



## Community Council Report

This report covers progress we have made in dealing with your priorities for the Kincardine and Mearns Community Council area for the period April 2023.

The report aims to highlight emerging issues in your area, provide crime prevention advice and guidance to Community Council members and the residents you represent. Our focus is to reduce crime and disorder, help create safer communities and respond effectively to local concerns.

This will be a **new** format and happy for feedback.

In this new report I will focus on Policing Station 'areas' as historically these stations would covers the following areas.

Portlethen Police Station – Portlethen and surrounding areas including Drumoak and Durriss. I will specify this as Portlethen.

Stonehaven Police Station – Stonehaven, Newtonhill and surrounding areas. I will specify this as Stonehaven.

Laurencekirk Police Station – Laurencekirk and surrounding areas including Fettercairn, Edzell woods, Auchenblae and Garvock. I will specify this as Laurencekirk.

The A92 towns (Catterline – St Cyrus) along the coastal Road are covered between Stonehaven and Laurencekirk but I will specify them as Coastal Road.

## Community Policing Priorities

### Antisocial behaviour, Violence and Disorder:

Area	Anti-Social	Youth Disorder
Portlethen	6	10
Stonehaven	12	10
Laurencekirk	4	2
Coastal Road	3	1

**Acquisitive Crime:**

Area	Thefts	Shopliftings	Theft of motorvehicle
Portlethen	1	1	0
Stonehaven	1	4	0
Laurencekirk	0	0	0
Coastal Road	1	0	0

**Road Safety & road crime:**

Area	Drink/Drug Driving	Dangerous	Careless Driving
Portlethen	0	1	1
Stonehaven	1	0	1
Laurencekirk	1	0	1
Coastal Road	1	0	1

**Community Engagement & Reassurance:**

This month I wish to make focus on Livestock attacks namely by dogs and advice on how to prevent it. Ultimately every home in Kincardine and Mearns is only a short well-meant dog walk away from an agricultural environment. This summary gives good advice and is directly from Police Scotland website ([Advice & Information - Police Scotland](#)).

**What are livestock attacks and worrying?**

Livestock attacks and worrying is the phrase used when a dog attacks or worries livestock animals in rural and farmland areas.

This crime usually takes place in the countryside and is a particular problem when dogs, even those that are well trained, are off their leads or are roaming without an owner or person in charge with them. In doing so, they often scare or attack livestock animals.

Whilst many owners are unaware of the impact their dogs are having on livestock, it is their responsibility to ensure attacks and worrying don't happen. They should ensure their dog doesn't disturb or attack these animals, otherwise there are

consequences under the law if it does occur.

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Some examples of livestock worrying include:

- a dog chasing livestock in a manner that could cause injury or suffering,
- the stress caused to the animal by the presence of the dog, could, in the case of female livestock, cause abortion or miscarriage,
- livestock becoming desperate in their attempts to escape and injure themselves in doing so,
- dogs who chase ewes or lambs may cause them to separate from their mothers, later dying of starvation or hyperthermia.

### Reporting livestock attacks and worrying

Call 999 if the crime is ongoing and animals are being injured. To report a crime which isn't ongoing call 101 or [submit an online Contact Us form](#).

### What are Police Scotland doing about it?

Police Scotland is committed to tackling rural crime and, in particular, livestock attacks and worrying. We chair, drive and focus activity for the Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime (SPARC).

This partnership consists of over 20 relevant rural organisations including NFU Scotland, Scottish Land and Estates, Scottish Crofting Federation and NFU Mutual, coming together to proactively prevent, reduce and tackle rural crime.



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It also works to raise awareness of rural crimes and ensure the public is informed in what they can do to help.

### **Livestock attacks and worrying and the law**

The [Dogs \(Protection of Livestock\) \(Amendment\) \(Scotland\) Act 2021](#) came into force on 5 November 2021 to tackle the issue of out of controls dogs attacking and worrying livestock.

Under this law, the term "livestock" is wide ranging and includes cattle, sheep, goats, swine (pigs/boars), horses, camelids (alpacas/lamas), ostriches, farmed deer, enclosed game birds or poultry.

### **What are the consequences of livestock attacks and worrying?**

Under this new law, owners of dogs that attack or worry livestock can be **fined up to £40,000** or even **sent to prison for up to 12 months**.

### **Advice for dog owners and land managers**

#### **Dog owners**

It's important for dog owners to be aware that livestock are valuable assets and any harm to them could significantly affect the livestock owners livelihood.

There's a number of things owners can do to reduce the chances of their dog committing a livestock attack or worrying crime.

When in the countryside, be wary of your dog approaching other animals. Try to stop your dog coming into contact with livestock. Remember, in the countryside, it may not always be obvious when animals are around.

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If you're in an area where livestock are nearby, always keep your dog in your sights and maintain control over them. If you can't guarantee this, use a lead.

It's important to be aware that under certain circumstances, land owners can shoot your dog if it is attacking or causing distress to their animals.

### **Land managers**

There's a number of things you can do to minimise the threat of your livestock becoming a victim of worrying and attacks.

Appropriate signage can make walkers in the area aware of their responsibilities and can suggest alternative routes if you're worried of an attack or worrying.

You'll also need to think about public access near your land and any risks that this can cause to your animals.

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**Contact Us:**

- ☐ 101 – Non emergency;
- ☐ Email - [StonehavenLowerDeesideCPT@Scotland.police.uk](mailto:StonehavenLowerDeesideCPT@Scotland.police.uk)
- ☐ Twitter - @NorthEPolice
- ☐ Facebook – [www.Facebook.com/NorthEastPoliceDivision](https://www.facebook.com/NorthEastPoliceDivision)
- ☐ Web – [www.scotland.police.uk](http://www.scotland.police.uk)
- ☐ 999 – Emergency;
- ☐ 0800 555 111 - Crimestoppers;

Inspector Rhona Di Meola  
Kincardine and Mearns Community Policing Team  
03/05/2022

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