

Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



Community Council:

Forth and Endrick, Killearn Community Council

Reporting Period:

March 2024 Compiled by PC Matt McCammon

Ward Plan Priorities

Assault

A person was arrested and charged with assault and possession of an offensive weapon in a public place after striking another with a bottle to the head at the Campsie Glen Holiday Park. The injured party received medical attention for his minor injury.

Road Safety

A person has been charged and reported with failing to stop and exchange details after being involved in a road accident with another vehicle.

Theft

Please be aware that a number of attempted Housebreakings have occurred within Killearn and the surrounding villages in the month of April. Please remain vigilant and continue to report any suspicious behaviour. More information in next months report.

Incidents of Note

Mountain Rescue

A person fell on Dumgoyne Hill breaking their leg and had to be airlifted to Queen Elizabeth Hospital for treatment. We would like to thank our colleagues at Lomond Mountain rescue team / the Scottish ambulance service and Coast guard for their assistance.

A member of the community contacted Police that they had received an email involving an elaborate inheritance scam, fortunately, the person identified the email as a scam and no money was transferred.

Person attended at a resident's house with a high viz jacket advising that he had been carrying out work in the area and offered to lay some stones and asked to £3000 to do so. Resident declined to pay and reported the matter to Police.

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Winter road safety

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

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 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

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 is doorstep crime?

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

Anyone can be fooled as these people are professional con artists. The over 60s are targeted the most.

What types of doorstep criminals are there?

There are two main types:

Bogus callers try to get into your home or get personal details by pretending to be someone they're not.

This can include 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. They claim to be workers offering services, make repairs or carry out work on your property. In reality they charge inflated prices for shoddy or work that isn't needed.

We do not recommend dealing with cold-callers.

How can I spot a rogue trader?

They tell you the work needs to be done immediately.

They will ask to be paid there and then. They may offer to go to the bank with you if you don't have the cash at hand.

How can I protect myself from doorstep crime?

Here are some tips to follow to protect yourself.

- 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

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- Don't feel embarrassed - genuine callers expect you to be careful
- Only let callers in if they have an appointment - confirm they are genuine
- Always ask for identification badges, 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 if this can be used
- If you have a password with a company make sure the caller uses it
- Never let people persuade you to let them into your home – they may not be genuine.
- If someone is persistent, ask them to call at another time and get 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.

What else can I do to stop being defrauded by a rogue trader?

Trading Standards advice is:

- Don't feel pressurised into agreeing to immediate work or buying a product or service
- Don't agree to buy from the first person who calls
- Don't pay cash up front. Don't offer to go and get money
- Shop around if you decide you need work done
- Ask what your cancellation rights are
- Report them.

What action should I take if someone visits me and I think they're a doorstep criminal?

Here are some tips if you think someone is a doorstep criminal.

Keep the caller out of your house. Ask them to leave and call the police immediately on 101.

You might also want to try to alert a family member or attract a neighbour's attention. You should always contact the police first by dialling 101.

The police would much rather attend a false alarm than have someone fall victim to a doorstep criminal.

If the person refuses to leave your door, or you feel threatened or scared - call 999 and ask for the police.

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Note down their description and the description of any vehicle they're using, including make, model, colour and registration number.

How can I protect my family, friend and neighbours?

Discuss the advice on this page with family, friends or neighbours who are older or vulnerable.

There are also other things you can do to help protect them. Everyone has a part to play to keep the community safe.

- Keep an eye out for strange vans in your neighbour's driveway
- Make sure your relatives are not regularly taking large amounts of cash out of the bank
- Make arrangements to ensure your relative's house looks well maintained
- Make it less obvious that an older person lives alone
- Doorstep criminals will often target the same victim more than once. Be alert if someone has been a victim before
- Police Scotland has a 'Nominated Neighbour Scheme' which can assist those who prefer not to answer the door to those they don't know (read our [Nominated Neighbour information](#))
- Report any suspicious activity in your community immediately to Police Scotland on 101 or to your local authority Trading Standards
- For more information on doorstep crime or assistance regarding home security contact your local Community Policing Team on 101.

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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. 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

www.facebook.com/policescotland

www.twitter.com/stirlingpol

www.twitter.com/policescotland