

# Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



**Community Council:**

Forth and Endrick, Balfron Community Council

**Reporting Period:**

May 2021 - Compiled by PC Steven Graham

**Ward Plan Priorities**

## **Antisocial Behaviour**

Complaint of loud music coming from Endrick Rd, Balfron. Police attended and found the music was excessive. Music was subsequently turned off.

Youths gathered in Balfron Primary School causing annoyance. Police attended and youths made off on Police arrival.

Noisy music coming from a house in South Lomond Terrace, Balfron. Police attended and found the music not to be excessive however the occupier was made aware of the complaint.

Complaint received about a female in Dunkeld Court causing a disturbance. The female is yet to be traced but enquiries continue.

There are a couple of neighbour disputes in the village. Parties are being liaised with and the council are also aware and trying to resolve the issues.

## **Road Safety**

There were no reportable RTCs in the Balfron area since the last meeting.

## **Theft**

There have been no thefts in Balfron since the last meeting.

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## Shut outs scammers

During May Police Scotland will be running a “Shut out Scammers” campaign highlighting Rogue Traders. This will mainly be an online campaign however please take heed of the following:

Don't deal with cold callers - find local traders who have been vetted by Trading Standards at <https://approvedtrader.scot/>

Close the door on uninvited callers. Don't feel obliged to answer the door to a cold caller - it is your home and you should not let anyone in unless you feel comfortable

Take time to think before making a decision. Rogue traders may try to pressure you by saying that they have special deals which are only available today. Don't let an uninvited trader start work straight away

If an uninvited trader knocks on your door and tells you that urgent work needs done on your house or garden, don't take their word for it. Always get a second opinion from someone you trust and get at least 3 quotes before having any work carried out.

5 signposts to help you

Close the Door on uninvited callers

Take Time to think before making a decision

Research - get at least 3 quotes

Verify that the caller is genuine

Report suspicious behaviour to @policescotland & scams to @advisedotscot

Sign up for @nwatchscotland free alerts to receive timely local alerts about community safety & crime prevention from Police Scotland and other partners.

<https://www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk/sign-up-for-alerts/>

Rogue traders go to great lengths to appear legitimate, with genuine-looking websites, leaflets and online reviews. But they can't fake membership in a council run approved trader scheme: <https://approvedtrader.scot/>

Fed up with rogue traders? Watch these top tips on shutting out scammers from @policescotland @advisedotscot @socotss @tsscot & @nwatchscotland:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j5ivvS8gJ-E>

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## Useful Links

Find the most up to date advice on doorstep crime from Police Scotland on the website. They also have a dedicated page with advice on scams and frauds.

Call 101 to report any suspicious activity

Call 999 and ask for the police if you feel scared or threatened

To report doorstep scams to Trading Standards call Advice Direct Scotland on 0808 164 6000 or visit [scamwatch.scot](http://scamwatch.scot)

For free localised alerts from key information providers regarding incidents and crime prevention, go to [www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk)

Get advice on consumer rights from your local Citizens Advice Bureau or by calling the Advice Direct Scotland Helpline on 0808 164 6000

Find local traders who have been vetted by Trading Standards at the SCOTSS Approved Trader Directory: [approvedtrader.scot](http://approvedtrader.scot)

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## **SHEEP WORRYING**

There was an incident of sheep worrying in a field near to Ballindalloch Farm. No complaints were made by the farmer. 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. 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.

## **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.

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If you receive an email, text or WhatsApp message purporting to be from the government, HMRC, the World Health Organisation (WHO) or a coronavirus-related charity, then take a moment to think before you part with your money or information.

Never click on links or download attachments as criminals may infect your devices with malware or ask you to enter your personal or financial information into fake websites. In some cases this can lead to your identity being stolen.

## **SHEEP WORRYING**

In a neighbouring village sheep have been attacked on a few occasions recently. This was likely 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.

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. 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.

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## **Bike theft**

More than 500,000 bikes are stolen in the UK each year because they're poorly secured or not secured at all. More than half of all bikes stolen are taken from the owner's property. Due to the lockdown bikes have become more popular and thus have become more of a target for theft. Help protect your bike by following these guidelines:

### **What can I do before I set off?**

- Photograph your bike and record all of your bike's details and distinguishing features and keep in a safe place. The serial number can be found on the bottom bracket.
- Register your bicycle securely online at the National Cycle Database, [www.bikeregister.com](http://www.bikeregister.com). Doing this may help to recover your bike if it goes missing. On registering, you can also download a bike logbook where you can record your bike's details to keep at hand.
- Security mark your bike's frame with a UV pen or other method - the mark should include your home postcode and house number.
- Insure your bike, either on contents insurance or separately if required.

### **How can I secure my bike if it's kept in common close or stairwell?**

- Always keep your bike out of sight as best you can.
- Lock your bike with two locks to a secure banister or ground anchor.

### **What if I store my bicycle in a garage or a shed?**

- For tips on garage and shed security see here

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/home-and-personal-property/secure-your-garden-outbuildings/>

- Lock your bike with two locks to a ground anchor.

### **How should I secure my bike and its accessories when out and about?**

- Lock your bike up every time you leave it using secure locks (i.e. D-locks or thick cable locks).
- Ideally, use two different types of lock - a thief will need more tools to steal it.
- Locks are considered more vulnerable when close to the ground, so keep them off the floor.
- Fasten your bike through the frame and wheel to a fixed object.

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

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

- Lock your bike in a busy, well-lit place, in view of people or CCTV cameras.
- Lock the bike closely to the object it's attached to so it is difficult to manoeuvre.
- Lock the wheels and remove small parts / accessories that cannot be readily secured, such as lights, pumps, water bottles, saddles etc.
- Vary your routine - lock up your bike in different ways & place.

### **Pedal and motorbike identification forms**

The downloadable forms at the bottom of this page are a handy guide for you to record information about your bike or motorbike. These forms can be used as your own personal record about your property for the duration of time you own it. Every bike or motorbike will be unique to its owner through the serial/chassis/VIN numbers but these are not the only ways to identify your property. Modifications, stickers, repairs, damage also can be used to help identify your bike and the more information you record about your property throughout its time with you, the greater possible chance we have of reuniting you with your property if unfortunately lost or stolen. If you keep these forms up to date and in a place you remember, if you ever have to report your bike lost or stolen, you will have the perfect reference tool for making your report.

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/d4jlfj4i/pedal-cycle-identification-form.pdf>

**We also have bike marking kits so if anyone wishes their bike marked in order to try and identify it if it gets stolen then please get in touch.**

### **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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