

Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



Community Council:

Forth and Endrick, Killearn Community Council

Reporting Period:

October 2024 – Compiled by PC Laura Newlands

Ward Plan Priorities

Community Engagement

PC Laura Newlands joins the Forth & Endrick ward community Policing Team. She comes with 6 years' response policing experience having spent the majority of her service within the Falkirk / Grangemouth area.

Theft

A report was received of an attempted theft from a clothing donation bank between 18th – 23rd October, where attempts were made to force the lock securing the donation bank. Although no items were taken, there was damage reported to the lock. Following enquiries, no suspect was identified.

A report was received of a theft of a mobile phone. The mobile phone had been left within a taxi and was subsequently taken. Following enquiries, no suspect was identified.

Road traffic

While on patrol, officers dealt with a male in regard to driving without having a valid insurance policy in place for the vehicle. The vehicle was seized by Police and the male was reported to the Court.

Other

A report was received of livestock worrying whereby a dog, off the leash, chased and killed a sheep. The dog owner was traced, cautioned and charged and a report has been submitted to the Court.

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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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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.

Police Scotland has a programme to help deliver Safer Virtual Communities. The education of online safety is part of our commitment to work with partners.

We also work with local policing divisions to protect members of the public online.

We raise awareness of online crimes and give advice on how to keep important information secure. We also help reduce the risk of people becoming victims.

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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[Visit Cyber Aware](#) for step-by-step instructions on keeping your devices up to date. This includes security updates and online security advice.

Remember: If it's illegal offline it is illegal online.

This includes posting anything that promotes crime, violence or drug misuse.

This includes threats made against you or forcing you to pay money. It also includes being forced to do something to prevent images or information being posted or shared.

This activity is often linked to footage taken using webcams, known as sextortion.

The following links on this page will provide up to date and relevant information.

They give advice around being safe online. It will also help you spot when things aren't right

Should you wish further advice then contact Police Scotland by dialling 101.

How can I keep my child safe online?

[CEOP](#) gives information on how to keep your child safe online. They let you know who can help. They also let you know where you can report inappropriate, illegal or indecent images involving children.

What if I find illegal images on the web?

Find out how to report illegal website images and content on the [IWF website](#).

Where can I get more information about keeping safe online?

For more information about how to use the internet safely visit Cyber Scotland.

It's an online resource for individuals and organisations (public, private, and third sectors). There's information and support about different cyber security and resilience issues.

[The Scottish Business Resilience Centre](#) 'one stop shop' for business security and advice

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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 and PC Laura Newlands are the Ward Officers for the Forth and Endrick area. They are 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