



COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING ON

01/08/2019

1. LOCAL INTEREST INFORMATION

Here is a summary of crimes and offences of local interest in the area since the last Police report.

BREACH OF THE PEACE

Echt show brought 5 tickets for public urination, several breaches of the peace along with a few incidents of drug possession and a refusal to leave.

ASSAULT

None.

VANDALISM

None.

THEFT

HOUSEBREAKING

None

ROAD TRAFFIC ISSUES

One male has been charged with careless driving and issued with a fixed penalty notice after officers observed the male travelling at excess speed. The male was also issued with an ASBO warning

DRUGS

One male has been charged with possession of cannabis as a result of a proactive stop search by local Officers.

2. ONGOING LOCAL / FORCE-WIDE ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

We would again remind the public in the wider countryside communities that we have experienced a few Housebreakings in other areas as well as sneak in thefts and some Hare Coursing.

We stress that keeping doors and windows locked at the front of properties if you are in the garden enjoying the sun as criminals will take advantage of this weather.

OPERATION CLOSE PASS

This operation to protect cyclists is still ongoing.

POLICE PDAs

You may soon see officers utilising mobile devices these are being rolled out by Police Scotland which take away the 'old' police notebook. These devices allow us to update incidents and complete some work out of the office which will hopefully allow you to see us more frequently on patrol.

CHANGE OF LOCAL INSPECTOR

Inspector Darren Bruce has moved to pastures new with promotion his replacement is Inspector Gareth Hannan who will be based out of Inverurie Police Office.



Community Council Report

This report covers progress we have made in dealing with your priorities for the Echt Community Council area during the period April- June 2019.

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:

This review period has seen a high number of early intervention referrals for youths involved in disorder in Garioch. These have been carried out as part of Operation Bayswater which will continue to target antisocial behaviour and youth disorder through further prevention and intervention.

In Echt during the time of this report, there was 1 reported Assault. This enquiry is still ongoing.

Acquisitive Crime:

Acquisitive Crime includes all forms of Housebreaking, Vehicle Crime, Shoplifting, Fraud and general Theft.

During the time of this report, there has been 1 reported theft. This theft would relate to heating oil being stolen. This enquiry is still ongoing.

Aberdeenshire remains a very safe place to live with the threat posed by Acquisitive Crime relatively low. Overall, figures for such crime are comparatively modest.

Across Aberdeenshire, Acquisitive Crime has continued to decrease against the overall five year average.

Road Safety & road crime:

The Priority of Road Safety and Road Crime focuses on reducing road casualties in Aberdeenshire in collaboration with partners, influencing driver and road user behaviour, as well as deterring and detecting all types of criminality on the roads.

Overall, road crime in Aberdeenshire continues to show a steady decline.

The Operation CEDAR (Challenge, Educate, Detect and Reduce) Strategy, which was initiated in Aberdeenshire, is now a pan Divisional approach to Road Safety.

During the week of Saturday 1 June 2019 – Friday 7 June 2019, Police Scotland carried out an operation on the A944 targeting motorists. As a result of this, 17 drivers were warned in relation to speed, 2 drivers was issued with a fixed penalty notices and 1 driver was reported to the Procurator Fiscal with regards to speeding.

These figures have been passed to Councillor Aitchison (Westhill) who will liaise with Aberdeenshire council for both Westhill/Skene and Echt as A944 and its tributary roads fall within both areas.

Locally we did see an increase in minor one vehicle RTCs where clearly inappropriate speed combined with the heavy rainfall impacted on the stability of vehicles especially at bends. It should be noted on our narrow roads the time a driver has to react to vehicle instability is much reduced and within the reaction time the vehicle has generally left the road.

We are still trying to get the message across to drivers that speed limits are not targets to reach, but maximum permissible speeds. A vehicles speed must be regulated by the driver taking into account weather conditions, road surface conditions and information being processed by the driver of what is happening both ahead and behind.

As we progress into the summer months there will also be an increase in cyclists travelling on roads Operation Close Pass is an operation across the country which is designed to prevent cyclists being killed or seriously injured due to vehicles passing too close causing them to be forced off the road or hit by vehicles.

Police Scotland will continue to work with the smaller communities to eradicate careless driving in all its forms.

Community Engagement & Reassurance

Anyone can be a victim of a bogus caller or rogue trader – so don't let your doorstep be their marketplace.

Bogus callers will visit a property claiming to be from perhaps a utility company or a charity in order to gain access and steal from within.

Rogue traders offer services typically carried out to a poor standard at over inflated prices, and may use violence or threats to get payment or consent to carry out work – sometimes they will just take the money and do no work whatsoever.

We are not being contacted as regularly about bogus callers at the door but we urge the public to not be complacent.

We are seeing a general increase in online criminality primarily through online fraud protect your details and if asked for your passwords or other details by cold callers decline to provide them. If the caller says they are a bank for example politely decline providing details over the telephone. They should already know them. If you are concerned then visit your local branch or mobile bank to discuss your concern face to face or use a different telephone number to contact your bank to find out if they did in fact call (the call should be detailed on their notes).

We also see a lot of online selling issues on such platforms as Ebay etc. generally these sites are managed well but always remember 'If something looks too good to be true, it generally is'.

Rural Watch Scotland

Across the Division we have seen agricultural thefts recently with fertiliser and machinery being stolen if you are local to your area and have farmers nearby whom you recognise stop and chat to get to know them and they get to know you. Then as you are driving or walking around your local countryside you are more likely to see something unusual or, out of place. Let the farmer know he can then check and if necessary call us. If there is a crime clearly ongoing contact us straight away.

We are such a large geographical region the involvement of the community clearly assists us and as such we endorse:-

'Rural Watch Scotland' is an extension of the Neighbourhood Watch Scotland movement and endorsed by the Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime (SPARC) and is aimed specifically at the rural communities of Scotland and aims to bring all the benefits of Neighbourhood Watch to all rural communities irrespective of location, size or demographics.

Rural watch is an online community for any member of the public where appeals, crime prevention tips and safety alerts can be posted by those who subscribe which can be viewed by all members. Subscription is free and the sharing of information on the forum is a great example of real time crime prevention in action.

The objectives of Rural Watch Scotland are to:

- Reduce crime and the fear of crime by providing the right information, to the right people, at the right time.
- Encourage people to think about safety and security for themselves, their neighbours and their community.
- Improve community cohesion and well-being by supporting communities to develop 'their watch, their way'.
- Work in partnership with national and local service providers to develop more resilient communities that are better prepared against threats, intentional or unintentional, such as crime or extreme weather.

The experience of Neighbourhood Watch throughout Scotland and elsewhere across the world is that members of Rural Watch Scotland will be less likely than non-members in the rural community to be a victim of crime.

By joining the Rural Watch Scotland scheme members can receive alerts and advice by phone, text or email. By keeping members informed about crime and other threats in specific areas, Rural Watch Scotland can help prevent crime, keep communities and residents safe, and member's responses to these alerts can help catch criminals or be better prepared to deal with other threats to communities. To join Rural Watch Scotland simply:

Log onto www.ruralwatchscotland.co.uk

Click the green JOIN button at the top of the page.

Follow the on screen instructions.

Contact Us

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

- 📞 101 – Non emergency;
- 📱 Twitter - @NorthEPolice
- 📱 Facebook – www.facebook.com/NorthEastPoliceDivision
- 📱 Web – www.scotland.police.uk
- 📞 999 – Emergency;
- 📞 0800 555 111 - Crimestoppers;

Darren Bruce