

# Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



**Community Council:**

Forth and Endrick, Killearn Community Council

**Reporting Period:**

November 2020 compiled by PC Gary Martin

**Ward Plan Priorities**

**Antisocial Behaviour**

Report of a number of youths setting off fireworks. Police attended immediately and a number of youths ran off. Police remained in the area and there were no further calls.

A report of a minor vandalism to a motor vehicle parked outside the Co-op in Killearn, no persons have been identified.

A report of a minor assault. The female responsible was traced immediately and charged accordingly by Police.

**Road Safety**

Further reports of inconsiderate parking at the Finnich Glen. Due to the time of year and inclement weather etc, the area has not been as busy as previous months.

There were calls in relation to sheep on the roadways in the surrounding roadways, Police attended and the matters were resolved. Please take care on your travels.

A dog was struck by a vehicle in the village. The offending stopped and details exchanged with the dog owner who was also in attendance.

We have been made aware recently of a number of vehicles speeding in the village. It is our intention to be in attendance in the village in the coming weeks with the hand held radar.

Reports of a couple of possible abandoned vehicles in the village. Police attended and after relevant enquiries it was ascertained that the vehicles were in order and not in fact abandoned, the owners were in fact away walking.

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## **Theft**

On the outskirts of the village there was an attempted theft of tools from a parked motor vehicle, enquiries are still continuing in relation to this incident.

There was a report of an allegedly suspicious male walking in the village, Police attended immediately and traced the male, he was checked out and it was confirmed all was in order.

## **FRAUD**

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.

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With the earlier dark nights coming soon we have the potential for daytime 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](http://www.immobilise.com)
- If you note anything suspicious in your neighbourhood report it on 101.

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## **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.

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## 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/>

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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 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](mailto:ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk). It is recommended that this email address is used by the local community for email contact.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

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**Other Incidents /  
Activity of note**

**Issues raised**

**Community  
Council  
Feedback**