

Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



Community Council:

Forth and Endrick, Balfron Community Council

Reporting Period:

August 2020 - Compiled by PC Gary Martin

Ward Plan Priorities

Antisocial Behaviour

As per previous report – a number of calls received in relation to people not adhering to Government advice on Covid-19. With the relaxation of the guidelines there has been more people attending the various villages so it has been busy dealing with the increased amount of vehicles travelling in the area.

There were reports of minor disturbances in the village. Police attended immediately on all occasions and dealt with the incidents accordingly. During these incidents -

- 1 male was traced and charged for a Breach of the Peace.
- 1 female was traced and charged for assaulting a Police officer.
- 1 male charged with a minor assault.

Reports of loud music, Police attended and no further issues reported.

Road Safety

A report of heavy rain on 04/08/2020 with water lying on various roadways. Police attended and roads closed on the outskirts of the village.

Reports of cows on the road, Police attended and made safe.

A road accident occurred on the outskirts of the village, Police attended, no serious injuries.

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Theft

A report of a theft from a residential property. Suspect identified and to be traced. The suspect appears to be known by the victim and had been in attendance at the address previously.

Residential alarm activations, Police attend on these occasions and confirmed all in order.

FINNICH TOLL –

I am sure you will be aware of the ongoing Road Traffic issues at this area and the obvious dangers.

We monitor this area regularly and obviously more so when the weather is fine through the summer months.

With the increase in visitors after lockdown ended, this area has been even busier than in previous years. Police have been in very regular attendance due to the various dangerous road traffic issues and inconsiderate parking problems.

There have been a number of Fixed Penalty Tickets issued by local officers in relation to Dangerous Parking on the road way near to the Glen.

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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.

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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**