

Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



Community Council:

Forth and Endrick, Balfron Community Council

Reporting Period:

July 2022 - Compiled by PC Graeme McNulty

Ward Plan Priorities

During the period of this report there have been a total of 23 calls to the village of Balfron. This has resulted in eight crimes/ offences being recorded.

Antisocial Behaviour

Three adult males have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal in relation to a disturbance type incident at Dunkeld Court whereby they made threats towards another adult male.

There has been one reported Domestic incident regarding a Communications offence.

Road Safety

There has been one offence recorded of failing to stop after a Road Traffic Collision whereby the suspect struck a parked vehicle before driving off and not reporting the collision.

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Theft

There have been three recorded thefts during the material time. One was the theft of a motor vehicle and another from a garden shed.

In relation to this, please remember to secure all outbuildings and where possible, install suitable locks and other security deterrents (lighting, CCTV etc).

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Police Officer Recruitment

In Police Scotland no two days are the same, no two careers are the same and no two officers are the same. The police officer job is unique. It will challenge you mentally and physically every day. It can be tough, but also incredibly rewarding. Your job will be to protect the vulnerable, support victims of crime and build trust with the people and communities you serve.

We will train you with the skills you need to rise to the challenge, and provide support through our police family. You will become part of a 200 year long history of policing in Scotland. You will join a team of 23,000 officers and staff dedicated to keeping people safe.

We are looking to recruit people who work and live by our values of integrity, fairness and respect and have a commitment to public service. In this role, you will build lasting relationships with colleagues and the people who live and work in the area you are based in.

In order to apply to become a police officer, you must meet essential criteria (which can be found on the Police Scotland website). You will then take part in our selection process. This includes a fitness assessment and a medical, which takes place at the end of the process.

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STUDENT SAFETY

Starting university or college can mean some significant life changes - making new friends, studying in a new town, going out to new places and living independently for the first time. However, some of these changes could also increase your risk of becoming a victim of crime.

Start out in the safest way possible, take some simple steps to protect yourself and your property, and above all keep safe.

Home Safety

Whether you are living in student halls, or a flat, you may be away from home for the first time with the new responsibility to keep your home and your property safe from theft.

Thieves will be aware that new students arrive every year with new laptops and tablets and also that many use pedal cycles to get around campus. This can make you a target for theft.

There are simple measures you can take to keep yourself and your property safe.

Practical Guidance

- Think about your level of security at home – are there working locks on doors and windows? If you are renting, ask the landlord to upgrade the security.
- Keep your doors and windows locked whenever you are out. If you are on the ground floor you should consider closing your windows when you are out of the room for extended periods / at night, especially where high value items are within line of sight from outside.
- Keep your high value items such as laptops, tablets, phones out of sight and secure when you are not using them. Keep a record of any model/serial numbers and consider property marking and “find my device” apps.
- If you live in a property with a controlled entry door, never let anyone into the building or through a controlled entry door unless you know them or have seen their identification. If someone should buzz looking for another flat, don't let them in – tell them to call the flat directly. If you're ordering a takeaway, don't give the delivery driver the keypad number for the door.
- Pedal cycles are very attractive to thieves. Get yours insured if possible, use a security marking product and always use a good quality D-lock fixed to a secure anchor when not in use.

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Online Safety

There are a number of steps you can take to help make sure you don't get trapped in the web and become a victim of crime online.

- Create a separate password for your email.
- Create a strong password using three random words.
- Save your passwords in your browser.
- Turn on two-factor authentication.
- Update your devices.
- Turn on backup.

Practical Guidance

Protecting your computer

- Secure your Wi-Fi using the encryption option.
- Do not open emails from people you don't know.
- Install anti-virus / anti-spyware software and a firewall.
- Keep your computer software, web browser and security up-to-date.
- Don't use obvious passwords e.g. birthdays. Use a mixture of numbers, symbols and upper and lower case letters and use different passwords for different sites.

Social networking

- Keep your personal information hidden.
- Set security levels so that only your friends can view your profile.
- If someone sends you an abusive message, save them and contact the forum administrator.
- Don't arrange to meet someone that you have only met online - some people might not be who they say they are.
- You should also check your privacy settings on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat. Cyber Aware provides essential advice on protecting yourself online from National Cyber Security Centre.

Online finance and shopping

- Look for "https://" and the padlock image to show that the site is secure.
- Use a secure payment option such as PayPal or a dedicated pre-pay credit card for all online purchases.
- Beware of sponsored links at the top or side of search pages. These are now always reliable and can be used by criminals.
- Remember, banks and financial institutions do not send emails asking you to verify your bank details by clicking on a link. Always check with your bank.

Get help

- If you suspect you have been a victim of cybercrime contact Police Scotland on 101 to report it.

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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