

Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



Community Council:

Forth and Endrick, Balforn Community Council

Reporting Period:

November 2022 - Compiled by PC Graeme McNulty

Ward Plan Priorities

Antisocial Behaviour

We have received reports of a strong smell of cannabis coming from a property in Balforn. Although usually this suggests persons smoking cannabis please remember that smells lingering for days at a time can also suggest production of cannabis. Please report any concerns or suspicions you may have about persons possibly growing/ dealing drugs to allow us to take a firm and robust approach.

Road Safety

There was a one vehicle road traffic collision at 'Doctor's Corner' on Kepculloch Road on the way out of the village. Luckily no persons were injured. Please remember to drive to road conditions, especially as we enter the late autumn/ winter months and ensure your car is kept in safe working order (as per vehicle safety advise attached).

Theft

There has been an attempted theft of motor vehicle reported in the Balforn area since the last report. Fortunately on this occasion the 'would-be thieves' were unsuccessful in their mission however this indicates that recidivist criminals may be active in the area. Please remain vigilant and report to Police persons acting suspiciously

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Vehicle safety – Getting winter ready

Throughout September and October 2022, PC's McNulty and Graham have been conducting proactive road safety patrols. As a result of these patrols the following offences have been detected;

Expired MOT x7

No Insurance x2

Failing to provide a roadside breath test (suspected drunk driving) x1

Expired Vehicle Excise License x2

Although these offences have not been committed within the village of Balforn, they are from the surrounding areas and are clear examples of persons not being prepared when taking to the road. Please follows the below safety advice.

Prepare for the winter by keeping your vehicle well maintained before you take to the road. Take special care that brakes, tyres, lights, batteries, windscreens and wiper blades are in good condition. In addition, washer bottles need to contain an additive to stop the water from freezing.

Tyres should also be checked weekly to ensure they are legal and at the correct pressure (consult your vehicle handbook). The minimum legal tread depth for cars is 1.6mm across the centre 3/4 of the breadth of the tread around the entire circumference. They should also be checked for bulges, cuts or tears which weaken the tyre. Failure to maintain your tyres could lead to a maximum of £2,500 fine and 3 penalty points per tyre.

Make sure your windows are clean, properly demisted and clear of snow and ice before you drive. Also make sure that your roof is clear of snow as this affects drivers behind you and can also cause obstructions on your windscreen when braking. Be careful with low sun as it can make it difficult to see and a dirty, greasy or damaged windscreen can make this worse.

All lights must be kept clean and clear and be in good working order, including registration plate lights. Use the help of someone to check that all of your lights are working.

Consider keeping an emergency kit in your car for severe weather, this should at least include:

- An ice scraper and de-icer
- A shovel for snow
- A torch and spare batteries
- Warm clothes, boots and a blanket
- Some food and a warm drink in a flask
- A first aid kit
- Battery jump leads
- A map or device with offline maps for any unplanned diversions.

In wet weather, stopping distances will be at least double those required for stopping on dry roads. Aquaplaning can be a frightening experience; this is where a wedge of water builds up between the front tyres and the road surface. If this happens, the safest solution is to remove pressure from the accelerator, allowing the vehicle to lose speed which will help the tyres regain their grip.

Ice and snow can increase stopping distanced by up to ten times so keep well back from the vehicle in front. Anticipate when you will need to be stopping and be alert to other road users. When the roads are icy, drive at a slow speed in as high a gear as possible; accelerate and brake very gently.

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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's Steven Graham and Graeme McNulty are 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 however this should not be used to report crimes.

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