

Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



Community Council:

Forth and Endrick, Killearn Community Council

Reporting Period:

December 2020 compiled by PC Gary Martin

Ward Plan Priorities

Antisocial Behaviour

Report of youths causing issues at the Primary School. Persons identified and to be traced and advised of the complaints received.

Road Safety

A report received in relation to a noisy vehicle driving around the village. The driver was identified and he and the vehicle was quickly traced by Police, confirmed there was an issue with the exhaust. Driver had in fact arranged for vehicle to be fixed, advised of the complaint,

Reports of sheep on roadways. Police attended, fortunately no accidents. Please take care on surrounding roads.

A report received in relation to vehicles speeding in the village. We have in fact taken delivery of a 'Pop up Policeman' which has been designed in relation to speeders which we will be deploying as often as possible in the villages. Residents have already commented they had witnessed it slowing traffic down. (photograph attached)

Theft

Three persons were traced after reports of illegal fishing at a loch on the outskirts of the village. It was confirmed the three persons did not have a permit. They were subsequently charged for the offence and their equipment retained.

An alleged theft by shoplifting from the Co-Op, enquiries are continuing into tracing the suspect.

A report of a Theft from a shed in Drumtian Road. Enquiries are continuing.

Alarm calls have been attended to by local officers and confirmed all in order.

Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



There have been a number of thefts from parked motor vehicles in the Mugdock Country Park area. Just to make you aware if you are travelling to go for a walk etc.

'We always advise never leave bags or any valuables lying on the seats of your parked and unattended vehicles. It is so very quick and easy for thieves to smash a car window, reach in and take any valuables in an instant. If a thief observes a bag in a car, they may think the bag contains something valuable and will smash your window to get in, even if it contains absolutely nothing of value! Please take any bag and or valuables with you but if this is not possible, place the items in your boot or out of sight, but preferably, take all valuables with you.'

FRAUD

As previously stated, there have been numerous reports of a fraud involving tickets being sold via a website for "Winter Wonderland".

Please be aware of this fraudulent site as many people have been scammed with this and enquiries are ongoing into the origin of this fraud.

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE -

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.

Please ensure that vehicle windscreens are defrosted and you have a full view of the road ahead prior to driving off. On that note, please do not defrost the windscreen by leaving your engine running unattended on the road or driveway.

Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



With the earlier dark nights now here, we have the potential for Housebreakings which unfortunately have been a seasonal trend in the past. We remind residents to be ever vigilant and contact the Police should anyone see anything suspicious. Please remember to follow basic home security rules and help to make it make it harder for the thieves.

Please consider the following:

- Use timer switches on lights and radios to make it look as if your home is occupied.
- Ensure all doors and windows are secure when you leave and when you go to bed.
- If possible use secure lighting at the front and back of your property.
- Make sure all garden tools and ladders are locked away when not being used. Don't give the thieves the tools to break into your house.
- Use a good quality lock on any garden sheds and outhouses.
- Make a note of all makes, models and serial numbers of expensive items in your home.
- If your house is fitted with an alarm then please use it. This is a good deterrent should thieves manage to force entry to your house.
- create a FREE and secure inventory of all your personal property at www.immobilise.com
- If you note anything suspicious in your neighbourhood report it on 101.

Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



Doorstep Crime and Bogus Callers -

What is doorstep crime?

From bogus callers to rogue traders, doorstep criminals are cunning, creative, and often very convincing.

Anyone can be fooled as these people are professional con artists. However, the over 60s are often specifically targeted.

What types of doorstep criminals are there?

There are two main types:

Bogus callers try to get into your home or obtain personal details by pretending to be someone they're not, including council staff, charity collectors, meter readers and police officers. In reality, they are criminals trying to steal money and valuables.

Rogue traders usually cold-call, claiming to be workers offering to sell services, make repairs or carry out work on your house, garden or driveway. In reality they charge inflated prices for shoddy or unnecessary work.

We DO NOT recommend dealing with cold-callers for property maintenance and home repairs.

How can I spot a Rogue Trader?

- They may tell you the work is urgent and needs to be carried out immediately.
- They will normally ask for payment there and then and may offer to come to the bank with you if you don't have the cash at hand.

Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



How can I protect myself from doorstep crime?

- Be on guard if someone turns up unexpectedly.
- Keep front and back doors locked.
- Use the door viewer or nearby window when answering the door.
- Fit a door chain or bar – use it and keep it on when talking to callers at the door.
- If you're not sure, don't answer the door.
- Don't feel embarrassed - genuine callers expect you to be careful.
- Only let callers in if they have an appointment and you have confirmed they are genuine.
- Always ask for identification badges of anyone you answer the door to, but don't rely on them. Identity cards can be faked – phone the company to verify their identity.
- Some companies offer a password system. Ask your utility providers if this can be used and if you have a password with a company make sure the caller uses it.
- Never let people try to persuade you to let them into your home even if they are asking for help – they may not be genuine. If someone is persistent, ask them to call at another time and arrange for a friend or family member to be with you.
- Never agree to pay for goods or give money to strangers who arrive at your door.
- Don't keep large amounts of money in your home.
- Remember, it's your home. There's no reason why anyone should ever enter your home against your wishes.
- If you're not sure, don't answer the door.

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/personal-safety/doorstep-crime-and-bogus-callers/>

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 Steven Graham and PC Gary Martin are based at Balfron Police Office and can be contacted at the office, on 101, or at ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk. It is recommended that this email address is used by the local community for email contact.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



**Other Incidents /
Activity of note**

Issues raised

**Community
Council
Feedback**