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Community Council Police Report

BEAT 37 – WEST KINTYRE & SOUTHEND

FEBRUARY 2022

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COMMUNITY COUNCIL POLICE REPORT

Name of Community Council: West Kintyre Community Council, Southend Community Council & Laggan Community Council

Date of Report: 02-02-22

Name of officer submitting: PS Matthew Shaw

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1. Foreword

This report is to serve as a guide to Police activity and the type of demand within the relevant council areas. Its content is there to help support discussion at the meeting with your policing representative. As directed within the body of the email, all questions and enquires should be directed to the representative attached to your local council. They will be copied into the report when it is sent.

We are fortunate to live in a rural part of the world, with small communities that know one another. As such, the detail, in the report is deliberately lacking in specific content, except where a press release has been undertaken. This is to maintain the anonymity of victims of crime. Should councils wish for more precise work to be done on specific locations, i.e. identified trouble spots and the demand they create, you would need to link with your representative to facilitate this work.

Depending on the council area, you may see more or less crime than would usually be detailed in any previous reports. This is because we work under 'Beat Areas' when reviewing crime. Some council areas might cross these beat boundaries, i.e. Tayvallich is in Beat 42, which also encapsulates Lochgilphead, so their council report will show more crime than it would have previously seen. This does not translate to a sudden crime spike, but rather shows a more informative view of this part of Mid Argyll. Where two councils fall under the same beat, one report will be produced to cover both.

2. Crimes, Incidents & Demand

During January 2022 there have been 358 calls to Police for the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islands policing area. Of these, 48 of the calls for service during this time period related to the West Kintyre & Southend beat area.

These included: 14 x Road Traffic Matters, 4 x Abandoned 999 Calls, 1 x Domestic Incident, 1 x Sheep on Road, 1 x Fire at Property, 5 x Planned Shoot, 2 x Damage to

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Property, 1 x External Agency Request, 7 x Assist Member of Public, 4 x Police Information, 2 x Task Incident, 1 x Neighbour Dispute, 1 x Abandoned Vehicle, 1 x Disturbance, 1 x Drug Related & 1 x Intruder Alarm.

The above demand has translated into the following crimes being recorded. Where there has been a release to the press, this has been included to provide more context:

** It is to be noted that not every call to Police will result in a crime being raised. Equally, crimes can be raised without a call being received.*

Vandalism/Possession of a Knife/Threatening or Abusive Behaviour: at 7 am on Saturday 1st January at an address in Woodside, Isle of Gigha, it is alleged that a man (39) vandalised a motor vehicle; acted in a threatening manner towards others and was in possession of a knife. The man was arrested, charged with the offences and kept in custody to appear at Dumbarton Sheriff Court;

10/01/22 – Sexual Assault;

16/01/22 – Report of Historic Sexual Offences;

26/01/22 – Unlawful Disposal of Firearm;

Vandalism: at 2pm on Saturday 15th of January Police were made aware of an alleged vandalism at Killean Estate Cottages, Tayinloan that happened between 1.30 pm and 2.30 pm on Friday the 14th of January. Enquiries continue and Police are appealing for anyone with information to contact 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111;

29/01/22 – Vandalism.

3. Local Police Plan 2020-23

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/1nvfendn/argyll-bute-local-policing-plan-2020-2023.pdf>

Oban, Lorn & the Isles, Mid Argyll, Kintyre & Islands is one of three command areas in Argyll & West Dunbartonshire

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Priorities

The priorities for your area are decided by data from our strategic assessment which details threats and risks, and also from feedback from local authorities, partners, and residents in the Your Police Survey <https://consult.scotland.police.uk/surveys/your-police-2020-2021/>

- Serious organised crime
- Acquisitive crime
- Road safety and road crime
- Violent crime
- Public protection

You can read more information about how these priorities are decided and how officers work with the local council and partners to improve your community and address these issues, in the Argyll and Bute Local Policing Plan.

Chief Inspector Marlene Baillie is the local Area Commander in charge of the Response Officers, Community Officers, and Detectives from the Criminal Investigation Department, who work in the stations situated throughout our Policing Area. Underneath her is Community Inspector Paul Collins, who leads much of our stakeholder engagement and day to day operational processes.

You can email your local team by clicking on your area below. You can also follow your local teams on Twitter where they post about how they are policing your community.

Important: please note the email addresses and social media channels are not for reporting crime and are not monitored 24/7.

Kintyre: KintyreTheIslandsCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Mid Argyll: MidArgyllCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk

South Kintyre: SouthKintyreCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Campbeltown: ArgyllDunbartonshireLPTCampbeltown@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Lochgilphead: ArgyllDunbartonshireLPTLochgilphead@scotland.pnn.police.uk

4. Forthcoming events / Announcements of Note

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New Livestock Protection Legislation

On Thursday 13th January 2022 the local working group, Mid Argyll Prevention of Livestock Attack, came together to discuss the recent change in livestock attack legislation. This working group's membership includes Police Scotland, Argyll & Bute Council, Dalriada Vets, NFUS, SSPCA and representatives of the local farming community.

The new legislation within the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2021 has reformed the offence detailed in the 1953 Act, which covers the crime committed where a dog attacks or worries livestock on agricultural land. In recognition of the damage this crime can cause, both physically to the animals concerned and financially to the farmers, the offence is now punishable by up to 12 months imprisonment and/or a fine, up to £40,000. The definition of livestock has also been increased to cover a wider variety of farmed animals giving better protection; including cattle, sheep, goats, swine, horses, camelids, ostriches, farmed deer, enclosed game birds and poultry. There are also new powers to allow Police to seize dogs to secure evidence and confirm the owner of the dog.

The working group is also looking to revamp the previous community engagement work done in the area, ensuring public awareness on the risk to livestock from uncontrolled dogs is heightened, especially as we approach lambing season. Linked with this is the push to help educate dog owners that they risk committing an offence if their dog chases livestock in such a way as may reasonably be expected to cause injury or suffering, or even if it is 'at large' (that is to say not on a lead or otherwise under close control) in a field or enclosure in which there are sheep.

For those who have livestock that might be at risk of uncontrolled dogs, or businesses wishing to help raise awareness, prevention signs are available by contacting Police Sergeants Ben Rusden at Lochgilphead Police station or Jonathan Watson-Russell at Campbeltown Police station.

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Please remember 'Your Dog – Your Responsibility.'

Increase in Taser Carrying Officers

Those of us who live within MAKI can consider ourselves lucky, given its beauty and relatively low crime rate in comparison with other localities. However, no community in Scotland is immune to violent incidents and as a result of this, local officers have been trained in the use and carrying of Tasers; now being deployed from both Lochgilphead and Campbeltown Stations. Specially Trained Officers (officers trained to carry Tasers) have been deployed in our communities across Scotland since June 2018 and, following careful review of the use of Taser and its impact within the community, its use has been expanded.

It should be stressed that equipping more officers with Taser is not a move towards the routine arming of police officers in Scotland. Tasers have been shown to provide a greater level of protection for the public and decrease the risk of injury (for officers and the person who is being arrested) when used, i.e. de-escalation of incidents without being fired, where physical force might previously been used and permitting the detention of a suspect with weapons without officers having to get too close. This is at the heart of keeping people safe, which remains a core priority for Police Scotland.

The increase in the number of Specially Trained Officers follows a review which highlighted that officers are increasingly being called to incidents of violence. It also highlighted that assaults on officers and staff have continued to increase. De-escalating situations and keeping people safe is our priority and officers will use the minimum level of force necessary. Any use of force by our officers must always be proportionate and ethical.

Everyone can be assured that our Taser carrying officers receive thorough training which focuses on de-escalation and public safety. The training for officers includes

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awareness of disabilities, which may present as aggression or those who have communication barriers. Officers must also complete annual refresher training to ensure they are still suitable to carry it. Public safety and transparency underpins every part of this Policing development and we will endeavour to use all that Police Scotland can provide to continue to keep the communities of MAKI safe.

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