

# Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



**Community Council:**

Forth and Endrick, Balfron Community Council

**Reporting Period:**

June/July 2024 – Compiled by PC Matt McCammon

**Ward Plan Priorities**

**Anti-Social behaviour**

A female was reported to the Procurator Fiscal for acting in a threatening and abusive manner and being in possession of an offensive weapon whilst within the street.

Damage was caused to a local workplace whereby the Perspex panel was smashed. Extensive enquiry was carried.

A member of the public was a victim of an assault and threatening and abusive behaviour on Buchanan Street. No injuries sustained. Extensive enquiry was carried however no further evidence identified.

A local resident was a victim of abusive behaviour whilst within their home address. Extensive enquiry was carried however no further evidence identified.

**Road Safety**

A driver has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal for driving his vehicle with no insurance or mot after being stopped by the police.

A driver while performing an overtake has damaged another vehicle, thereafter, failing to stop. The driver has now been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

A driver has damaged a road sign on A875. Enquiries are still ongoing.

Police were on mobile patrol when they stopped a vehicle. Routine checks were carried out, the driver and passenger were thereafter reported to the Procurator Fiscal for several offences, including driving, drug, and offensive weapon offences.

**Dishonesty**

A local resident was a victim of a fraud after she was contacted by a person pertaining to be her friend asking for help, thereafter, requesting multiple gift cards, the resident sent over a three-figure sum at this time. Enquiries are still going.

A local resident was a victim of a fraud after purchasing a bike online however failing to receive the item. Enquires are still ongoing.

A recycling bin was stolen from the side of a property in Balfron.

**Incidents of Note**

Please keep in mind that there have been a number of attempted house breakings in other villages and remember to stay vigilant and report any suspicious activity.

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## Where to Report Scams

### **Scams**

In Scotland, report all scams to **Advice Direct Scotland** by calling **0808 164 6000** (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm) or online at [www.consumeradvice.scot](http://www.consumeradvice.scot)

### **Fraud**

If you have been the victim of fraud, report it to **Police Scotland** on **101** or **999** in an emergency.

### **Suspicious Emails**

You can forward suspicious emails to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk) and send links from websites which you think are trying to scam the public to the **National Cyber Security Centre's** scam website reporting service at [www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/about-this-website/report-scam-website](http://www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/about-this-website/report-scam-website)

### **Suspicious Text Messages**

If you receive a suspicious text message you can forward it to **7726**. The free-of-charge '7726' service enables your provider to investigate and take action if malicious content is found.

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What basic steps can I take to protect my home?

Having your home broken into is not common. There are however many ways that you can help secure your home. They don't all cost money – some are common sense and good housekeeping.

First, think about basic good housekeeping routines that aren't expensive:

- Keep your home locked at all times
- Many thieves do not need to break in at all because a door or window has been left open or unlocked
- Don't leave keys on the inside of door locks, under mats or anywhere else they can be easily found
- If you have a 'thumb turn' lock on the inside of a door, ensure that it cannot be accessed from outside
- See details on letter-plates, glazing and adjacent windows advice below
- Don't put your name or room number on your keyring if you live in shared accommodation, if it is lost or stolen, the thief will have information that could direct them there
- Don't keep house keys and car keys on the same key ring
- Don't keep a lot of cash in the house
- Mark your property with a UV marker pen or Security DNA marking Kit - these can be bought online or in some stores
- Look for the Secured By Design accreditation on the product and register - you can place an invisible imprint of your postcode and house number on your possessions
- You can record and register details of your valuables, serial numbers and features or marks, on devices on the national mobile property register on [the immobilise website](#) - this includes mobile phones, cameras, laptops and tablets
- Don't leave valuables where they can be seen through a window - for example, around the tree at Christmas time
- If you have a wall calendar, avoid having it shown near a window from where appointments can be seen - people may see when there will be no one in.

What should I do when I go on holiday?

When you go on holiday there are a few steps you should take for security.

- Get to know your neighbours, if you trust them they might keep an eye on your home, draw curtains and remove mail from behind the door
- Consider using Royal Mail's Keepsafe service, they will keep your mail for up to 66 days
- Make sure you cancel any regular deliveries such as milk or newspapers
- Use timers on lights, make sure your alarm is set
- Don't post on social media that you're going on holiday - criminals can search for this kind of information to identify empty houses.

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Some other tips include:

- Doors should be fitted with a 5 lever mortice deadlock to BS 3621 standard or a Euro Profile Cylinder lock to TS007 3 star standard
- Door frames should be strong enough to support the door, hinges and lock.
- If the door is not a 'multi - point locking' door, fit mortice bolts at the top and bottom of the door and hinge-bolts give additional resistance
- External timber doors should be solid core and a minimum of 45 mm thick.
- UPVC doors should be to PAS024:2016 standard as below
- New / replacement doors should be manufactured and installed to meet standards PAS 024:2016 or equivalent
- Glazed panels within or adjacent to the door should have laminated glass in at least the inner pane to standards P1A
- Letterboxes should have an internal cover plate and not be at floor level. This means that mail drops down and can't be taken from outside
- If you are replacing your letter-plate, look to replace it with a letter-plate to TS008 standard
- Fit a door viewer and a door chain
- Don't leave keys in the door. They could be turned or stolen through the letter-plate if a standard letter plate is fitted
- Think about having your door reinforced with a security door bar
- Ask the manufacturer/supplier before fitting any extra locks to double glazed windows or doors
- Windows should have internal beading to avoid the glass being removed from the outside. Some systems which have external beading are secure because the glass is adhered to the frame or secured by special tamper-proof clips. This can be checked by consulting the manufacturer
- New / replacement windows should be manufactured and installed to PAS024:2016 or equivalent. This indicates set specific standards of design and security for windows.

What if I'm making home improvements or even carrying out routine maintenance?

Your property can be more vulnerable whilst you're carrying out home improvements.

- Don't give keys to workers as they can make copies quickly and easily
- Let your neighbours know about work being carried out, where workers are likely to be and who they are
- Scaffolding may allow an intruder access to areas they wouldn't normally be able to access
- Remember to lock all accessible windows.

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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](mailto: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](http://www.facebook.com/forthvalleypolicedivision)

[www.facebook.com/policescotland](http://www.facebook.com/policescotland)

[www.twitter.com/stirlingpol](http://www.twitter.com/stirlingpol)

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