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February 2025 Community Ward Newsletter

Introduction

Welcome to February's Cupar Ward Community Council Newsletter from your local officers, PC Lee Smith, PC Duncan Shand and Sgt Nicola Gillespie.

Local News, Priorities and Useful Information

Road Safety



The community officers have been notified of some areas that are causing concern regarding speeding motorists. Officers have been out in these areas with the speed gun over the past month

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and dealt with motorists by way of corrective advice and speeding tickets. There has also been Pop up Bob deployments throughout the ward area.



The community team would like to pass on some useful information to motorists for protecting their motor vehicle. Below are some of the best ways to deter thieves from stealing your vehicle.

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What should I think about before setting off?

There are many things you can do to prevent your car from being stolen or broken into:

- Mark any valuables in your car, such as your Sat Nav, with your postcode and house number/ name
- Register valuables on [Immobilise website](#)
- Fit a car alarm
- Use locking wheel nuts to stop the theft of your wheels
- Never leave your car open and unattended
- Never defrost windows with the keys in the ignition. Car thieves look for this especially early in the morning. If you make an insurance claim you may not get far if it's seen as driver negligence. It's an offence to leave a car unattended on a road with the engine running.

What should I do after I park?

Some advice for what you should do after you've parked your car.

- Lock all items out of sight
- Don't leave anything on display
- Take valuables with you
- If you have a Sat Nav, hide the holder and take the system with you (wipe the suction marks off the window)
- Take any personal letters with you so others don't see important personal information or your home address
- Use a steering lock
- If you have an alarm then make sure it's set

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- MLA approved [Locksmiths](#) can help with vehicle keys and locks if required.



In this month's awareness information, the community team are focusing on Romance Fraud and how anyone can avoid from being caught out to these scams.

How does it happen?

Romance fraud is common. However, only one in five instances of fraud are reported.

Firstly, the offender builds trust with the victim. In romance fraud, the victim believes there to be a real relationship.

There are many techniques used to gain trust. The offender may claim to have the same religious faith or spiritual beliefs. They may also show a desire for the victim.

The romance scam tends to follow the pattern below:

1. The victim wants to find an ideal partner
2. The victim then comes across the ideal profile
3. The grooming process
4. The sting (crisis) where the scammer needs money
5. The scam carries on
6. Potential sexual abuse

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7. Re-victimisation.

Types of romance fraud

Foot-in-the door technique. The perpetrator asks for a small sum. They then come up a new crisis which need larger sums of money.

Face-in-the-door technique. They will ask for a sum of money so extreme that most would refuse. This is followed by a request for a far more modest sum(s). The victim then gives them the money.

Third is webcam blackmail.

The tactics used by scammers can include:

- Economic abuse
- Creation of fear
- Isolation (move to messenger app, tell no one)
- Monopolisation (bombard victim with messages, calls, monitoring of social media, sleep deprivation They're only available at night)
- Degradation (abuse the victim to wear them down, get money, Jekyll and Hyde, victim seeks to placate)
- Psychological destabilisation (pretending money has not been sent)
- Emotional or interpersonal withdrawal (refusing to communicate till demands are met)
- Guilt tripping.

Here are some tips to not be caught out:

- Be guarded and aware, giving out too much information will make you vulnerable.
- If you've been the victim of a scam please report the crime to the police, you will be taken seriously and dealt with in confidence
- If someone threatens you to share money with them, do not pay
- Cut off all contact with the blackmailer.
- Keep all evidence of the communications you have had, this needed to help us tackle it

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- Never send money or your bank details to someone you've met online regardless of how convincing a reason they've given
- Banks do their best to track and recover your payment. However, they aren't responsible if the request is fraudulent. If they turn out to be a criminal, it's highly unlikely you'll get your money back.
- Scammers will put a lot of detail into their reasons for why they need you to send money, they will try to panic you to send money quickly
- It's best to use a credit, debit or official payment platform (such as PayPal) to make any online payments. You have some protection if it is a scam. Paying by transfer doesn't offer any protection if things go wrong
- Only use reputable sites when online dating



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Livestock attacks and worrying

Information and advice about livestock worrying and attacks, what Police Scotland are doing about it and what the law says.

Livestock attacks and worrying is the phrase used when a dog attacks or worries livestock animals in rural and farmland areas.

This crime usually takes place in the countryside and is a particular problem when dogs, even those that are well trained, are off their leads or are roaming without an owner or person in charge with them. In doing so, they often scare or attack livestock animals.

Whilst many owners are unaware of the impact their dogs are having on livestock, it is their responsibility to ensure attacks and worrying don't happen. They should ensure their dog doesn't disturb or attack these animals, otherwise there are consequences under the law if it does occur.



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What is Police Scotland doing about it?

Police Scotland is committed to tackling rural crime and, in particular, livestock attacks and worrying. We chair, drive and focus activity for the Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime (SPARC).

This partnership consists of over 20 relevant rural organisations including NFU Scotland, Scottish Land and Estates, Scottish Crofting Federation and NFU Mutual, coming together to proactively prevent, reduce and tackle rural crime.



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IN THE COMMUNITY

The community team have been able to attend some of our ward community council meetings again this month. Officers find that attending these meetings very helpful and useful for finding out local concerns, as well as being notified of upcoming community events. The community team make every effort to attend the council meetings when their working pattern allow.

PC Smith was in attendance at Bell Baxter High School this month. PC Smith delivered an input on Policing to over 70 pupils from S4. The input included information on police recruitment, a day in the life of a police officer, specialist roles within the police, definition and the solving of crimes, crime scenarios and a Q and A at the end of the input.



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PC Smith and PC Hathaway who is the Transport Liaison Officer, paid a visit to the P1 Class at St Columbus Primary School in Cupar. The pupils were learning about different types of transport that use the roads, as well as different job roles within the community. Officers spoke to the pupils about the transport the police officers use, the role of a police officer. All the kids were able to have a look around the police van and try out the blue lights and siren before receiving a certificate for all their hard work.



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Useful numbers and sources of information

NHS 24: Call free on 111

Fife Women's Aid: 0808 802 5555

Universal Credit helpline: 0800 328 5644

Fife Council Out of hours helpline: 03451 55 00 99

Fife Housing Register Emergency Accommodation: 03451 55 00 33 (Mon-Fri 8am-6pm) or
out of hours 0800 028 6231

Scottish Water: 0800 077 8778

SEPA Floodline: 0345 988 1188

SEPA Pollution: 0800 807060

Citizens Advice and Rights Fife: call 0345 1400 095 or visit www.cabfife.org.uk

Contact your local councillor: call 03451 555555 ext 442320 (24 hour surgery helpline) or
visit www.fife.gov.uk

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Cosy Kingdom: Telephone advice service for any energy billing or supplier issues. Also provide emergency top-ups for people who have run out of gas or electric and are struggling financially. Call 01592 807930 or email info@cosykingdom.org.uk.

Fife Gingerbread – Lone Parent Helpline: Support workers are available to give over the phone advice Monday to Thursday 9.00am—5.00pm and Friday 9.00am—3.30pm. Call 01592 725 210.

Age Scotland helpline: A free, confidential phone service for older people, their carers and families in Scotland. The team provide information, friendship and advice. Available Monday - Friday 9-5pm, call free on 0800 12 44 222.

Free school meals: If your child is entitled to a free school meal then you should be registered to receive a payment of £11.50 per week. Apply through Fife Council here: www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/education2/schools-in-fife/free-school-meals-and-school-clothing-grants

Young Scot: Young people can access lots of information and advice at: www.young.scot/campaigns/national/coronavirus

Support for mental health:

The NHS 24 Mental Health Hub is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, on 111.

You can call the Samaritans 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, on 116 123.

Breathing Space is available for advice and support on 0800 83 85 87 Monday to Thursday 6pm-2am and Friday 6pm to Monday 6am. You can also [visit the Breathing Space website](#).

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The Relationship Helpline (0808 802 2088) is a free support line providing a safe and confidential space for anyone struggling with their relationship. The Helpline is open from 9.00am to 9.00pm, Monday to Thursday, and 9.00am to 4.00pm on Friday.

Calls received.

During February 2025, Police Scotland received:

North East Fife Area – **1160** calls

Cupar Ward area **159**– incidents, with **44** crime reports recorded.

Ceres & Craigrothie

8 calls received by police, covering concerns for persons, dishonesty, and road traffic matters and animals

2 crimes reports recorded.

Kemback, Pitscottie & Blebo Craigs

4 calls to the police, covering road traffic matters and animals

0 crime reports recorded.

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Dairsie

5 calls to the police, covering concern-for-person and road traffic matters and crimes of dishonesty.

3 crimes recorded:

Cupar

116 calls to the police, covering concern for person/missing person calls; road traffic matters/collisions; requests for assistance to members of the public; fraud, theft and vandalism reports and disturbances and animal concerns..

45 crimes recorded.

Cults & Pitlessie

3 calls to the police, regarding road traffic matters.

3 crimes recorded.

Springfield

23 calls to the police, covering road traffic matters; concern for person, requests for assistance/advice and vandalism.

2 crimes recorded.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Below is the local contact email address for your local community team.

This is not for reporting a crime but if you feel you require to contact your local community officer then our email address is the best way to do so.

If you do not have access to the internet, then you can call 101 and the call handler can send an email on your behalf.

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Email us at: CuparCPT@Scotland.police.uk

Please Note, this email address is NOT for reporting a crime or ongoing incidents and due to our shift pattern, is not monitored 24/7.

Thank you!

PC Lee Smith P0588 and PC Duncan Shand P0248

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