working to improve safety for pupils at St Josephs Primary.



We are always looking for new ways to encourage motorists to drive safely. PC Gibb enlisted some new 'mini police recruits' from Beauly Primary School to assist PC Bain and PC Simpson with ensuring drivers were adhering to the speed limit through the village. There was only one speeding motorist who was given a huge thumbs down from the mini police.



Education



Road traffic collisions are sadly too common in the Highlands and Islands with devastating losses of life, life changing injuries, and a substantial impact on communities. PC Bain and Simpson attended at Charleston Academy alongside the Scottish Fire and Rescue. Developing the Young Workforce School Coordinator Emma Donald arranged for the senior pupils to watch a powerful demonstration led by SFRS of the immediate aftermath of a collision, the arrest of the driver and cutting out the injured passenger from the car. Pupils were given the opportunity to ask questions with police and fire after the event. Many of these pupils are in the initial stages of their driving or are about to embark on driving lessons so this gave them an insight on how important it is to adhere to speeds and drive with care.



PC Mackenzie and PC Bain introduced P5 and P6 at Ness Castle Primary School to policing and being respectful. Pupils were given an opportunity to ask lots of questions and were keen for their Nessie mascot to be in the photo.

OFFICIAL



Pupils from Crown Primary School visited Burnett Road Police Station and were given a tour by PC Simpson and Mackenzie. They were enthusiastic trying out the riot gear.



PC Johnstone attended Central Primary Nursery where the children had an opportunity to try out the equipment and “drive” the police car. Introducing police as young as possible is a fantastic way for them to realise we are not scary and do not just “catch the bad guys.”

OFFICIAL

ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR



Antisocial behaviour impacts communities across Inverness and is a high priority for the Community Beats Team. Although the harm is not visible, the long-term effect on people who live with antisocial behaviour is significant.

Recently we were made aware by occupants of a house in the Inshes/Milton of Leys area of youths targeting their address by banging on the windows and doors of the property

and shouting homophobic abuse. This behaviour had been ongoing for months, but the occupants did not want to “waste police time.” They eventually reached breaking point and contacted police. They were in fear of living in their own home and living on constant edge of when the next incident would happen. They captured a blurry image of the youths clothing and provided it to Community Beats officers who provided safety advice and increased patrols in the area. A week later while on patrol PC Bain and PC Johnstone stopped a youth with identical clothing. He was identified as involved and taken home to his parents where a verbal warning was issued for his behaviour. Further youths were identified and warned. The occupants were relieved to finally feel safe and there have been no further incidents reported.

Community Issues

We need the community to let us know if there are issues the Community Beats Team can assist with. We try to speak with as many people as we can when out on foot patrol or cycle patrol so the public can highlight issues to us. However, we encourage you to use our email address to contact us if there are community problems which you want to highlight to the team.

OFFICIAL

CONTACT US

Community Beats Team : HighlandsandIslandsCommunityBeatsInverness@scotland.police.uk

City Centre Team: john.murphy3@scotland.police.uk

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 Liam Simpson	MERKINCH	SOUTH KESSOCK			
PC Nadine Mackenzie	RAIGMORE	INSHES	MILTON OF LEYS	DRAKIES	NESS CASTLE
PC Jonjo Gibb	RURALS				

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

OFFICIAL