

Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



Community Council:

Forth and Endrick, Balfron Community Council

Reporting Period:

April 2022 - Compiled by PC Steven Graham

Ward Plan Priorities

Antisocial Behaviour

2 males were arrested and charged with assault following a disturbance within a house in Hillhead Brae.

Group of youth were causing annoyance within the grounds of Balfron Primary School. Police attended and moved them on.

Complaint regarding a female handing out leaflets deemed inappropriate at Balfron Primary School. Leaflets were not offensive however Police traced female who stated that she would refrain from handing them out in the future.

Road Safety

There was a one vehicle RTC at Printer's Row, Balfron. No injury was sustained.

A female was arrested and charged for drink driving at Buchanan Street, Balfron.

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Theft

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

That being said, a container was broken into at Milton of Buchanan and power tools stolen. Also, suspect persons appeared to be looking to break into a house in Blanefield however were deterred by a video doorbell. Vehicles have also been stolen in Killearn and Blanefield.

What basic steps can I take to protect my home?

First, think about basic good housekeeping routines that aren't expensive:

- Keep your home locked at all times
- Many thieves do not need to break in at all because a door or window has been left open or unlocked
- Don't leave keys on the inside of door locks, under mats or anywhere else they can be easily found
- If you have a 'thumb turn' lock on the inside of a door, ensure that it cannot be accessed from outside
- Don't keep house keys and car keys on the same key ring
- Don't keep a lot of cash in the house
- Mark your property with a UV marker pen or Security DNA marking Kit - these can be bought online or in some stores
- Look for the Secured By Design accreditation on the product and register - you can place an invisible imprint of your postcode and house number on your possessions
- You can record and register details of your valuables, serial numbers and features or marks, on devices on the national mobile property register on the immobilise website - this includes mobile phones, cameras, laptops and tablets
- Don't leave valuables where they can be seen through a window - for example, around the tree at Christmas time
- If you have a wall calendar, avoid having it shown near a window from where appointments can be seen - people may see when there will be no one in.
- 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.
- If you note anything suspicious in your neighbourhood report it on 101.

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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.

Fuel theft advice

There has been a rise in domestic and commercial fuel tanks. Although this hasn't happened in the Forth and Endrick area it's important to put measures in place to protect your fuel tank and make it extremely difficult for thieves to target your fuel.

Please find below some tips to avoid becoming a victim of such a crime:

Locate your tank in a safe location remembering that many thieves use Google Maps to find satellite images of fuel tanks.

Consider locating your tank behind a garage or shed and away from roads. Positioning it close to your business or home will ensure it's in clear view.

Locate inside a security gate or cage with a good quality, robust fence or cage to make life difficult for thieves.

Install an alarm Consider fitting alarms to external gates surrounding your fuel tank or to the inside of a shed or outbuilding that is housing the tank.

Fit a fuel theft lock, thieves often come armed with tools so it's worth investing in quality locks, locking fuel caps and anti-siphoning deterrents to slow down the criminals and reduce the likelihood of success. Locks with a CEN or BSEN 12320 Grade 6 classification indicate maximum security (Grade 1 is the least secure)

Install outdoor security lighting positioning your tank in the bright light is an effective solution worth considering. With the majority of thieves striking at night, installing automatic security lighting will help stop criminals from targeting your fuel tank.

Install CCTV cameras on your premises to dissuade anyone from targeting your tank as well as catch a thief in the act, providing the police with the evidence required to bring those to justice who choose to ignore the deterrent.

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Put up signage to highlight the security measures you've installed can help deter those up to no good. These could include: Private property, keep out, Warning CCTV in operation, All vehicles are left with minimum fuel, Security patrols in operation, All vehicles fitted with security devices etc

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. 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.

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 Balfron Police Office and can be contacted at the office, on 101, or at ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.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

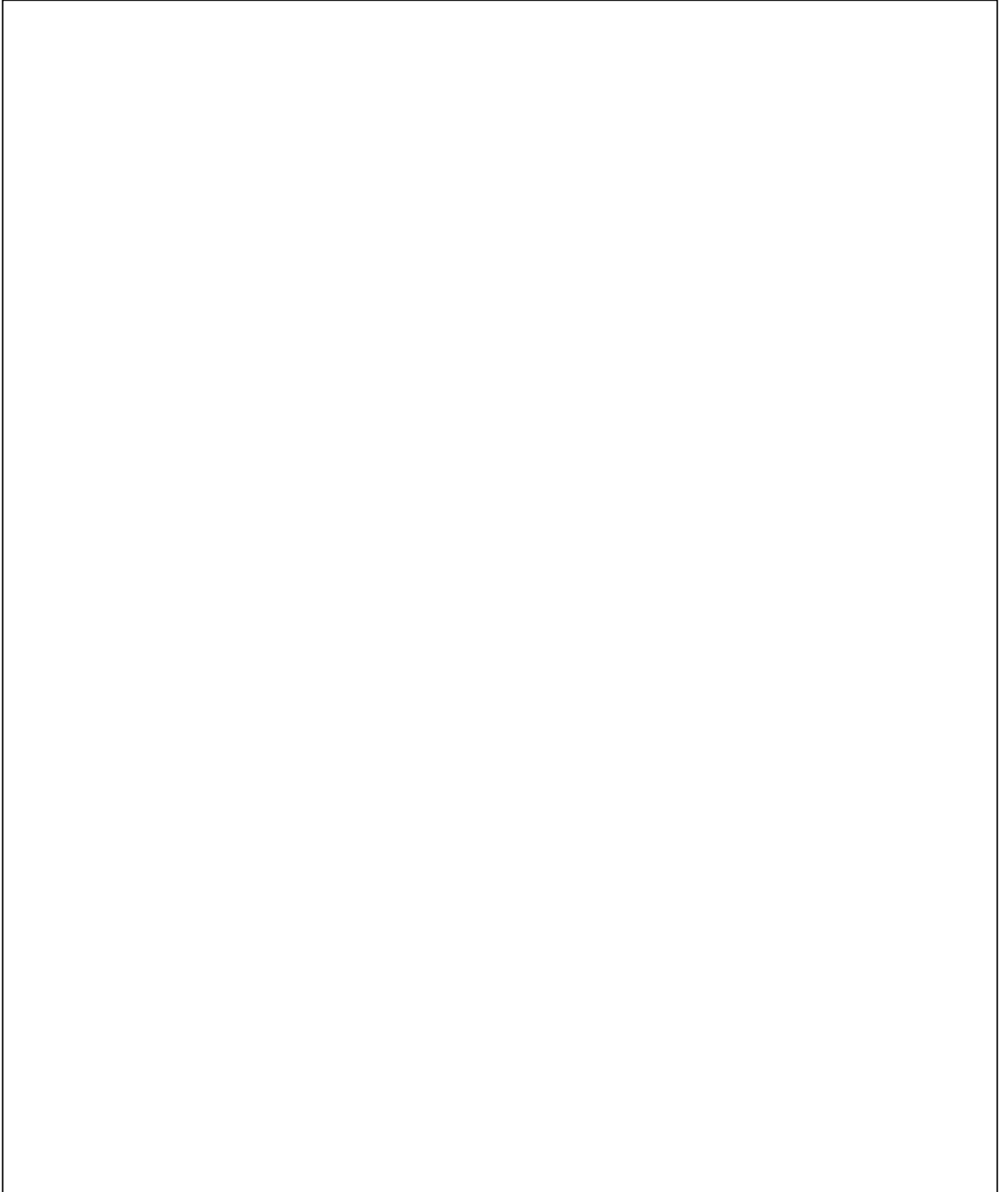
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