



November 2021 Howe of Fife & Taycoast Community Council Report

Contact Information

Welcome to the Howe of Fife monthly report from your local community officers PC 442 Mark Lowe and PC 189 Kirstie Haddow. 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 the email address is the best way to do so.

Email – HoweOfFifeTaycoastCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk

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.

Local Initiatives

For the year 2021-2022 the new priorities for North East Fife area should focus upon;

- Driver Behaviour
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Crimes of Dishonesty

You should have complete comfort & reassurance that the above priorities are not to the exclusion of the Divisional priorities as outlined by the Chief Superintendent, but the priorities above focus greater on the nuances specific to North East Fife as a whole.

Community Engagement

The area as a whole continues to have ongoing problems such as speeding, parking issues around places used for sport and recreation and with the darker evening's youths behaving in an anti-social manner. We, alongside our Local officers will endeavour to include the identified 'hotspot' areas in our patrols as and when our commitments allow.

A number of fixed penalty tickets have been issued in relation to speeding and we continue to deploy pop up bob as a traffic calming measure.

We would ask that local residents please be mindful of their speed through the villages and towns which are in the main 20mph.

Community Speedwatch

The Speedwatch initiative has been on hold due to Covid-19.

As yet we do not have a date when this can be restarted but we are aware that many communities are keen to get going again with new communities expressing an interest. As soon as we can recommence training we will be in touch. In the meantime we have been increasing our use of Pop-Up Bob and carrying out both Stop Points and Speed Deployments across the local area.

We will continue to monitor the Governments guidelines and as soon as training can be carried out in a safe and effective manner this will be done.

Fife Initiatives

Winter road safety

Advice for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers in winter conditions.

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 for pedestrians

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

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- 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 you.

Advice for cyclists

Advice to consider if you are cycling during winter:

- Make sure your bike can be seen by people on the road
- Use a good set of front and rear lights (white at the front, red at the back)
- Wear clothes that help you be seen on your bike, such as bright and light reflective items
- Pay attention to road signs, markings and particularly red lights
- Do not cycle on the pavements, they may be slippery and can also endanger pedestrians
- Be mindful of the effects poor weather can have on other road users
- Make sure you know about the dangers around you
- Cars can take twice as long to stop in wet weather
- Braking can be unpredictable in ice and snow.

Advice for drivers

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

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National Campaigns

Take 5 Campaign – FRAUD



The above is a targeted operation which aims to make the community aware of what actions to take when it comes to potential fraudulent phone calls, internet banking, online 'Cryptocurrency' gathering like that of Bitcoin or even in person attendance/bogus workmen.

Criminals are experts at impersonating people, organizations and the police. They spend hours researching you for their scams, hoping you'll let your guard down for just a moment.

Stop and think. It could protect you and your money.

Where possible please provide your communities with the following link <https://www.scotland.police.uk/takefive>, which takes you directly to the website for further information.

Wildlife Crime

Police Scotland has a dedicated department specialising in Wildlife Crime. North East Fife has extensive rural areas and this can result in incidents involving wildlife being witnessed by the public, but who are unsure on how to report this. This month's community council report includes some advice from an officer working in this department, Detective Constable Ben Pacholek, on the unit's remit and how the public can report incidents:

"My name is Ben Pacholek and I am a full time wildlife liaison officer, based in Fife Division. I am a Detective Constable and I am attached to the Pro-Active CID unit at Glenrothes HQ. I started my policing career as a response officer at St Andrews. Prior to my current post I spent a number of years in the dog unit, as both a general purpose police dog handler and specialist victim recovery dog handler. Before joining Police Scotland, I attained a variety of wildlife management qualifications and gained a wealth of practical experience working in both the conservation and agricultural sectors which I find to be of great benefit to my current role. Wildlife Crime is a term which covers a broad range of criminality that I am involved in investigating and my enquiries involve crimes against wildlife from all over the world."

The key priorities for Wildlife team set by UK National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU) are as follows:-

- Badger Persecution
- Bat Persecution
- CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) (illegal trade)
- Cyber Enabled Wildlife Crime
- Freshwater Pearl Mussels
- Poaching
- Raptor Persecution

When it comes to reporting wildlife crime offences there is a straightforward approach you can take which will help the police by providing as much information as possible whilst keeping yourself safe.

When reporting any wildlife or rural crime, think **F A R M**:

F – First contact the Police by telephoning **101 or 999**

A – Avoid disturbing any potential evidence

R – Record as much information as possible: descriptions of people, vehicles, registration numbers, types and colours of dogs. If it is safe to do so, take photographs or film any incidents

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M – Maintain observations only if it is safe to do so. Do not put yourself at any risk and do not approach those that you suspect of poaching

For any advice or guidance regarding wildlife crime, please contact your local Wildlife Liaison Officer by phoning 101. For Fife, you can also contact DC Ben Pacholek directly by emailing FifeWildlifeLiaison@Scotland.pnn.police.uk

Calls Received (up to end of November 2021)

Since 1st November 2021, Police have received 210 calls in the Howe of Fife and Taycoast area resulting in 18 crimes being recorded. This breaks down as follows:

Auchtermuchty

19 calls to the police consisting of Road Traffic Incidents, Noise Nuisance, Suspect Persons, Concern for Persons, Missing Persons.

0 recorded crimes

Strathmiglo

15 calls to the police consisting of Road Traffic Incidents, Assist Members of the Public, Youth Issues, Theft and Theft by Housebreaking

2 recorded crimes. 1 x Theft and 1 x Theft by Housebreaking

Gateside

8 calls to the police consisting of Road Traffic Incidents, Assist Members of the Public, Bail Address Checks.

1 recorded crime for Dangerous Driving

LadyBank

40 calls to the police consisting of Road Traffic Incidents, Domestic Incidents, Assist member of public, Concern for persons, Sudden Death, Weather Related Calls

5 recorded crimes. 2 x Domestic Breach of Bail, 2 x Communications Offences, and 1 X Vandalism.

Giffordtown (Giffordtown, Edentown, Charlottetown)

2 calls to the police which consisted of Members of the Public providing information

0 crime recorded

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Dunshalt

1 call to the police for a suspect Bogus Caller.

0 crime recorded

Falkland & Newton of Falkland

19 calls to the police consisting of Road Traffic Incidents, Sudden Death, Assist Member of Public, Threatening and Abusive Behaviour.

1 recorded crime for Driving a Vehicle whilst under the influence of alcohol

Freuchie

26 calls to the police consisting of Assist Member of Public, Road Traffic Incidents, Noise Nuisance, Missing Persons, Abandoned Vehicles.

3 recorded crimes. 2 x Being within the curtilage of a property with intent to Steal, 1 x driving a vehicle whilst under the influence of alcohol/drugs.

Kettle (Kettlebridge, Kingskettle)

18 calls to the police consisting of Road Traffic Incidents, Assist Member of Public, Noise Nuisance, Abandoned 999 calls, Anti-Social Behaviour, Suspect Drink Driver

1 recorded crimes for Assault

Newburgh

49 calls to the police consisting of Road Traffic Incidents, Assault, Assist Members of the Public, Substance Misuse, Missing Persons

1 recorded crime for Assault

Monimail (Bow of Fife, Collessie, Monimail, Letham)

0 calls made to the police

0 recorded crimes.

Creich & Flisk (Creich, Brunton, Luthrie)

0 calls to the police

0 recorded crimes.

Abdie & Dunbog (Abdie, Dunbog, Lindores, Grange of Lindores, Den of Lindores)

7 calls to the police consisting of Road Traffic Incidents, Fraud, Assist members of the public, Vandalism

2 recorded crimes. 1 x Fraud and 1 x Vandalism

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Last Note...

Unfortunately, the abstractions for both of us have continued throughout the month of November. I would continue to ask you to bear with us and should you have any issues arising within the community that you think we can assist with, please do not hesitate to contact us via the mailbox or 101 and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

As some of your community council meetings are now opening in person, you may feel that you would benefit from either ourselves or Sergeant Helen Manuel attending for a particular issue then please do let us know.

Take Care

Mark & Kirstie

KEEPING PEOPLE SAFE

HoweOfFifeTaycoastCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk Website: **www.scotland.police.uk**

Tel: 101 Twitter: @NorthFifePol

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