

Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



Community Council:

Forth and Endrick, Balforn Community Council

Reporting Period:

December 2019 - Compiled by PC Gary Martin

Ward Plan Priorities

Antisocial Behaviour

There was a drugs warrant executed at a farmhouse near to Ballat crossroads. One male was reported to the PF at Stirling for having a cannabis cultivation.

A male attended at Balforn Police Office clearly suffering from a mental health episode. Officers conveyed the male to the mental health ward at Forth Valley Hospital for assessment.

A drunk male was causing issues at a licenced premises within the village at closing time. Police attended and the male left the area and went home.

Road Safety

There was a car near to Ballat Crossroads. Police and fire service attended. No injury and it appeared to be an electrical fault which caused the fire.

There was a minor road accident in Hillhead Brae where a vehicle struck a parked vehicle. No injury and matter resolved quickly.

Drink Drive Campaign

We are having a Festive drink/drive campaign running through December and into January. Please be aware that you may be still over the legal limit of alcohol to drive the next day so be careful after any Christmas night outs planned. If in doubt, don't drive.

Advice for Drivers

Prepare for the winter by keeping your vehicle well maintained before you take to the road.

Take special care that brakes, tyres, lights, batteries, windscreens and wiper blades are in good condition. In addition, washer bottles need to contain an additive to stop the water from freezing.

Tyres should also be checked weekly to ensure they are legal and at the correct pressure (consult your vehicle handbook). The minimum legal tread depth for cars is 1.6mm across the centre 3/4 of the breadth of the tread around the entire circumference. They should also be checked for bulges, cuts or tears which weaken the tyre. Failure to maintain your tyres could lead to a maximum of £2,500 fine and 3 penalty points per tyre

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Make sure your windows are clean, properly demisted and clear of snow and ice before you drive. Also make sure that your roof is clear of snow as this affects drivers behind you and can also cause obstructions on your windscreen when braking. Be careful with low sun as it can make it difficult to see and a dirty, greasy or damaged windscreen can make this worse.

All lights must be kept clean and clear and be in good working order, including registration plate lights. Use the help of someone to check that all of your lights are working.

Consider keeping an emergency kit in your car for severe weather, this should at least include:

- An ice scraper and de-icer
- A shovel for snow
- A torch and spare batteries
- Warm clothes, boots and a blanket
- Some food and a warm drink in a flask
- A first aid kit
- Battery jump leads
- A map or device with offline maps for any unplanned diversions.

Be mindful of the road conditions when you drive; bad weather is often blamed for causing accidents however the real cause is often inappropriate driving for the conditions that exist.

In wet weather, stopping distances will be at least double those required for stopping on dry roads. Aquaplaning can be a frightening experience; this is where a wedge of water builds up between the front tyres and the road surface. If this happens, the safest solution is to remove pressure from the accelerator, allowing the vehicle to lose speed which will help the tyres regain their grip.

Ice and snow can increase stopping distances by up to ten times so keep well back from the vehicle in front. Anticipate when you will need to be stopping and be alert to other road users. When the roads are icy, drive at a slow speed in as high a gear as possible; accelerate and brake very gently.

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Theft

There has been no thefts since the last meeting.

We have again included 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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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 Balfour 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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Other Incidents / Activity of note

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

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>.

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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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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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