Police Service of Scotland
Community Council Report

Community Council:	Forth and Endrick Balfron Community Council

Reporting Period:	November 2023 – Compiled by PC McCammon

Ward Plan Priorities

Antisocial behaviour

Report received regarding Threatening and abusive behaviour towards a member of the public. The suspect was traced and reported in relation to the offence.

A vandalism was recorded whereby a window was smashed by a brick. Enquiries remain ongoing.

Another vandalism was recorded whereby a window was smashed by unknown means. Enquiries are still ongoing.

Damaged was caused to the rear window of a parked motor vehicle. This remains undetected.

Road safety

1 male was arrested and reported for drink driving in the village.

Theft

There have been no reported thefts for this reporting period.

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Online gaming safety awareness. OFFICIAL December 2023 The Online gaming industry is colossal both in terms of its' scale and reach. For many people, online gaming is a huge part of their online activities, in-fact it is *estimated that a staggering 1.1billion people play online games. When we consider that the internet is not hindered by physical or geographical boundaries, the reality is that we can be gaming with anyone from a close friend to strangers from any part of the world. Also, the level and types of communication online games offer has evolved over recent years. Initially online gaming was separate to social media, they now greatly overlap with online social sharing sites. In fact, most children's first interaction with someone they don't know online will be on an online gaming platform. In these games players do not necessarily know who they are associating with, as anyone can be who they want to be online. Online player profiles may look to be like other children but it is difficult to be sure if this is the case. We have to be aware and ask the question of ourselves as adults and of our children, young people and our most vulnerable, when gaming online do we really know who we are associating with? Have we shared personal information within chats or even struck up a relationship away from the gaming platform having only met online? Whilst being online in itself is a relatively enjoyable experience, especially in terms of the global interaction gaming brings, it is safer when we know who we are gaming with. There is no doubt that online criminals use gaming platforms to coerce and manipulate genuine gamers in order to turn any situation to their advantage. Because of this, parents and carers need to understand the games their children are playing and also how to set them up so their children are safe. This festive period there will be many people new to online gaming whether this is on a PC, games console, phone etc. The following link to the NCSC (National Cyber Security Centre) will support you as a Parent or Carer and gamer, to help you enjoy online gaming more securely and by just following a few tips, can help prevent you falling victim to an online gaming criminal. Online gaming for families and individuals - NCSC.GOV.UK For those with younger family members to think about, online gaming can be an added stress with concerns such as cyberbullying, excessive time spent playing online games, to unscrupulous games which encourage children to pay for improved avatars or other content. If you have younger family members who are gaming online the following links, to our trusted partners, will provide you with support and guidance from what parents and carers need to know, to gaming safety tips, to choosing the right console and understanding online games. Gaming: what parents and carers need to know (thinkuknow.co.uk) Gaming consoles and platforms - Internet Matters Games console for your child: What you need to know | Internet Matters Online gaming top tips for parents - Internet Matters How to Ensure Your Children Stay Safe While Playing Online Games | NSPCC

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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 Matt McCammon is the Ward Officer for the Forth and Endrick area. He is 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