

## LOREBURN COMMUNITY COUNCIL



### Visit

Meeting: Thursday 7th March at 7.00pm

Loreburn Police Station, Loreburn Street, Dumfries

Sederunt: Simon Jones, George Cameron, PC Alistair Hope, Sgt Anna Boyd



The community town centre police team is Alistair, David Steel, Ryan Cochran. Their role is visibility, retail crime, anti-social behaviour, drug abuse and working with retailers. A dramatic scene from CCTV was shown of PC Hope restraining a drug user on the High Street.

Shoplifting costs the UK £2 billion/year.

The pattern of shoplifting in Dumfries has changed. A few years ago it was mainly drug addicts stealing small high value items. Now it's mostly organised criminal gangs from outside Dumfries

(usually foreign nationals). They may be involved in other crime such as drug dealing and human trafficking.

An example of skilful work on the CCTV was given where a crime was tracked camera by camera from the shop to the car park which gave them the licence plate and let them catch the criminals.

There are 36 shops in the Radio Link scheme. There is cooperation in the nighttime economy so that the clubs know not to let someone in after they got chucked out of one club.

Retailers against Crime (RAC) also play a role.

Anna works with officers involved in youth engagement.

The excellent Police Open Day won't happen again this year but the police will participate in an open day by the Fire and Rescue Service.

About 4000 town centre parking tickets have been issued since 2013. In 2023 769 parking tickets were issued (Simon: possibly partly thanks to lobbying by Loreburn Community Council).

We discussed illegal parking and both officers were keen that the police should retain the powers to issue tickets to illegally parked cars after decriminalisation.

We talked about cameras including citizen cameras like dashcams and RING doorbells. The police very much appreciate these and can use footage as evidence.

The Town Board is an opportunity for the police and Simon suggested that in addition to the role of a senior police officer on the Board the views of front line staff should be welcomed.

We talked about the Positive Outcomes approach to Anti-Social Behaviour. While this may work for many people, Alistair told us a cautionary tale of a lad who is now 16 and who has been in trouble pretty much every day since he was 12.

Adults are buying alcohol for children.

The new quad bikes have been a success. The officers stated that they would love electric bikes.

There is an ASB action plan. The wider community department tackle youth anti-social behaviour with a lot of different angles including drug misuse, social media. There is a hub at HQ which takes a social work approach looking to work with support for the whole family.

Other responsibilities include football spotting (football casuals), public order, the search for Dale McGill, preserving crime scenes, pickpocketing at Christmas, scams and gala events.

There are 2 dedicated schools officers and 28 primary schools are helped by 5 beat officers. Youth Engagement Officers work closely with pupil support staff.

They work with 15 community councils.

There's a local recruitment drive in D&G. 17.5 years or older can apply. They're struggling to recruit and retain special constables. The Youth Volunteers programme (13-18 yrs) is very popular but most people who do it don't go on to become police officers. The volunteers look for opportunities like Youth Beatz, Christmas safety, People's Project planting.

The visitors were shown the CCTV room which has a marvellous panoramic view of the town's central streets.

The visitors were shown the rather wonderful police museum. It's in the process of being tidied up by a volunteer but later in the year it should be possible for members of the public to visit by appointment.