



## **Community Council Report**

This report covers progress we have made in dealing with your priorities for the Kincardine and Mearns Community Council area during the period 1st to 31st August 2018.

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

## **Community Policing Priorities**

### **Antisocial behaviour, Violence and Disorder:**

#### **POLICING OPERATION**

Operation BAYSWATER is the overarching operation intended to combat anti-social behaviour. This continual commitment to keeping people safe sees the deployment of officers carrying out directed patrols to identify offenders and local hotspots in a bid to proactively deter and disrupt anti-social behavior in all its forms.

Last month we highlighted the ongoing patrols being carried out across Kincardine and Mearns over the school summer. These patrols undertaken for Operation BAYSWATER saw officers work collectively to ensure that the latest intelligence and local knowledge are combined.

Daily patrols consisted of both uniform and plain clothes patrols.

Campfires had been identified as a problem within several areas in Stonehaven and as a result of information received from the community the designated patrols concentrated within;

- Mineralwell Park
- Woods below Gallows Hill
- Waterfront in several places at Carron Den and
- Dunnottar woods

We are happy to report that there has been a complete cessation of campfires reported in the areas identified above.

A single instance of fire-raising to a public bench was reported by Fire and Rescue services over the school summer holidays, this is still being investigated and enquiries are ongoing.

A great response from the community has also helped reduce the instances of Anti-social behaviour relating to Youth annoyance in support of Operation Bayswater during the school holidays.

In total 14 instances of Youth annoyance were reported during the summer holidays, of which 6 related to motor-bikes being used in off-road areas. 4 incidents took place in Stonehaven, single instances were reported in Laurencekirk and at Well Brae, Portlethen. These details have been shared with the local Road Policing department and they have increased patrols and will give passing attention when possible.

There have been 9 assaults this reporting period, which is a decrease of 2 from last month. Of those crimes reported 6 are detected and various reports will be submitted to both Procurator and Youth Justice Management where relevant. Positive lines of Enquiries exist for the undetected crimes. None of the reported assault were serious in nature.

#### **Acquisitive Crime:**

There have been 14 recorded thefts in the Kincardine and Mearns area this month. This is a decrease of 1 since the last report. Currently 7 are detected whilst the remainder are ongoing enquiries with several following positive lines of enquiry.

There have been 2 Housebreakings in the Kincardine and Mearns area this month. One at a house building site and the other to the Recycling Centre in Stonehaven. In both instances copper piping was removed with disposed batteries also taken from the recycling centre. Enquiries are continuing to establish the identity of those involved.

If anyone has any information to assist Police with the ongoing enquiries highlighted above then they are asked to contact Police using the details below.

#### **Road Safety & road crime:**

Car safety checks were conducted at the David Street, Co-operative store in Stonehaven and Laurencekirk ScotMid stores in a joint operation with Road Safety officer from Aberdeenshire Council. 38 car seats were checked for safety and parents given education and advice in relation to questions asked. Leaflets were handed out and all persons found the checks and information provided very helpful and enlightening. As a result of this pilot and the positive feedback we have received we plan to carry out other checks in the near future and to progress our road safety initiative under the banner of Operation CEDAR.

Kincardine and Mearns officers are continuing to work with the Forestry Commission to prevent and detect irresponsible and illegal motorists who ride motorbikes and quad bikes on Forestry Commission land endangering members of the public using

the forests. As part of this operation officers are continuing to carry out high visibility patrols in forest areas. We have had a number of incidents reported to us regarding the misuse of motorcycles on Forestry land and as a result of enquiries carried out 3 people have been charged and reported to the Procurator Fiscal with related offences. We would like to thank our communities for their continued support with this operation and would continue to encourage them to report anyone they find using a motor vehicle on private land to Police.

## **Community Engagement & Reassurance**

### **Parking matters**

During August Community Liaison Officer, PC Camus attended at numerous locations to discuss the increasing problems with parking, in both residential and business districts.

One such attendance at Lethen Walk, Portlethen, involved representatives from Aberdeenshire Roads Department and the locally elected MSP. The main issues discussed were the specific problems caused by inconsiderate parking of others versus the cost of painting lines and erecting signage along with the lawful enforcement activity of any such change to the roads.

Where possible, punishment by way of fine, is usually a final resort. The initial response has been to leaflet neighbouring premises to highlight the issue to all affected, giving them a chance to remedy the situation themselves. At the same time we need to maintain the dialogue and Community message that if double yellow lines and signage exists, then the education process will not be indefinite.

Now that the schools have returned from the Summer holidays, attention will be given to ensure parents and guardians haven't forgotten their responsibilities in ensuring the Zig-Zag markings remain clear of any traffic. Pc Camus is looking into the possibility of placing banners outside schools to re-inforce the message of "DO NOT PARK" within the Zig-Zag marked area of crossings to reinforce the safety message.

### **CRIME REDUCTION ADVICE**

The nights are fair drawin' in. Soon the clocks will be moving. This is the time of year that I tell the residents in our communities to make sure their home looks occupied at **all** times.

Lights Out, you're out.

Let's make our homes look occupied when we are in **and** when we are out. One could argue the latter is more important but we always want our homes to look occupied. Use timers in a realistic manner so lights come on *just before* it gets dark. Timers should be installed on lights in living rooms, kitchens etc. Don't just

leave a light on in a hall. This is not realistic. Timers can also be installed on sound emitting devices like radios. Blinds should be tilted so there is no direct line of sight into the house so the light can be seen from the outside but anyone outside the house cannot ascertain there is no one in the room.

In the past travelling criminals are coming from outside Kincardineshire and the Mearns and, while the residents in our communities are in their beds, simply trying lots of house doors until they get an open one. The criminals then enter the house while the occupants are asleep, take items of valuable such as lap tops, jewellery, credit cards and the car keys and leave in the house holder's car. Now this is not a regular occurrence and it is not just Kincardineshire and the Mearns being targeted but Police Scotland want it to stop. Officers are out there stopping cars while our community sleeps and speaking with drivers who raise our suspicions but we need the public to help.

And it is easy. I am just going to list what residents can do:

- When you leave your home, garage, shed or outbuilding make sure the doors and windows are locked - even for a short time.
- The above is also applicable to your vehicle.
- At night, lock your home, vehicle, garage and sheds at night and keep the keys in your locked home, out of general view and secure.
- Lock your front door when you are in your rear garden.
- Ideally lock your doors when you are at home to stop sneak in thefts.
- Ensure you have effective lighting around your home, vehicle, garden, garage, shed and outbuilding.
- Installing a PIR (movement detection) light with built in camera (about £80) offers low cost CCTV and effective lighting. The unit has built in recording equipment so there is no need to purchase a recorder.
- If CCTV or alarms are used put up a sign in a prominent position as this is an excellent deterrent against criminal activity.
- Remove any valuable items from within their cars.
- Ensure no items are left in view.
- Try and ensure your car is parked in a well-lit area.
- Use security devices at all times (alarms, immobilisers)
- If parking on a driveway, close any gates behind you and position your vehicle so that it is illuminated by either your own or street lighting.
- If you have a movement activated sensor on your external house light, position it, if possible, to activate when someone approaches your vehicles in the drive.
- Consider installing driveway alarm (only £12) and/or CCTV.

Above all, take basic precautions - lock it or lose it and make your homes look occupied - lights out, you're out! I want to alert not alarm.

As I have said before, the area where we live in is a low crime area but it only takes an opportunist criminal to walk past an insecure property (your home, garage, shed, outbuilding or vehicle) and for them to gain easy access because it has been left insecure for you to be a target of criminal activity.

If criminals think the residents of an area are complacent they may keep returning as they see the area as an easy target. Let's take basic precautions to make the area a hard target and get the whole community on board.

People can me on the numbers below and get a advice.

**Kev Marron A9784**  
**Crime Reduction Officer & Architectural Liaison Officer**  
**Safer Communities, North East Division**

Police Scotland, Dunnottar Avenue, Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire, AB39 2JD  
Tel: 01224 304101  
Email: [Kevin.Marron@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Kevin.Marron@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

## INITIATIVES

### Keep Safe Places

# Keep Safe



**Keep Safe** is a partnership initiative developed with Police Scotland and I Am Me community led charity to raise awareness and increase reports of Disability Hate Crime.

**Keep Safe** works with local businesses to create a network of safer places for disabled, elderly, and vulnerable people to go if they are lost, scared, need help, or if they are the victim of crime.

Disabled or elderly people may have a **Keep Safe** card which holds information about their health, how they communicate, and contact details of people who can help them.

If a person requires assistance they may enter your premises. Staff can assist the person, which may be something as simple as offering directions. However, if the person is the victim of harassment/abuse or crime then the staff member can use the person's Keep Safe card to contact someone who can help, or contact the Police if the incident is serious.

There are also some people who might make friends with a disabled person so that they can take advantage of them. They use their friendship to cover the fact that they are committing crimes at the disabled person's expense. Some disability organisations call this 'Mate Crime'. 'Mate' covers a wide number of people including friends, family, and carers. Sometimes the exploitation may not be an illegal act but still has a negative effect on the individual.

Whilst Hate Crime reporting has improved, in the UK it is estimated that around 97% of Disability Hate Crime still goes unreported. It is estimated that around 99% of 'Mate Crime' is not reported.

## How Do you Report Disability Hate Crime?

It is important that all hate crimes are reported to the police whether it is a disability hate crime or not.

No matter how trivial or unimportant you think it is, your complaint will be taken seriously when you choose to report it.

Anyone can report a disability hate crime – whether they are the victim, someone who witnesses a disability hate crime, or someone the victim or witness tells about a crime. Witnesses also do not need to know the victim or give their name when reporting a disability hate crime.

### You can make a report:

- In person (attend police station, speak to police on street)
- Via the phone (101 non emergency, 999 emergency)
- Online ([www.scotland.police.uk/hate-crime](http://www.scotland.police.uk/hate-crime))
- 3rd Party Reporting Centre (eg.libraries)
- Contact us at [iammeproject@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:iammeproject@yahoo.co.uk)

Further Information on this initiative can be found on the Police Scotland website.

## Contact Us

Please also remember you can communicate with us using any of the following:

- 📞 101 – Non emergency;
- 📧 E-mail - [StonehavenLowerDeesideCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:StonehavenLowerDeesideCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk)
- 🐦 Twitter - @NorthEPolice
- 📘 Facebook – [www.facebook.com/NorthEastPoliceDivision](http://www.facebook.com/NorthEastPoliceDivision)
- 🌐 Web – [www.scotland.police.uk](http://www.scotland.police.uk)
- 📞 999 – Emergency;
- 📞 0800 555 111 - Crimestoppers;

Kincardine and Mearns Community Policing Team