

Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



Community Council:

Forth and Endrick, Balfron Community Council

Reporting Period:

September 2021 - Compiled by PC Steven Graham

Ward Plan Priorities

Antisocial Behaviour

There was a report of loud music coming from a house somewhere in Station Rd, Balfron. Police attended however there was no music on their arrival.

Road Safety

RTC occurred at Ballat Crossroads. 2 vehicles involved and minor injuries sustained.

I have carried out speed checks within the village and also the Pop up police officer has made an appearance at the bottom of the village. This will continue to be the case in the future.

Theft

Another fraud occurred whereby a male has contacted his bank and asked legitimately for funds to be transferred into a different account. This bank then received emails from the customer's email address asking for the funds to be transferred to the account of a bank that he is not a member of. This second request was an attempted fraud however fortunately no funds were transferred. Please see below advice on fraud.

There was an attempted theft of a motor vehicle at Barnwell Drive, Balfron. Car alarm went off through the night however no suspects are known at this time.

Theft of alcohol 2 days in a row from Co-op in Balfron. These 2 thefts are linked and enquiries are continuing.

Fuel theft campaign

A recent campaign was initiated by Police Scotland with regards to theft of fuel. Please see below in relation to security.

<https://ukifda.org/consumers/oil-tank-security/>

Prevention Products to consider

The Oil Defender by Fuel Alarms Ltd – with SBD Accreditation (securedbydesign.com)

Watchman Alarm | Oil Tank Alarm | Kingspan | Great Britain

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Bogus Workmen

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

For free localised alerts from key information providers regarding incidents and crime prevention, go to 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

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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. Other 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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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. 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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- 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 is the Ward Officer for the Forth and Endrick area. They are based at Balfroon 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