

The logo for Police Scotland, featuring the word "POLICE" in large, bold, white capital letters above the word "SCOTLAND" in a smaller, light blue, sans-serif font, all contained within a dark blue rectangular background.

**POLICE**  
SCOTLAND

**COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
QUARTERLY MEETING REPORT  
1 MARCH 2018**

## **1. LOCAL POLICING PRIORITIES**

The local policing priorities for Kincardine and Mearns include tackling antisocial behaviour, violence and disorder; reducing road casualties; and preventing acquisitive crime. These priorities identify the need to protect communities from serious and organised crime, and people from risk of harm and terrorism.

These are the issues that our local communities tell us matter to them. Much of our success can be contributed to the support we receive from the community, as well as the strong partnership links we have. Working closely with partners to provide a holistic response to issues ensures that Kincardine and Mearns remains one of the safest places in Scotland.

## **2. WHAT WE HAVE DONE**

December is always a particularly busy period for us.

On 4 - 24 December 2017, we carried out festive policing patrols across the K&M area, linking in with local business partners, retail premises and licensed premises in a combined effort to prevent antisocial behaviour and crimes of an acquisitive nature such as Theft by Shoplifting.

On 8 - 9 December, we carried out an antisocial behaviour operation in licensed premises across Kincardine and Mearns. Dedicated Officers carried out numerous licensed premises checks and engaged with our partners in the licensing business to prevent and deter such behaviour.

On 21 December, Officers from the local Special Constable Task Force attended at Bervie Primary School to speak to the children there and offer basic safety advice.

Policing the Stonehaven Fireballs Ceremony on 31 December is always a big event for us. We would like to thank those in the local community and our partners who worked alongside us throughout the year to ensure that once again, the event ran safely and was a great success.

Throughout February 2018, on the back of Internet Safety Day on 6 February, our local School Liaison Officer PC Russell Crawford delivered a number of internet safety talks within various schools across Kincardine and Mearns, in addition to his other inputs.

On 19 February, Officers from the local Special Constable Task Force attended at the Laurencekirk Scouts Group to give an input on policing to the scouts, offering basic safety advice.

Since the last quarterly report, other community-based events that local Officers have either policed, attended, or given passing attention to included:

- Husky Haven Sled Rides, Stonehaven
- Stonehaven Fun Run
- Stonehaven 'Nippy Dip'

- Johnshaven Fireworks Display
- Fetteresso Forest Marathon
- Careers Event at Mearns Academy, Laurencekirk

### **3. APPEAL FOR INFORMATION - 'CUCKOOING'**

As an Intelligence-led organisation, Police Scotland depend on members of the public to come forward and provide information. Once this information is noted, it is forwarded to staff within our Divisional Intelligence Unit to be processed, researched and analysed in order to prevent and detect crime.

We like to know 'who, what, why, when, where and how' in relation to criminals living or committing crime in our communities.

Intelligence is like an incomplete jigsaw. Every piece of intelligence we receive, no matter how big or small, fits together to complete a bigger picture. Nothing should be considered too small or irrelevant. Tell us so we can make the assessment. Things like names, nicknames, addresses, descriptions and vehicle registration numbers are all very helpful.

All information received is treated confidentially. Measures are put in place to prevent the source of information being identified before we share it with the Police Officers tasked with taking action. Information you provide can help us prevent and detect crime, disrupt criminal activity, and apprehend offenders.

You may have recently have heard the term 'cuckooing' in the media. This refers to drug dealers taking over vulnerable people's homes to deal or store drugs. We know that English-based drug dealers travel from areas such as Liverpool, London, Sheffield and the West Midlands to the North East of Scotland to deal drugs. This is by no means a new and emerging trend. It is hoped that getting the term 'cuckooing' out into the public domain and educating people in our local communities about signs to look out for will help us gather information on this type of activity.

Do you think you are living next door to a drug dealer living as a 'cuckoo' in someone else's home? Or do you have any information about someone who might be the victim of this crime?

Signs of cuckooing include:

- The home owner having new associates and increased visitors at all times, day and night;
- an increased number of vehicles outside the property including taxis and hire cars;
- signs that people might be staying at the property, for example, bags of clothing lying around the address;
- increased anti-social behaviour.

No two cases are the same but if you think something's not quite right, please tell us so we can look into it. We need you to come forward with information so please contact the Police on 101 to report any information, or contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 to remain anonymous.

## 4. HOME SECURITY CRIME PREVENTION QUIZ

Why not try our Home Security quiz to evaluate your home security? Give yourself 1 point for each "Yes" answer.

### OUTSIDE YOUR HOME

***Have you considered establishing a Neighbourhood/Farm Watch Scheme in your area?***

Yes  No

Advice and guidelines when initiating or registering a scheme can be obtained from Neighbourhood Watch Scotland, Office 23, Enterprise House, Springkerse Business Park, Stirling FK7 7UF, 01786 463732, [info@neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk](mailto:info@neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk) (also on Facebook and Twitter) and [brian.connel@neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk](mailto:brian.connel@neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk) are the main points of contact for all Neighbourhood/Farm Watch schemes.

***Are you aware how a Controlled Calling Zone would benefit where you live?***

Yes  No

Trading Standards at Inverurie, 01467 628148, administers the zones and offers assistance in establishing these types of zones.

***Have you considered installing CCTV?***

Yes  No

This may not be required if your home is overlooked by other properties. We can provide advice if you consider this necessary.

***Are you aware of cost effective alternatives to CCTV?***

Yes  No

PIR (movement detection) lights with built in CCTV cameras *can* offer a cost-effective alternative to a fully integrated CCTV system. These retail from about £60.

***Are there clear views of your home?***

Yes  No

Hedges and fences in front of your home should be kept to a maximum height of half a metre to allow natural and casual surveillance. On taller vegetation (e.g. trees), there should be no growth below two metres. This provides a one metre 'window' of surveillance between ground shrubbery and taller vegetation.

***Is there an access control to your property?***

Yes  No

Hedges, fences, walls and gates at the rear and sides of your home should *generally* be 1.8 metres in height with anti-climb measures (e.g. trellises) along the top. Gates should always be kept closed. Perimeter boundary fencing, walls, hedges and gates not only provide a physical barrier but also a line of demarcation.

***Have you considered installing a boundary alarm?***

Yes  No

Devices like driveway alarms can be easily purchased and installed for less than £20 and will activate a unit in your home should the alarm beam be broken.

***Is the material of boundary walls and fencing a deterrent against unauthorised intrusion?***

Yes  No

Thorny bushes and dense shrubbery can help to restrict unwanted access to your property.

***Can you secure gates?***

Yes  No

This should always be considered, especially gates seldom used.

***Are there clear views of all windows and doors?***

Yes  No

The more private an area is, the more likely it is to attract the attention of a criminal. Thieves like to work where they can't be seen. Trim trees and shrubs that block sight to your windows and doors, especially basement windows, so they do not offer concealment.

***Are there visible exterior lights that give the impression you are home, even if you're not?***

Yes  No

Install outside lighting to eliminate dark areas around doors or windows. Consider a mixture of lighting by using dusk to dawn low intensity lighting along with PIR (movement detection) lighting. Consider using PIR lights with a built-in camera.

***Is the layout of your garden conducive to Crime Reduction?***

Yes  No

Gravel paths make noise and thorny bushes planted directly below ground floor windows can help restrict access.

***Are the doors of your garages, sheds & outbuildings secure?***

Yes  No

Every outside door should have three points of locking (top, middle and bottom) with fixtures and fittings (including hasps and hinges) secured with flat-headed bolts, security screws, or screws whose heads have been filled in (e.g. with super glue) or 'rounded' so they cannot be removed.

***Do you use backing plates?***

Yes  No

Installing metal backing plates on the inside wall at the back of the fixtures and fittings (e.g. hasp and hinges) greatly improves security and can help stop the items being forcibly removed. It also can add extra strength to the structure as a whole.

***Have you installed a quality lock(s)?***

Yes  No

The use of five-lever mortice locks, close-shackle padlocks and audible alarm padlocks should be considered.

***Is your garage, shed or outbuilding alarmed?***

Yes  No

A personal attack alarm can be utilised as a cost-effective (approximately £4) method of alarming a door.

***Have you ensured no one can see into your garage, shed or outbuilding?***

Yes  No

All windows should have a covering (blinds, curtains or even a black bag) over them to restrict unauthorised viewing. If the window is not needed, it could be boarded up or have mesh installed over it.

***If access was gained into a garage, shed or outbuilding would expensive items be difficult to remove?***

Yes  No

All expensive items stored within these types of buildings should be secured to the ground, a wall anchor, or another item. They should all be property marked.

***Is your oil tank kept locked?***

Yes  No

Oil tanks should be kept locked and screened from view. All pipework should be 'boxed - in'. Tanks can be alarmed from as little as £4. Locking areas should be reinforced with steel washers.

***Are items of "value" kept secure and/or out of sight?***

Yes  No

One person's rubbish is another's gold. Scrap metal or items that can be sold as scrap are highly sought after by thieves. Items left lying about may raise curiosity and encourage unwanted attention or people onto your land.

***Are items that could assist unauthorised entry into your home kept secure and/or out of sight?***

Yes  No

Ideally tools, ladders or items which could be used for criminal purposes should be kept secure and out of general view. Wheelie bins and similar can be used as 'ladders'.

***Have you installed warning signs?***

Yes  No

You don't need CCTV or alarm warning signs but if you have installed CCTV and alarms, warning signage can be a great deterrent against criminal activity. It also reminds you that the alarm is in place.

## **YOUR HOME**

***Are all the apertures (windows, doors, etc) of your home reasonably protected?***

Yes  No

To ensure a high level of security, consider choosing items selected for the 'Secured By Design' award, or products of similar quality. The 'Secured By Design' website offers guidance regarding purchasing security products.

***Do your external doors offer a good level of security?***

Yes  No

Any new external door-sets installed should be fit for purpose, tested to BS PAS 23/24, and certificated by an independent UKAS-accredited certification body. In general, external doors should have:

1. Three points of locking - top, middle and bottom
2. Reinforced panels - whether wood, glass, or UPVC
3. Vulnerable glass doors and panels should be double-glazed sealed units constructed of laminate glass. Where possible, the outer pane at least should be minimum 6.4mm thick
4. Three hinges or one hinge running the length of the door.
5. If possible, hinges should be inside the door or covered so they cannot be tampered with
6. Hinge bolts should be installed on outward opening doors or doors deemed vulnerable to attack
7. External *wooden* doors should be made of hardwood and at least 44mm thick
8. The above standard (points 1 to 7) should be considered on all vulnerable *internal* doors (e.g. doors leading to garages directly in/out of the house) where a breach of security could result in high financial loss.

***Do your door locks comply with your insurance policy?***

Yes  No

Locks should be tested to BS3621:1998 and cylinders to BSEN1303 grade. As a minimum, any mortice-style locks should have a minimum of five leavers with a full metal keeper sheath. The external part of the barrel of the lock should be flush with the surface of the lock surround or fascia of the door.

***Do your windows offer protection against unauthorised intrusion?***

Yes  No

Windows and glass panels should have locks installed on them and be made to British Security Standard BS7950. Vulnerable windows should be double-glazed sealed units constructed of laminate glazing and as a minimum, the outer pane should be 6.4mm thick. Remember - toughened glass is for safety, laminate for security. Keys should not be stored on window ledges or in open view.

***Have you considered installing an alarm?***

Yes  No

Intruder alarms should be to British Standard BS4737 EN50131. Alarms do not always need monitored - e.g. if there are other residential properties in close proximity.

***Are your valuables kept secure?***

Yes  No

Consider installing a safe, which should be hidden from view and secured to the fabric of the building. This could be used to store money, passports and keys not required for everyday use.

***Have you property marked your belongings?***

Yes  No

Items can be marked with your house name and/or number and postcode using U.V. pens, engraving, paint or security stickers, etc.

***Have you photographed personal items or items of value?***

Yes  No

Jewellery, watches, etc, can be photographed next to a ruler. The camera card used should be stored in a secure location.

***Do you ensure your home looks occupied when you are out?***

Yes  No

The use of timing devices is always encouraged. Blinds can also be tilted so no-one can see directly into your home but light can be seen from outside.

***Is there an easy way of seeing who is at your door without having to open it?***

Yes  No

Door chains, viewers, or simply asking callers to go to a window, are inexpensive methods of keeping you and your family safe. If in doubt - keep them out!

***Do you lock your home, sheds, garages, outbuildings and vehicles at night?***

Yes  No

Complacency can be our biggest enemy.

***Do you lock your home, sheds, garages, outbuildings and vehicles when leaving them unoccupied or unattended?***

Yes  No

Complacency can be our biggest enemy. Sometimes we intend to only be away for a short period of time but circumstances mean we take longer. Lock your home, sheds, garages, outbuildings and vehicles - especially at night.

***Do you store keys out of sight?***

Yes  No

Keys should always be removed from locks and stored out of sight (not left hanging up in general view). Preferably all keys should be stored in a secure location, cupboard or drawer when not required.

## **VEHICLES**

***Do you lock and remove valuables from your vehicles?***

Yes  No

Lock your vehicle and keep the keys secure within your home. Remove any valuable items from within vehicles. Never leave spare keys in your vehicle. Never leave anything in view that may encourage any criminal interest in your vehicle.

***Do you consider where you park your vehicles?***

Yes  No

Try and ensure your vehicle is parked in a well-lit area. If parking in a driveway, close any gates behind you and position your vehicle so that it is illuminated by either your own or any street lighting. If you have a movement-activated sensor on your external house light, position it, if possible, to activate when someone approaches your vehicle in the drive. Consider a driveway alarm.

***Do you utilise the vehicles security features?***

Yes  No

No matter how long you anticipate being away from your vehicle, always engage the security devices (e.g. alarms, immobilisers, etc) as you may be longer than you expect.

## SUMMARY

Did you get 38 out of 38? Probably not. This could be because some of these recommendations may not be appropriate, realistic, or cost-effective for your home. However, many may be worth considering. The fact that Kincardine and Mearns is a low crime area should be considered before taking action.

The purpose of this quiz is to alert, not alarm, and to offer you direction and advice. Sometimes, small actions or changes in our habits can significantly reduce the chance of being the subject of crime.

As Kincardine and Mearns is a low crime area, anyone suspicious or indulging in criminal activity in our communities tends to draw our attention. If you see anyone or anything suspicious, contact Police Scotland on 101 or in an emergency, on 999. If you wish to remain anonymous, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

For more Crime Reduction advice and information contact PC Kevin Marron, Crime Reduction Officer, Police Scotland, Stonehaven Police Office, Dunnottar Avenue, AB39 2JD, or telephone 101, or email: [kevin.marron@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:kevin.marron@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

## 5. YEAR OF THE YOUNG PERSON

2018 is Scotland's Year of Young People, which aims to inspire children and young people to celebrate their achievements, valuing their contributions to communities and creating opportunities for them to shine on a local and global stage. The Scottish Government is working with a group of delivery partners to develop a national programme of celebratory events for all ages to enjoy. Creative Scotland will inspire young people to participate in the arts, and youth partners -Young Scot, Children in Scotland, Scottish Youth Parliament, YouthLink Scotland - are leading on youth engagement and ensuring young people's views are heard and acted upon.

So far over 200 Ambassadors have been recruited, representing every Local Authority in Scotland. Their role is to promote the year-long activity, challenge negative stereotypes, and champion the six key themes which young people decided upon - **Participation, Education, Equality and Discrimination, Enterprise and Regeneration.**

Staff from our Partnerships & Events team will be looking to promote and participate in a range of activities as the year progresses.

## 6. HOW YOU CAN HELP US

Report insecure properties, suspicious activities, or any concerns to Police Scotland on 101, at the time of occurrence where possible.

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

If you have information about crime in your area, contact Police Scotland on 101.

If you have information about crime in your area which you wish to report anonymously, contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

## 7. HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LOCAL POLICING TEAM

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

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

Service users who are deaf or have a hearing impairment can contact Police Scotland via TextRelay in an emergency on 18000 or non-emergency on 18001 101.

For advice and guidance on any other matter, contact the Kincardine and Mearns Community Policing Team's dedicated email address:

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

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



Community Policing Teams are supported by dedicated Crime Reduction Officers who assist in the work to promote crime reduction and progress prevention opportunities, which we see as key to reducing crime and antisocial behaviour in your area.

**Neighbourhood Alert** affords Police Scotland the opportunity to send e-mail messages about local crime trends and with crime prevention advice quickly and effectively to a wide audience, which can be targeted to particular streets or communities if required.

Any individual can sign-up to receive these e-mail messages, either for themselves or their community group. The sign-up process allows the recipient to specify the type of information that they are interested in and from what source.

Neighbourhood Watch Scotland, who coordinate this resource, work with a range of partners in the public sector to provide information not only on crime but also on matters of community safety and resilience. These messages are intended to inform the public and to keep them abreast of information which will assist them in keeping themselves, their families and their properties safe. For this reason, they will only send out messages

if they feel it is important that the public receive the information and are then able to use it effectively in their daily lives.

Please take the opportunity to sign-up for **Neighbourhood Alert** e-mail messages and encourage family, friends and neighbours to do the same. Whilst the number of subscribers is constantly growing, the more people who sign up to receive these alerts, the more effective these messages will become as they allow communities to become better informed and make better decisions. There is no requirement to join or set up a Neighbourhood Watch.

Simply follow the link below to the registration instructions. By signing up, you control your personal information, contact details, and decide what information providers you want to receive Alerts from.

<https://member-registration.neighbourhoodalert.co.uk/91/Join>

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

The next quarterly police report for Kincardine and Mearns will be issued week commencing 4 June 2018.