

Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



Community Council:

Forth and Endrick, Balfron Community Council

Reporting Period:

March 2023 - Compiled by PC Steven Graham

Ward Plan Priorities

Antisocial Behaviour

Report of a disturbance in Greek Thomson Rd. Police attended and there was no trace of any disturbance. Enquiries carried out and 4 males were traced who had been involved. No complaints made by any person and no one was injured

Report of school children setting fire to a swing in the park. Police attended and there was some burnt paper but no damaged property.

One male was arrested for Sec 38 Criminal Justice and Licencing (Scotland) Act 2010 and vandalism after an incident in Buchanan St, Balfron.

Two vehicles were damaged in Greek Thomson Rd and South Lomond Terrace. Enquiries are continuing into both.

Report of a vehicle with damaged tyres sustained while parked in Co-op car park. Enquiries continue.

Road Safety

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

Theft

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

Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



Livestock worrying

What are livestock attacks and worrying?

Livestock attacks and worrying is the phrase used when a dog attacks or worries livestock animals in rural and farmland areas.

This crime usually takes place in the countryside and is a particular problem when dogs, even those that are well trained, are off their leads or are roaming without an owner or person in charge with them. In doing so, they often scare or attack livestock animals.

Whilst many owners are unaware of the impact their dogs are having on livestock, it is their responsibility to ensure attacks and worrying don't happen. They should ensure their dog doesn't disturb or attack these animals, otherwise there are consequences under the law if it does occur.

Reporting livestock attacks and worrying

Call 999 if the crime is ongoing and animals are being injured. To report a crime which isn't ongoing call 101.

Livestock attacks and worrying and the law

The Dogs (Protection of Livestock) (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2021 came into force on 5 November 2021 to tackle the issue of out of controls dogs attacking and worrying livestock.

Under this law, the term "livestock" is wide ranging and includes cattle, sheep, goats, swine (pigs/boars), horses, camelids (alpacas/lamas), ostriches, farmed deer, enclosed game birds or poultry.

What are the consequences of livestock attacks and worrying?

Under this new law, owners of dogs that attack or worry livestock can be fined up to £40,000 or even sent to prison for up to 12 months.

Advice for dog owners and land managers

Dog owners

It's important for dog owners to be aware that livestock are valuable assets and any harm to them could significantly affect the livestock owners livelihood.

There's a number of things owners can do to reduce the chances of their dog committing a livestock attack or worrying crime.

When in the countryside, be wary of your dog approaching other animals. Try to stop your dog coming into contact with livestock. Remember, in the countryside, it may not always be obvious when animals are around.

If you're in an area where livestock are nearby, always keep your dog in your sights and maintain control over them. If you can't guarantee this, use a lead.

Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



It's important to be aware that under certain circumstances, land owners can shoot your dog if it is attacking or causing distress to their animals.

Land managers

There's a number of things you can do to minimise the threat of your livestock becoming a victim of worrying and attacks.

Appropriate signage can make walkers in the area aware of their responsibilities and can suggest alternative routes if you're worried of an attack or worrying.

You'll also need to think about public access near your land and any risks that this can cause to your animals.

Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



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.

Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



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.

Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



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