



October 2025 Community Ward Newsletter

Introduction

Welcome to Octobers 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

Winter means changes in the roads, shorter days and changing weather. We all have a responsibility to keep Scotland's roads safe during the winter months.

Advice if you are out walking during winter:

- Dress for the weather by wearing reflective or bright-coloured clothing so other road users can see you when it's dark or visibility is poor
- If you are walking home late at night, make sure someone knows where you're going and when
- Vehicles can take up to ten times longer to stop on slippery road surfaces so take extra care crossing the road
- Stick to pedestrian crossings
- If there are no crossings nearby, find a place with a clear view and wait for long gaps in the traffic before crossing the road
- Don't cross the road between parked vehicles, unless it can't be avoided then take extra care (look out for vehicles that suddenly pull out or reverse)
- Never cross the road behind a bus
- If there is no pavement, keep to the right-hand side of the road so you can see traffic coming towards.

Advice for drivers during winter:

- Make sure your car is ready for winter
- Check that your tyres, brakes, windscreens, wiper blades and windows are free from defects and clean
- Drive to the road conditions. Road conditions can change without warning, stopping distances will be affected by the weather
- Make sure your windows are clean and aren't misted up
- Make sure there is no snow and ice on your windows before you drive
- When the roads are icy, drive at a slow speed in a high gear
- Accelerate and brake very gently

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- Driving distracted (for example, using a Sat Nav) can cause additional stress. It is dangerous to yourself, passengers and other road users.

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Members of the local community may have noticed that officers have now been issued with Body Worn Cameras as part of their everyday operational equipment. Below is a break down of information regarding the use of Body Worn Cameras.

BODY WORN VIDEO



Body worn video (BWV) cameras are the small devices our officers wear, usually on their chest, to capture both audio and visual evidence when they attend all types of incidents or are executing any police powers. Police staff in custody suites also wear the cameras and switch them on when interacting with persons in custody. The position of the camera means that the images captured show the situation from the officer's perspective. The camera acts as an independent view.

Training for Fife Division Officers is underway, with the roll out commencing in September 2025.

How do the cameras work and what are they used for?

The camera records the footage onto an internal storage device. At the end of the officer's/ police staff member's shift, the footage is uploaded to a secure cloud so it can be used as evidence at court or in other legal proceedings or deleted if it's not needed.

When the camera is turned on it will start capturing a rolling 30-second loop of video. This can be useful in circumstances where an incident has escalated quickly and on activation of the camera by the user, the previous 30 seconds of video has been captured. There is no audio for those 30 seconds. This 30-second loop is not saved by the camera unless the officer activates the camera to record. If the camera is not activated, each 30-second segment of recording automatically overwrites itself.

Body worn video is for use when officers are responding to an incident or executing any police powers. The camera is activated by the officer to record both audio and video footage.

Police staff in custody suites will have access to cameras and will record interactions with people in custody.

How will I know that the camera is recording me?

It is routine for the officer to inform the public when using their body worn video camera and when recording a red light will be visible on the device. You may hear a loud beep as the camera is switched on. An officer will advise as soon as is reasonably possible that the body worn video camera is recording.

The body worn cameras will not be used covertly or for surveillance purposes.

Can I ask you not to record me?

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Yes. If you have a genuine reason for objecting to being recorded on body worn video, it is important you let the police officer recording you know and explain the reason to them.

The presumption will always be that the police officer will continue to record unless, having assessed your request, they deem your reason for not being recorded to outweigh the benefits of them recording the incident. The police officer has lawful powers to record incidents, and, in many cases, it will be essential that they do so to collect evidence.

If the police officer does not agree with your objection, they will continue to record but will explain their decision to you.

Will you continue to record on the camera if there are children or people are in a vulnerable situation?

Yes. In the majority of incidents involving both adults and children in vulnerable situations, police officers will continue to record.

This recording will help to capture an accurate picture of the situation the vulnerable adult or child are in and can be essential in capturing evidence for future prosecutions or in assisting partner agencies in understanding the situation and putting appropriate support measures in place.

If the police officer does not deem it proportionate, legitimate or necessary to record someone in a vulnerable situation, they may decide not to record. This decision will always lie with the police officer and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Lord Advocate's Guidelines

Find out about Lord Advocate's Guidelines on the provision of Body Worn Video evidence to the Procurator Fiscal in criminal cases (COPFS) using the link below:

<https://www.copfs.gov.uk/publications/lord-advocate-s-guidelines-body-worn-video-bwv/html/IT'LL COST YOU CAMPAIGN>



We're clamping down on proxy purchasing in your area.

Underage drinking plays a huge part in antisocial behaviour, crime and violence in our local communities. The success of initiatives such as Challenge 25 have helped reduce the number of direct sales of alcohol to under 18s, but young people are increasingly accessing alcohol by other means.

Asking an adult to buy alcohol for them is one



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of the most common tactics used by under 18s.

It's an offence in Scotland for an adult to buy or attempt to buy alcohol for someone who is under the age of 18, for example a child gives money to an adult to buy alcohol for them. This is known as a proxy sale.

The aim of our new campaign is to raise awareness of the fact that buying alcohol for anyone under the age of 18 is a criminal offence, which carries a fine of up to £5000 or up to 3 months in prison, or both.

By raising awareness of the consequences of proxy purchase, we hope to:

- REDUCE the number of attempted purchases of alcohol for under 18s
- REDUCE crime in the area.
- REDUCE antisocial behaviour/noise in the area.

In the Community

The community officers were lucky enough to be involved in this month's Dunhill Cup. The event was covered over 3 golf courses including Carnoustie, Kingsbarns and the Old Course at St Andrews. Officers were on duty throughout the event and met many of the ward residents over the 3 days.

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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

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.

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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](#).

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

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Calls received.

During October 2025, Police Scotland received:

North East Fife Area – **1251** calls

Cupar Ward area **143**– incidents, with **48** crime reports recorded.

Ceres & Craigrothie

6 calls received by police, covering concerns for persons and road traffic matters

0 crime reports recorded.

Kemback, Pitscottie & Blebo Craigs

6 calls to the police, covering road traffic matters and concern for persons and weather.

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0 crime reports recorded.

Dairsie

6 calls to the police, covering concern-for-person and road traffic matters

0 crime recorded:

Cupar

96 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, weather related and animal concerns

38 crimes recorded.

Cults & Pitlessie

5 calls to the police, regarding weather, road traffic and crime against a person

1 crime recorded.

Springfield

24 calls to the police, covering road traffic matters; concern for person, requests for assistance/advice and disorder and weather.

9 crimes recorded.

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CONTACT INFORMATION

The Community officers are not always on duty. This may be due to operational duties, training or currently on their rest days.

This email box is not monitored 24/7.

This email address is NOT for the reporting of any crimes or incidents.

If you need to report a crime and for it to be logged properly, be risk assessed and for resources to be allocated then please report either through 999 for emergency, 101 or online Contactus form for Non emergencies.

The community officers will reply to your email if required at their earliest opportunity.

Email us at: CuparCPT@Scotland.police.uk

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Thank you!

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