

Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



Community Council:

Forth and Endrick, Balfron Community Council

Reporting Period:

November 2022 - Compiled by PC Graeme McNulty

Ward Plan Priorities

Antisocial Behaviour

Report of a school pupil from Balfron Primary School causing annoyance to an elderly resident in Endrick Gardens. No malice intended by the pupil, just high jinx however he was identified and advised to stay away from the house.

Call regarding threats being made to a male whilst within Balfron Co-op. Enquiries are continuing.

Road Safety

Vehicle struck bollards on the road coming into the village at Printer's Row. No injury was sustained and Stirling Council made aware.

Vehicle struck by another vehicle whilst parked in Co-op car park. Enquiries are continuing to trace other vehicle.

Theft

There has been no thefts in the Balfron area since the last meeting,

A fraud was committed in the Drymen area whereby the perpetrator has pretended to be the victim's daughter saying she had a new phone and could not access her own bank due to the new phone. The Perpetrator then asked for money to be transferred to her as she could not pay a bill due to the new phone. The money was transferred prior to realising it was a scam. This is a very common type of fraud and please take heed of the fraud advice issued.

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Vehicle safety – Getting winter ready

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 distances 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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LOCAL POLICE PLAN 2023-2026- CONSULTATION

The Chief Constable is responsible for the delivery of policing in Scotland. Section 47 of the Police & Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 requires that the local police commander must prepare a 'Local Police Plan'.

Our Local Police Plans explain how we will deliver on priorities in your local area over the next three years. We are currently developing plans for 2023-26.

Developing these plans offers the opportunity to work together with our partners and communities to understand the priorities for your local areas and adjust or improve what we do to keep people safe.

These plans are shaped by a range of views, data and assessment, including public feedback. Local policing teams have been out and about across Scotland over several months. They have also reviewed feedback from our Your Police survey, as well as partner and stakeholder feedback.

This survey helps us test how we have translated what people told us into the priorities for your area - the things we will do as your local policing division to respond to threat, risk and harm and keep people safe.

Complete the survey in a different way

Please let us know if you want to complete the survey in a different way (for example, over the phone) or require this information in another language or format:

InsightEngagement@scotland.police.uk.

Reporting a crime or providing information about an incident

Please note that this platform is not for reporting crime, providing information about an incident, or asking us for help. To find out ways to contact the police, please visit our website. If you or someone else needs urgent police assistance, please dial 999 immediately.

Your personal information

Your response is anonymous and you will not be identified through the information you provide unless you choose to identify yourself in your responses.

At the end of the survey, we ask for personal details to ensure we receive a comprehensive range of responses. Please note that you do not have to answer these questions.

By completing this survey, you agree to Police Scotland using your anonymised data for analysis and reporting that will improve the service we provide.

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Police Scotland is committed to protecting and respecting your privacy. We have robust procedures in place to ensure that any data that you provide is processed and stored securely. We will never pass your data on to any third parties without your express consent. We also meet the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 (General Data Protection Regulation or 'GDPR').

Young Scot Membership

If you are a young person aged 12-25, there is more information about how to claim your 150 Rewards points shown after you submit your response. Not a Member yet? Go to young.scot to sign up.

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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

Online shopping/action frauds

To help keep yourself safe, here are a few golden rules to follow.

So much of our daily routine is now online. There's banking, shopping and social networking. Criminals are also going online to exploit people. Using the internet to buy goods or services is now so easy.

Unfortunately, fraudsters use online shopping scams. They can hide their identity and target many victims at the same time.

Your online transactions can be targeted by criminals and fraudsters. This is because you cannot see who you are paying money to.

Fraudster either advertise products that do not exist or agree to buy items and then not paying for them. This is done on sites such as eBay, Gumtree, Depop and Schpock.

The most common items in these scams are electronics and vehicles. Tickets are also advertised at prices below regular market prices.

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When making fake purchases, fraudsters will send fake confirmations of payment to the victim of the scam. This could be a fake PayPal email.
The following tips will help you enjoy a secure online shopping experience.

- Choose carefully where you shop
- Use a credit card for online payments
- Only provide enough details to complete your purchase
- Check your bank and credit card statements regularly
- Check the correct amount has been debited
- Query any suspicious payments with your bank or credit card provider immediately
- Keep your accounts secure
- Watch out for suspicious emails, calls and text messages.
- Use a strong password or passphrase.
- Your password should be at least 12 characters long
- The password should contain a mixture of letters, numbers and symbols
- Never give personal or sensitive details out online or over email
- Make sure all devices have the latest anti-virus software and a firewall installed
- Keep software and apps regularly updated
- Only download from legal, trusted websites
- Only open emails and attachments from known and trusted sources
- Check the address starts with 'https://' whenever you're asked to enter sensitive information online
- Avoid using public Wi-Fi hotspots that are not secure.
- Don't use if they ask you for personal information to access public Wi-Fi
- Regularly back up your data
- Control your social media accounts
- Regularly check your privacy settings and how your data is being used and shared
- Be extremely cautious if you're asked for money.