

Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



Community Council:

Forth and Endrick, Balfroun Community Council

Reporting Period:

May 2020 - Compiled by PC Steven Graham

Ward Plan Priorities

Antisocial Behaviour

A lot of calls have been received in relation to people not adhering to Government advice on Covid-19. With the slight relaxation of the guidelines there has been more people attending the villages so we have been very busy dealing with these and the amount of vehicles in the area.

Complaint of loud music at a flat in Buchanan Street, Balfroun. Occupier was made aware of complaint however a Covid-19 fixed penalty was issued.

A cannabis cultivation was discovered at a flat in Buchanan St, Balfroun. One male was reported to the PF.

One male was arrested for being drunk and incapable on a bus at Buchanan Street, Balfroun

There was a report of a distressed female in the village., She had a fall out with a friend and was later uplifted by a family member.

A report of a disorientated male walking about the village was received. He was subsequently identified as a missing person reported from Glasgow. He was traced safe and well and returned home.

Road Safety

A female reported to be drink driving in Balfroun was traced in Killearn and subsequently arrested for drunk driving.

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Theft

There have been no thefts in the village reported since the last report.

Community Message – Police Scotland Forth Valley Division

I just wanted to reach out and introduce myself as the Superintendent for Partnerships in Forth Valley Division. In the last 27 years, I don't think I have worked through such a unique situation as the current Coronavirus pandemic. Whilst there is understandable anxiety around what the future might bring, a real positive from this has been the evidence of community spirit across the whole Forth Valley area.

I would just like to take the opportunity to thank you personally for the high levels of compliance with Government guidance we have seen locally. This all helps protect the resilience of NHS and hopefully save lives.

For policing, playing our part in supporting the critical role of our partners in Public Health to protect our communities from Covid 19 is a vitally important piece of work. We are really keen to get an understanding of how people are feeling at the moment across our communities and how we might use this to develop our policing approach over the forthcoming months.

To this end, I would really appreciate if you could spare a few minutes to follow the below link and complete the survey. The survey can be completed from your perspective as a resident or your employment, whichever feels most relevant in terms of feedback.

<https://consult.scotland.police.uk/surveys/your-police-2020-2021>

Best wishes and please look after yourselves.

Mandy Paterson
Superintendent
Partnerships
Forth Valley Division

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Mobile Devices

When you see my colleagues out and about, you will start to notice that the majority of us are now carrying some additional technology with us! The devices are part of the Police Scotland “mobile working” project, and we are one of the last divisions to see the rollout. In short, all operational officers are being issued with electronic notebook/PDAs in order to speed up routine tasks, and ensuring we don’t need to return to the office as often during the course of a shift. It has taken some getting used to, for tasks such as noting statements etc, but some of the features have proved advantageous. Each officer can now carry out their own checks on the street using national databases, without having to wait for a slot to talk to the Area Control Room. Historically, on busier nights it was often impossible to get air time to carry out checks owing to ongoing incidents elsewhere. We can also get emails on the go whilst out and about, and carry out numerous pieces of paperwork that are required in the course of a shift. With the current restrictions, I am now only needing to return to the office for my lunch/dinner, and the rest of the shift is spent where I am best placed, and that is within the local communities. Hopefully that will explain why you will see officers sitting on their “phones” at the side of the road from time to time! We are either answering emails, speaking with local residents, or obtaining details of the incident we are being sent to. It is all subjective of 4G signal of course, and so far there are only a few spots that the devices don’t seem to work.

SHEEP WORRYING

This time of year presents the problem of sheep worrying. 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.

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The Scottish Outdoor Access Code

The Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC) offers guidance for people enjoying the countryside with their dogs and says: "In exercising access rights, you must keep your dog(s) under proper control. You must also ensure that your dog does not worry livestock."

The Scottish Outdoor Access Code says 'proper control' means different things in different situations, but when around sheep you should:-

- Not take your dog into a field where there are lambs. Go into a neighbouring field or onto adjacent land. In open country, keep your dog on a short lead (2 metres or shorter) when there are lambs around and keep away from them.
- Keep your dog on a short lead or under close control if you need to go into a field where there are sheep. The SOAC defines 'under close control' as close at heel and responsive to your commands. Stay distant from the sheep.
- Keep your dog under close control in more open country where there are sheep and stay away from them.
- The SOAC reminds dog owners that in some cases a farmer has the right to shoot a dog that is attacking their livestock.
- If you are handling a group of dogs, make sure that they do not cause alarm to livestock.

Fraud

Fraudsters can make contact with you by phone. The caller might pretend to be from your bank and ask for personal information such as bank details or they might be someone offering you a deal or a prize. Recently calls have been made by persons purporting to be from HMRC stating that there was a warrant out for the receiver of the call and was asked to contact the number that was given. This is clearly a false call so please heed the below advise:

- Consider making your phone number ex-directory.
- Don't give out any personal information unless you are the one who made the call and you are certain of the identity of the person you are speaking to.
- Don't give out your credit card or bank card details to strangers on the telephone.
- NEVER tell somebody your bank PIN number, even if they claim to be the bank or police. If the caller is genuine they will never ask for this information.
- Don't give out information which may infer that you live alone, are older or vulnerable.
- Never send money to anyone who claims to have a prize for you.
- If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Contact local trading standards – they may be able to use approved 'call blocking' technology.

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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 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

**Other
Incidents /
Activity of
note**