

Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



Community Council:

Forth and Endrick, Balfron Community Council

Reporting Period:

May 2022 - Compiled by PC Steven Graham

Ward Plan Priorities

Antisocial Behaviour

4 schoolkids cautioned and charged with vandalism after breaking into the school at a weekend and causing damage within

There was a complaint of noise coming from a house in Hillhead Brae, Balfron. No noise on Police arrival.

Complaint regarding a group of drunken youths outside a licenced premises in Balfron. No trace on Police arrival.

There was a report of a male acting suspiciously in the forest tracks area near to Hoish Farm which frightened a female walking her dog. Female shouted at male who made off. Nothing was said to the female by the male. **Road Safety**

Road Safety

Report received of a vehicle parked in Donaldson Way with no insurance. Enquiry carried out and vehicle was parked legally.

RTC in Hillhead Brae whereby 2 parked vehicles were damaged. Details exchanged and one female as issued with a fixed penalty for careless driving.

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Theft

There have been no thefts in the Balfron area since the last meeting however there was a theft of oil from a tank at a house in Milton of Buchanan and there have been thefts from an insecure house and an insecure garage in Blanefield so please heed the advice given on protecting your property.

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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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.

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

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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.

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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Dear all,

As the weather changes and we fast approach another busy visitor season in Rural Stirlingshire, we wanted to provide an update on some of the work that your local officers are currently involved in. Over the coming reports we will provide updates on our plans including the restart of Operation Elms, which is our policing plan to support the influx of visitors to the area, the recently formed Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Partnership Against Rural Crime, the Partnership Approach to Water Safety Group and the role of some of the specialist officers who will be working in your area.

'Operation Elms' launched on the 26th and 27th of March and will run on peak weekends where we expect to see an increase in visitor numbers through the summer period. Operation Elms is essentially our commitment to policing the rural footprint and will see additional officer being deployed in the area predominantly on weekends and bank holidays. These officers will patrol local visitor destinations / vulnerable locations as well as the extensive road network that runs through the area.

Officer working as part of Operation Elms will focus on visitor engagement, trying to ensure motorists behave in a safe and respectful manner and that road networks do not become congested as a result of dangerous or inconsiderate parking. Officers will also be involved in dealing with any reported instances of Anti-Social Behaviour which has a detrimental impact on the quality of life for many of our communities, but also the environmental and natural damage that can last long after the visitors have dispersed. Officers will also be undertaking work identified through the Partnership Against Rural Crime and the Partnership Approach to Water Safety as mentioned above.

Whilst we hope everyone has a safe visit to the area in it is inevitable some visitors will need the assistance of the emergency services and the additional officers will hopefully expedite our response to these incidents. We will continue to work closely with our partner emergency services as well as the local Mountain Rescue and Search Teams who's volunteers tirelessly turn out to assist people in danger, and a great amount of gratitude goes to these volunteers who's commitment is priceless.

The police remain committed to working with our partners through the National Park Safe Recovery Group that meets on a weekly basis and our officers will be deployed in conjunction with Stirling Council Enforcement Officers and the Rangers from the National Park and Forestry and Land Scotland. The work of this group over the previous years has proven invaluable in many instances and its continuation will ensure that our collective resources are being deployed effectively and in a way that means they can make meaningful contributions to keeping our residents and visitors safe.

Whilst there may be some challenging days ahead, it is hoped that this season can be a safe and prosperous one for our visitors and communities. Your local officers will continue to be available to discuss any emerging or ongoing concerns you may have, so please do not hesitate to get in touch with them or ask your community council to do this on your behalf.

All the very best
Andy Bushell
Inspector
Forth Valley Division -
Trossachs and Teith,
Forth and Endrick &
Dunblane and Bridge of Allan
South Church Street, Callander FK17 8BN
Perth Road, Dunblane FK15 0EY

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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 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

www.facebook.com/forthvalleypolicedivision

www.facebook.com/policescotland

www.twitter.com/stirlingpol

www.twitter.com/policescotland