

# Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



**Community Council:**

Forth and Endrick, Balforn Community Council

**Reporting Period:**

March 2020 - Compiled by PC Gary Martin

**Ward Plan Priorities**

It has been a fairly quiet month however officers have dealt with incidents varying from Mountain Rescues to Vandalism, from Road Traffic Collisions to Intruder Alarms.

**Antisocial Behaviour**

There was a report of a very minor vandalism, spray painting at a residential property. No suspect has been identified.

A minor Breach of the Peace was reported. Enquiries are still continuing into identifying and tracing the suspect.

**Road Safety**

Obviously with the heavy rain and also snow showers in recent weeks, driving conditions have been exceptionally hazardous. There were numerous reports of large floods on almost all of the roads on the outskirts of the village. Police attended to these incidents and verified there were no major issues or persons stranded etc.

There was a road traffic collision near to Finnich Toll where a car lost control and ploughed through a fence and into a field. Thankfully there were no serious injuries however there was damage caused to the fence etc. at that locus.

A report of a tree fallen onto Roman Road. Police attended and verified there were no major issues, council contacted and tree removed.

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## 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

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.

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## Theft

There has been no thefts reported since the last meeting which is of course great news for both Police and villagers alike.

An intruder alarm was activated. Police attended immediately and confirmed all was in order.

All incidents in relation to suspicious persons or vehicles are welcomed and Police have and will attend to all these incidents immediately. We urge people to remain vigilant and report anything suspicious.

Look out for your neighbours!! On many occasions housebreakers are immediately apprehended due to a neighbour acting quickly in relation to something they may have witnessed from their address. There is no issue if anyone contacts Police and it turns out to be a false alarm. Also, if you do see a crime being committed, contact us on 999, it is quicker than the 101.

As the evenings are darker earlier at this time of year 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](http://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>

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## Public Consultation

Police Scotland is asking the public for their views on how to serve our communities in the future. This is on the Police Scotland website and the link to the survey is found below:

<https://consult.scotland.police.uk/consultation/policingforscotland/>

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.facebook.com/forthvalleypolicedivision)

[www.facebook.com/policescotland](http://www.facebook.com/policescotland)

[www.twitter.com/stirlingpol](http://www.twitter.com/stirlingpol)

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## Other Incidents / Activity of note

### SHEEP WORRYING

In a neighbouring village a sheep suffered bite marks to its rear legs. This was possibly caused by a dog out of control in a field which contained a large number of sheep. No one has been identified as being responsible.

It is an offence to allow a dog to worry sheep. Worrying includes attacking or chasing sheep and, in some circumstances, farmers are legally entitled to shoot dogs if they are endangering their sheep. Find out more below in the 'Staying legal' sections below. It is vital that you keep your dog on the lead around livestock, even if you can usually trust it to come to call. If you live in or near a farming area, you must make sure that your dog cannot escape from your property, as it may find its way onto land containing sheep.

If a dog worries sheep on agricultural land, the person in charge of the dog is guilty of an offence. The Act considers sheep worrying to include attacking sheep, chasing them in a way that may cause injury suffering, abortion or loss of produce or being at large (not on a lead or otherwise under close control) in a field or enclosure in which there are sheep.

There were 2 Mountain Rescues on Ben Lomond. Lomond Mountain Rescue Team summoned during both incidents and provided immediate and excellent assistance as always. Their service is completely invaluable.

Injured parties located during both incidents and rescued suffering no serious injuries.

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