

Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



Community Council:

Forth and Endrick, Balfroun Community Council

Reporting Period:

October 2019 - Compiled by PC Steven Graham

Ward Plan Priorities

Antisocial Behaviour

The neighbour dispute mentioned in the last report should now be resolved as one party has moved away from the eft the village.

There was a report of an intoxicated female in Buchanan St, Balfroun. Police attended. Female left in the company of friends.

A theft from a person was reported in Hillhead Brae whereby an item of clothing was stolen. The accused was known to the victim and he was later arrested and cautioned and charged.

On the same night, a car was damaged in Roman Rd, Balfroun. Enquiries are still ongoing however should anyone have any information then please contact Police.

A domestic incident was reported in Dunkeld Court, Balfroun whereby a male and a female were both arrested for a contravention of Section 38 of the Criminal Justice and Licencing (Scotland) Act 2010 (breach of the peace).

Road Safety

On 4th September a minor bump occurred in Dunmore St, Balfroun. No damage or injury was caused and parties given advice.

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Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



Theft

No thefts have occurred in the village since the last meeting however we still urge people to remain vigilant and report anything suspicious. We did receive a report of a suspicious male at Shearer's Garage. We attended and all appeared in order.

The information in relation to anti-snap locks at the end of the report is still included this month. The evenings are getting darker earlier and it is a time where traditionally housebreakings can occur. Please consider the following:

- Use timer switches on lights and radios to make it look as if your home is occupied.
- Ensure all doors and windows are secure when you leave and when you go to bed.
- If possible use secure lighting at the front and back of your property.
- Make sure all garden tools and ladders are locked away when not being used. Don't give the thieves the tools to break into your house.
- Use a good quality lock on any garden sheds and outhouses.
- Make a note of all makes, models and serial numbers of expensive items in your home.
- If your house is fitted with an alarm then please use it. This is a good deterrent should thieves manage to force entry to your house.
- create a FREE and secure inventory of all your personal property at www.immobilise.com
- If you note anything suspicious in your neighbourhood report it on 101.

There are guides on the Police Scotland website giving other ideas to protect property in rural areas:

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/home-and-personal-property/rural-crime>

All incidents in relation to suspicious persons or vehicles are welcomed and Police have and will attend to all these incidents immediately

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Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



Community Engagement and Reassurance

It is important to you to have community officers who you know, who are accessible and who address local problems.

PC Steven Graham and PC Gary Martin are the Ward Officers for the Forth and Endrick area. They are based at Balfron Police Office and can be contacted at the office, on 101, or at ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk. It is recommended that this email address is used by the local community for email contact.

Please remember that we regularly publish useful information and updates on social media, including appeals for information, updates about road closures and crime prevention advice. Our Facebook and Twitter pages can be found at

www.facebook.com/forthvalleypolicedivision

www.facebook.com/policescotland

www.twitter.com/stirlingpol

www.twitter.com/policescotland

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Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



Other Incidents / Activity of note

Rural Watch Scotland

"Rural Watch Scotland' is an extension of the Neighbourhood Watch Scotland movement and endorsed by the Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime (SPARC) and Forth valley Rural Crime Group aimed specifically at the rural communities of Scotland and aims to bring all the benefits of Neighbourhood Watch to all rural communities irrespective of location, size or demographics.

Rural watch is an online community for any member of the public where appeals, crime prevention tips and safety alerts can be posted by those who subscribe which can be viewed by all members. Subscription is free and the sharing of information on the forum is a great example of real time crime prevention in action.

The objectives of Rural Watch Scotland are to:

- Reduce crime and the fear of crime by providing the right information, to the right people, at the right time.
- Encourage people to think about safety and security for themselves, their neighbours and their community.
- Improve community cohesion and well-being by supporting communities to develop 'their watch, their way'.
- Work in partnership with national and local service providers to develop more resilient communities that are better prepared against threats, intentional or unintentional, such as crime or extreme weather.

The experience of Neighbourhood Watch throughout Scotland and elsewhere across the world is that members of Rural Watch Scotland will be less likely than non-members in the rural community to be a victim of crime.

By joining the Rural Watch Scotland scheme members can receive alerts and advice by phone, text or email. By keeping members informed about crime and other threats in specific areas, Rural Watch Scotland can help prevent crime, keep communities and residents safe, and member's responses to these alerts can help catch criminals or be better prepared to deal with other threats to communities. To join Rural Watch Scotland simply:

- Log onto www.ruralwatchscotland.co.uk
- Click the green JOIN button at the top of the page.
- Follow the on screen instructions."

Neighbourhood Alert.

This is a community messaging system which sends alerts regarding crime, safety and resilience to communities. Ruralwatch is an information platform that has been set up by what was formerly Neighbourhood Watch, however the big difference being that any members of the local community can sign up to have the relevant alerts sent to them by various means including E-mail or Text message. To receive free alerts simply register at:

www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk

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Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



Shut out scammers

Doorstep Crime affects some of the most vulnerable within our communities. It manifests in many forms including online and telephone scams, exploitation by persons known to the victim and the fraudulent activities of unscrupulous persons purporting to be bona fide tradespeople.

There is a campaign started called "Shut Out Scammers" which is raising awareness of offenders who cold-call people at their homes and scam them out of money. Doorstep criminals may offer to carry out work at a reduced rate, asking you to hand over cash straight away and often in advance of any repairs being carried out. We have visited local businesses handing out leaflets and posters to highlight this issue.

There is no specific look to a bogus caller or rogue trader. If you have any concerns at all, do not allow an individual entry to your home, or provide them with any form of payment and do not hesitate to phone the police immediately. Always ask for ID and only let callers in if they have an appointment and you know that they are genuine.

If you would like to receive any of our advice and guidance on preventing crime then you can visit your local police station, call 101 or visit our dedicated webpage at

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/personal-safety/Shut-Out-Scammers>.

Prevention is the cure –

Are you considering upgrading the locks on your external doors?

Europrofile cylinders tested and certificated to the following standards should be considered:

- a) Door Hardware Federation Technical Standard 007 (DHF TS 007) - 3-Star rating,
- b) DHF TS 007 1-star cylinder may be utilised if accompanied by DHF TS 007 2-star external hardware (handle set or secure escutcheon) or cylinder protection.
- c) Sold Secure SS312 (Diamond) standard cylinders;

How do I know if I have anti snap locks?

Essentially there are two ways you can ensure the euro cylinder locks on your doors are anti-snap proof.

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Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



1. The lock is an SS312 Diamond Approved Cylinder (as below)SS312 Diamond is the highest level of approval for a euro cylinder lock.
2. Look out for the 3 Star Kitemark Logo

If your lock has the 3-Star Kitemark Logo on it, this indicates the lock is tested against snapping.



For further information on enhanced security products including doors, windows, glass and locking mechanism please go to

www.securedbydesign.com and www.policescotland.co.uk



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Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report

