

Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



Community Council:

Forth and Endrick, Killearn Community Council

Reporting Period:

November 2021 compiled by PC Steven Graham

Ward Plan Priorities

Antisocial Behaviour

Males were reported to be in the building site of old Killearn Hotel. No trace on Police arrival. Premises checked and all in order.

Once male issued with a recorded Police warning after a road rage type incident on B834 at temp traffic lights.

Road Safety

A female hit another vehicle which was parked in Killearn Co-op. Reported to Police after being unsuccessful in tracing owner within shop.

A vehicle was hit by an unknown vehicle while parked on Main Street, Killearn.

Screws were on the road near to Blane Smiddy roundabout. Police attended and removed the debris from the road.

Theft

Bike shop at Oakwood Garden Centre was broken into and a quantity of high value bikes stolen. Enquiries are continuing.

What basic steps can I take to protect my home?

The evenings are getting darker earlier and it is a time where traditionally housebreakings can occur. 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

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- 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
- 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.
- 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.
- If you note anything suspicious in your neighbourhood report it on 101.

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Fraud

Keeping secure online

So much of our daily routine is now online. There's banking, shopping and social networking. Criminals are also going online to exploit people. To help keep yourself safe, here are a few golden rules to follow.

- Use a strong password or passphrase.
- Your password should be at least 12 characters long
- The password should contain a mixture of letters, numbers and symbols
- Never give personal or sensitive details out online or over email
- Make sure all devices have the latest anti-virus software and a firewall installed
- Keep software and apps regularly updated
- Only download from legal, trusted websites
- Only open emails and attachments from known and trusted sources
- Check the address starts with 'https://' whenever you're asked to enter sensitive information online
- Avoid using public Wi-Fi hotspots that are not secure.
- Don't use if they ask you for personal information to access public Wi-Fi
- Regularly back up your data
- Control your social media accounts
- Regularly check your privacy settings and how your data is being used and shared
- Be cautious of internet chats and online dating - there's no guarantee you're speaking to who you think
- Be extremely cautious if you're asked for money.

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Advice for Drivers

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.

Make sure your windows are clean, properly demisted and clear of snow and ice before you drive. Also make sure that your roof is clear of snow as this affects drivers behind you and can also cause obstructions on your windscreen when braking. Be careful with low sun as it can make it difficult to see and a dirty, greasy or damaged windscreen can make this worse.

All lights must be kept clean and clear and be in good working order, including registration plate lights. Use the help of someone to check that all of your lights are working.

Consider keeping an emergency kit in your car for severe weather, this should at least include:

- An ice scraper and de-icer
- A shovel for snow
- A torch and spare batteries
- Warm clothes, boots and a blanket
- Some food and a warm drink in a flask
- A first aid kit
- Battery jump leads
- A map or device with offline maps for any unplanned diversions.

In wet weather, stopping distances will be at least double those required for stopping on dry roads. Aquaplaning can be a frightening experience; this is where a wedge of water builds up between the front tyres and the road surface. If this happens, the safest solution is to remove pressure from the accelerator, allowing the vehicle to lose speed which will help the tyres regain their grip. Ice and snow can increase stopping distances by up to ten times so keep well back from the vehicle in front. Anticipate when you will need to be stopping and be alert to other road users. When the roads are icy, drive at a slow speed in as high a gear as possible; accelerate and brake very gently.

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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 is 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