

Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



Community Council:

Forth and Endrick, Killearn Community Council

Reporting Period:

March 2021 compiled by PC Steven Graham

Ward Plan Priorities

Antisocial Behaviour

There were no reports of Anti-social behaviour in Killearn since the last meeting.

Road Safety

There have been no reportable RTCs since the last meeting however due to the flooding some vehicles got stuck on the A81 near to Gartness.

A partial bridge collapse occurred on the B818, near Killearn. Road closed for safety reasons.

We again attended the area at Glengoyne Distillery deterring people from parking there and moving persons away that had come from outwith the area. This will continue when possible however liaison has been getting carried out with Stirling Council to find a longer term solution.

Speed checks will be carried out in the village in the near future. I'm aware of complaints re speeding in the village, in particular the area of Balfroon Road, coming into the village.

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Theft

There was a report of a suspicious person, thought to be a bogus workman, at a house in Balfroon Road, Killearn. A search was made by Police however there was no trace. These reports are taken seriously and will be investigated. Please phone if you see anyone suspicious.

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.

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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.

Fraud

There was a fraud reported in Gargunnock whereby a company offered a service into an investigation into Council Tax banding which may result in customers being moved onto a lower banding and to apply for any backdated rebate if an error was found. The company took a fee of £195 for this service without the approval of the customer.

Other forms of attempted fraud have been carried out in other villages within the Forth and Endrick area. This includes by way of Bitcoin investment and the sale of puppies.

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. Recently 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.

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•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.

Covid 19 fraud

Criminals are using the Coronavirus as a cover story to trick you into parting with your money or information. Always take a moment to Stop, Challenge and Protect before making any payments.

It's important not to let the criminals rush or panic you into making a decision that you later come to regret and remain vigilant and guard against criminals using the publicity around Coronavirus as a chance to target you with fraudulent emails, phone calls, texts messages or social media posts.

With fake news articles on the internet and in the press promoting remedies, cures and false advice around coronavirus, it's also important to only share articles from trustworthy sources. If you are in any doubt, then visit www.gov.uk/coronavirus or www.who.int/ for updates and information.

Criminals are experts at impersonating people, organisations and the police. They spend hours researching you for their scams, hoping you'll let your guard down for just a moment. Stop and think: it could protect you and your money.

If you receive an email, text or WhatsApp message purporting to be from the government, HMRC, the World Health Organisation (WHO) or a coronavirus-related charity, then take a moment to think before you part with your money or information.

Never click on links or download attachments as criminals may infect your devices with malware or ask you to enter your personal or financial information into fake websites. In some cases this can lead to your identity being stolen.

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SHEEP WORRYING

This time of year presents the problem of sheep worrying. It is an offence to allow a dog to worry sheep. "Worrying" includes attacking or chasing sheep and, in some circumstances, farmers are legally entitled to shoot dogs if they are endangering their sheep. It is vital that you keep your dog on the lead around livestock, even if you can usually trust it to come to call. If you live in or near a farming area, you must make sure that your dog cannot escape from your property, as it may find its way onto land containing sheep.

If a dog worries sheep on agricultural land, the person in charge of the dog is guilty of an offence. The Act considers sheep worrying to include attacking sheep, chasing them in a way that may cause injury suffering, abortion or loss of produce or being at large (not on a lead or otherwise under close control) in a field or enclosure in which there are sheep.

The Scottish Outdoor Access Code

The Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC) offers guidance for people enjoying the countryside with their dogs and says: "In exercising access rights, you must keep your dog(s) under proper control. You must also ensure that your dog does not worry livestock."

The Scottish Outdoor Access Code says 'proper control' means different things in different situations, but when around sheep you should:-

- Not take your dog into a field where there are lambs. Go into a neighbouring field or onto adjacent land. In open country, keep your dog on a short lead (2 metres or shorter) when there are lambs around and keep away from them.
- Keep your dog on a short lead or under close control if you need to go into a field where there are sheep. The SOAC defines 'under close control' as close at heel and responsive to your commands. Stay distant from the sheep.
- Keep your dog under close control in more open country where there are sheep and stay away from them.
- The SOAC reminds dog owners that in some cases a farmer has the right to shoot a dog that is attacking their livestock.
- If you are handling a group of dogs, make sure that they do not cause alarm to livestock.

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**Other Incidents /
Activity of note**

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.

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

Issues raised

**Community
Council
Feedback**