



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 August 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.

In this 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	Youth Disorder	Anti-Social
Portlethen	6	13
Stonehaven	13	11
Laurencekirk	5	2
Coastal Road	2	8

Acquisitive Crime: D – Detected UI-Under Investigation

Area	Thefts	Shopliftings	Theft of motorvehicle
Portlethen	6(5D, 1UI)	2 (2UI)	0
Stonehaven	0	4(4UI)	1(1UI)
Laurencekirk	2 (2D)	0	0
Coastal Road	0	1(1UI)	0

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Road Safety & road crime:

Area	Drink/Drug Driving	Dangerous	Careless Driving
Portlethen	2 (2D)	1(1UI)	2(2D)
Stonehaven	2 (1D,1UI)	0	5 (2D,3UI)
Laurencekirk	2 (2D)	0	0
Coastal Road	0	0	0

Community Engagement & Reassurance:

This month the focus is identity theft which is when criminals get access to someone's personal information. They then use it to steal their identity.

They could then pretend to to open bank accounts, get credit cards, loans and mortgages or to claim benefits. They could even take over someone's accounts and change the address.

They can steal someone's name and reputation. Then can use this to make money.

How the fraudsters operate

Here are a few ways which these criminals work:

- They search through rubbish to find bills or bank statements
- They target flats where shared mail boxes make theft easier
- They bribe or rob postal workers or purchase the information from other criminals
- They search through unattended bags.

Warning signs

There are a number of warning signs to look out for:

- If you get bills or invoices for goods you have not ordered
- If you get collection letters for debt that isn't yours or
- There are transactions on your bank or credit card statements that you do not recognise
- Important documents such as your passport or driving licence may have been stolen.

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Take action

There are a number of steps you can take to avoid falling victim to identity theft:

- Keep all your important documents safe and secure
- When using a credit or debit card, make sure it's never out of your sight
- Cash machines may have been tampered with. Your cards could be skimmed and cloned
- Never give out your personal details when you're contacted by phone, fax, post or email
- Always offer to ring back any suspicious callers but check the phone number you are given
- When throwing out documents which contain personal information try to shred them so that nobody could read your personal details
- Always check your bank and credit card statements. Report any transactions you don't recognise, even small amounts
- Close all accounts you no longer need
- Move your mail when moving home by arranging with the post office to forward your mail to your new address
- Get organisations to send to your new address.

If you think you're a victim

If you think you might be a victim of identity theft, don't delay:

- Contact your bank or building society
- Keep a record of all communication
- Report the matter to the police
- Request a copy of your credit report (such as Equifax or Experian) - you can ask for incorrect information to be removed.

Inspector Rhona Di Meola
Kincardine and Mearns Community Policing Team
26/09/2023

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