



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 November 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 Durris. 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	17	8
Stonehaven	1	15
Laurencekirk	2	5
Coastal Road	0	5

Acquisitive Crime: D – Detected UI-Under Investigation

Area	Thefts	Shopliftings	Theft of motorvehicle
Portlethen	4 UI	1 UI	0
Stonehaven	4(3UI,1D)	2 UI	1 UI
Laurencekirk	1 UI	0	0
Coastal Road	0	0	0

Road Safety & road crime:

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

Community Engagement & Reassurance:

This month the focus is scams especially with Christmas round the corner.

Every year in the UK, millions of pounds are lost as a result of card fraud.

Criminals use different ways to get your details. However, there are some steps you can take to protect yourself.

Card skimming and cloning

With this type of fraud, criminals create a device which looks like where you'd enter your card on the cash machine.

They fit the device over cash machine slot. Then when people use the cash point, their card is skimmed. The information encoded on the magnetic strip is stored and then used.

Once they've got the cardholder's details, fraudsters try and find out the corresponding Personal Identification Number (PIN).

PINs can be compromised in two ways.

Firstly, they look over their shoulder of the cardholder as they enter their number.

Secondly, they use micro cameras. These are being concealed around the cash machine. The images are often transmitted to a receiver attached to a hand held camera. This is usually within 100 metres of the cash machine.

The details will then be matched with the card data. The fraudsters remove the device and download the information to create a 'cloned' card.

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Stolen card fraud

When a card is lost or stolen, it can be used until it's cancelled. Thieves can potentially buy goods worth thousands of pounds before the owners become aware that they've even been robbed.

Advice

To keep safe and help stop the fraudsters:

- Guard your card and details when making a transaction
- Don't let the card out of your sight
- Shield your PIN when withdrawing money from a cash machine
- Don't write down information like PINs, passwords or logins
- Don't give out your details in reply to emails claiming to be from your bank or the police
- When on the phone, only reveal your details if you made the call
- Access internet banking or shopping sites only by typing the address in your web browser
- Always check for the locked padlock or unbroken key security icons
- Shred documents and receipts which contain your personal information
- Secure your computer with anti-virus software and a firewall
- If your card is lost or stolen or you think it might have been used fraudulently, contact your bank or building society immediately.

Next report will be in the New year so on behalf of my Sergeants and Constables within the Kincardine and Mearns Policing Team we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Inspector Rhona Di Meola
Kincardine and Mearns Community Policing Team
07/12/2023

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