

The logo for Police Scotland, featuring the word "POLICE" in large, bold, white capital letters above the word "SCOTLAND" in smaller, blue capital letters, all set against a dark blue rectangular background.

**POLICE**  
SCOTLAND

**COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
QUARTERLY MEETING REPORT  
1 SEPTEMBER 2017**

## **1. FOREWORD**

Welcome to the first edition of the quarterly Kincardine and Mearns newsletter.

This edition will provide an overview of the staffing within your local Community Policing Team, and an update regarding some of the policing activity which has been ongoing in your area.

It will include some appeals for information.

It will also offer some crime prevention advice, and guidance as to how to contact your local Community Policing Team.

## **2. OVERVIEW OF LOCAL COMMUNITY POLICING TEAM**

Within your area are three staffed Police Stations: Stonehaven, Laurencekirk and Portlethen.

The Local Policing Inspector for Kincardine and Mearns is Sheila McDerment, based at Stonehaven Police Station.

The staffing covering Kincardine and Mearns is comprised of five teams of, on average, six Local Policing Constables, each led by a Local Policing Sergeant. The officers provide 24/7 cover for the whole of Kincardine and Mearns, carrying out general policing duties ranging from responding to emergencies and critical incidents, to more community-focussed activities. They are supported by five front office staff members and a cleaner.

Many of the team also have one or more specialist roles they are required to carry out from time to time, including cellblock duties, firearms licensing enquiries, armed response duties, specialist interviews of children, health and safety duties, and Wildlife Liaison duties.

Kincardine and Mearns also has a Roads Policing Team, based at Stonehaven, comprised of eight officers and a Sergeant.

## **3. LOCAL POLICING PRIORITIES**

A new three-year local policing plan for Aberdeenshire was launched by North East Division and Aberdeenshire Council on 4 July 2017.

The new policing plan details the key policing priorities for the next three years to ensure Aberdeenshire remains a safe place to live, work and visit.

The priorities have been identified through consultation with a range of key stakeholders and communities themselves.

Priorities include tackling antisocial behaviour, violence and disorder, reducing road casualties and preventing acquisitive crime. It also identifies the need to protect communities from serious and organised crime, and people from risk of harm and terrorism.

Speaking at the launch, Chief Superintendent Campbell Thomson said: "I am pleased to be launching our policing plan for Aberdeenshire today, following approval at the Communities Committee.

"This plan highlights our policing priorities over the next three years, and where our local officers will build on the strong performance from last year, tackling the local issues that our communities tell us matter to them.

"Much of our success is due to the support we receive from the community as well as the strong partnership links we have. Working hand-in-hand with our partners to provide a holistic response to issues ensures that Aberdeenshire continues to be one of the safest places in Scotland."

The plan can be accessed [www.scotland.police.uk/what'shappening/news/2017](http://www.scotland.police.uk/what'shappening/news/2017)

#### **4. WHAT WE HAVE DONE**

It has been a busy Summer and over this period, Officers from the Local Policing Teams have either policed, attended or given passing attention to a number of Community-based events, including but not limited to:

- a visit from First Minister Nicola Sturgeon to Stonehaven in June
- the General Election on 8 June
- the June Galas at Fettercairn, Drumlithie, Catterline, Luthermuir and Inverbervie
- the Stonehaven Midsummer Beer Happening
- the Drumtochty Highland Games
- various local Motor, Scooter and Cycling Club events
- the July Portlethen Gala
- the Stonehaven Folk Festival
- and the Stonehaven Harbour Festival.

Between 2 and 4 June, and between 21 and 23 July, Officers from the Community Policing Team, assisted by Special Constables, carried out 6 'Days of Action' targeting vandalism, anti-social behaviour and under-age drinking in Kincardine and Mearns. The team carried out high visibility patrols in marked Police vehicles, went on foot patrols in plainclothes in 'hotspot' areas, engaged with local youths, and attended noisy music calls. Additional uniformed patrols were carried out in Stonehaven, Portlethen and Inverbervie to provide increased visibility and reassurance, and to act as a deterrent to offenders.

In June and July, Roads Policing Officers visited Simpsons Playhouse, Cameron Street, Stonehaven, and Babes in the Wood Nursery, Queens Road, Stonehaven, to deliver a

short presentation to pre-school age children about 'stranger danger' and road safety (crossing the road, and wearing crash helmets when on bikes & scooters). Other previous, similar visits this year were carried out at Gourdon, Inverbervie and Lairhillock Primary Schools.

Between 21 August and 7 September, Officers carried out a road safety initiative around various Schools across Kincardine and Mearns at the start of the new term as part of Operation Cedar (Challenge Educate Detect and Reduce), targeting speeding and irresponsible parking in the vicinity of schools, and carrying out additional patrols around school drop off and pick up times.

## **5. HOW YOU CAN HELP US**

Between 9pm on Saturday 12 August and 9pm on Sunday 13 August, in an uncommon incident for the area, a number of cars were vandalised in the Inverurie Street area of Auchenblae.

On 24 August, a fire was set within the male toilets at Portlethen Academy. The fire was quickly extinguished and no persons were harmed but this was an unusual and concerning incident.

On 28 August just after 1100am, a Vandalism took place within the grounds of Portlethen Primary School.

The Local Policing Team appeal to anyone who saw any suspicious activity in these areas between the times given, or anyone who may have information, to contact them.

Additional patrols have been carried out in these areas.

Members of the public are urged to report insecure properties, suspicious activities, or any concerns to Police Scotland on 101. Please try and report these at the time of occurrence, where possible.

Where vehicles are involved, noting vehicle registration marks and details of make, model and colour help us identify persons involved.

If you have information about persons in your area who are involved in crime, please contact Police Scotland on 101.

If you wish to provide information anonymously, you can do so by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

# YOURVIEWCOUNTS

[scotland.police.uk/yourviewcounts](https://scotland.police.uk/yourviewcounts)

Tell us what is important to you in your community. We need your opinion to inform our policing. Having your say in the decision-making process of Police Scotland is a vital tool for local residents to help shape the way their public services operate. It just takes 5 minutes.

We have listened to your feedback and used it to re-design and re-launch our consultation process for policing priorities, including the questions we ask. The process has evolved with support from key partners and stakeholders.

Using a digital platform allows us to reach a much wider audience than ever before, and ensures that everyone can have their say. The online consultation is open all year, allowing you to take part when it suits you but also giving the flexibility of being able to re-submit if your priorities change.

It's a simple process that will shape the way that policing is coordinated across Scotland and in your local community. The consultation will be a completely transparent process as it's all about your priorities.

The survey can be accessed at [www.scotland.police.uk/yourviewcounts](https://www.scotland.police.uk/yourviewcounts)

## **6. CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE**

**OCTOBER**



North East Division of Police Scotland are issuing their annual request for residents of all ages to make the 2017 Halloween weekend a safe and enjoyable one.

Inspector Colin Taylor of the North East Division Safer Communities Unit says, "As the weekend and the actual night approaches we are issuing some simple guidance for young people to ensure that Halloween passes safely and that anti-social behaviour or irresponsible behaviour is avoided. The past few years have seen Halloween pass quietly within Kincardine and Mearns but there are still residents who are affected by the minority who behave antisocially and ruin what should be a fun and family-orientated time of year."

Constable Kev Marron from the Crime Reduction Unit advises, "Parents and young people are asked to consider staying in well-lit areas and consider carrying a torch while out and about, so as not to frighten elderly people or younger children. We would obviously advise that no one enters a house unless you know the person. Young children should always be with an adult and older children should ensure they are with friends."

Constable Marron added, "We would ask people who are enjoying Halloween that if a sign says no trick or treat, respect that person's wishes and move on. As it is dark, it is important to be visible so that passing traffic can see you. If you have a mobile phone, look after it so that parents/guardian can keep in touch. Tell your parents or guardian where you are going and what time you will be back. Kincardine and Mearns is a low crime area. Taking simple precautions, such as keeping money given to you hidden away in a wallet or clothing, will help ensure it stays that way."

Inspector Taylor concluded, "Police Scotland would ask local traders to restrict the sales of eggs and flour to youths and children. While we do not want to spoil anyone's enjoyment, we do not want the quality of life of people in our community to decrease and we will not put up with anti-social behaviour. The help we are given by our commercial partners to reduce the problem is much appreciated. May I take this opportunity to wish everyone an enjoyable and safe Halloween"



It will soon be Fireworks night and Police Scotland want people to enjoy the festivities and ask that people use fireworks safely and responsibly and with due regard for the rest of the community.

Inspector Taylor says, "Over the past few years, new legislation has come into force to facilitate the safe use of fireworks. Police Scotland are keen to make the public aware of this legislation so everyone can enjoy the night safely and avoid inadvertently committing any offence. To this end, Police Scotland are committed to educating the public and advising them of the basic legislation that is currently in place.

Inspector Taylor advises, "Adults should be aware and make their children aware that it is an offence to supply a firework, either for payment or for free, to any person under the age of 18. Furthermore, it is an offence for any persons under the age of 18 to be in possession of a firework in a public place."

Constable Marron from the Crime Reduction Unit advises, "It is important to realise that not everyone is a fan of fireworks and their use should not impede on anyone else's quality of life. Please be aware of the legislation, follow the instructions on the box, do not misuse fireworks, and be considerate and mindful of the safety of others, in particular, children and animals."

## **NOVEMBER**

### **'LIGHTS OUT YOU'RE OUT'**

Every year, Police Scotland warns householders to make sure their homes look occupied, including when they are out. As the nights draw in and evenings get darker quicker, especially after the clocks go back, residents should be aware that a house in darkness looks unoccupied and could be a target for criminals.

Constable Marron says, "Homes that are well lit are less likely to be the target of criminal activity. Make your home look occupied with realistic lighting. Outside, install dusk to dawn lighting *and* movement detection lighting, to give a constant level of low emission lighting, backed up by more intensive lighting should there be any movement within your property. Indoor lighting should be connected to timers so lights come on before it gets dark. Don't just have one light coming on in the hall, make it realistic. Timers can also be installed to radios and other sound-emitting devices. Close your blinds so the lights can be seen from the outside but there is no direct line of sight into your home."

Constable Marron concluded, "Above all, lock the doors and windows of your home, any sheds, garages, outbuildings and vehicles, whether you are at home or out. Kincardine and Mearns is a low crime area and we are committed to keeping it that way so that the residents of our communities can continue to enjoy the high quality of life they have become accustomed to. To facilitate this, we always encourage people to use basic cost-effective precautions to make sure their homes look occupied. Use your house alarm where installed. The North East is a low crime area but we have to be wary of giving opportunistic criminals an easy target.

Be alert and report anything you see that you think is suspicious by telephoning 101 or 999 if it is an emergency. Alternatively, if you wish to remain anonymous, telephone Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111."

### **OPERATION MONARDA**

is the name of the Policing operation tackling doorstep crime. We have had instances of elderly people being targeted in the Kincardine and Mearns area over the last few months. We are asking communities to look out for those vulnerable members of the community and if any repeat visitors to addresses give cause for concern, please contact Police on 101.



### **citizenAID**

Whilst we hope it would never happen to us, given recent tragic events over the Summer in Manchester and elsewhere in Europe, we would highlight a free app suitable for all smartphones called **citizenAID\***

This offers advice to members of the public about how to safely react to a major incident. It provides clear and simple guidance on what immediate action members of the public should take in a shooting, stabbing or bomb incident, how to pass effective messages to the emergency services, about prioritising the injured, and how to give life-saving first aid.

In such incidents, avoidable deaths can occur very quickly, particularly from bleeding, and such events can involve multiple victims. Military experience from treating casualties in conflict has shown how vital immediate action in

these circumstances can be.

Free online familiarisation training will be available and a paper pocket guide will also be available from the website.

\*Please note some of the videos on the **citizenAID** website contain scenes of simulated injuries that some may find upsetting.



## **7. HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LOCAL POLICING TEAM**

To report an emergency, where persons or property are at risk of harm, please dial 999.

To report any other ongoing suspicious incident, crime or concern, please dial 101.

If you require advice and guidance on any matter, or wish to contact us, the Kincardine and Mearns Community Policing team have a dedicated email address:

[StonehavenLowerDeesideCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:StonehavenLowerDeesideCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk)

Please note that whilst monitored regularly, this e-mail address should not be used for pressing matters as it may take time to respond to your query, but we will attend to it as soon as possible.

## **8. YOUR NEXT POLICING REPORT**

The next quarterly police report for Kincardine and Mearns will be issued week commencing 4 December 2017.