

South West Fife Police Community Newsletter



Foreword

Spring has sprung! Apologies we have been a bit quiet. February and March have been a bit of a struggle for the team due to absences and some annual leave. As a result the newsletter this month has been slightly abbreviated, but we should be back to normal next month.

Like everybody else, our attention has been drawn somewhat to the global stage and events across Europe, but we have been as busy as ever dealing with local matters.

Next month's newsletter will see us introduce our new team of response sergeants as we are undergoing a few supervisory changes currently.

This month it is my great pleasure to introduce you to our new Ward 1 Community Officer, and to say thank you and cheerio to one of our team who has moved on to a new challenge. With improving weather, we will also provide some advice about safe and responsible access to the countryside.

As ever we welcome your feedback in terms of the content of your newsletter and anything specific that you would like us to cover.

If you would like to be added to the distribution list please email RosythCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk.

March 2022

Your Area

Our staff are deployed by wards, and for simplicity we may refer to these occasionally.

Ward 1: West Fife & Coastal Villages (includes Newmills, Culross, Cairneyhill, Torryburn, Low Valleyfield, Oakley, High Valleyfield, Blairhall, Kincardine, Carnock, Gowkhall and Saline).

Ward 5: Rosyth (also includes Pattiesmuir, Limekilns, Charlestown and Crombie)

Ward 6: Inverkeithing & Dalgety Bay (also includes North Queensferry, Hillend & Aberdour)



Inside this issue:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| <i>Hello/ Goodbye</i> | 2 |
| <i>Local News</i> | 3 |
| <i>Responsible Countryside Access</i> | 4-5 |
| <i>Contacts</i> | 6 |

Welcome

Since joining Fife Constabulary in 2010, PC Martin Cooper has spent almost his entire service in response policing. He was initially posted to a response team covering the Cowdenbeath area, before moving to cover the South West Fife area in 2015. As well as his response roles, Martin was previously on a secondment to the Rosyth Community Team for several months in 2019.

Martin has been keen to return to community policing and he joined the Community Team covering the West Fife Villages on secondment in March 2022. He is very much looking forward to meeting members of the community in his new role and engaging with partner agencies. Martin will be working with PC Tina Paton and they will become a regular fixture in Ward 1. Martin has always had a “can do” attitude, and he will bring this positivity and service ethic to an important role.

In Martin’s spare time he enjoys watching rugby (having retired from playing some years ago), travelling home and abroad, and spending time with his family.

I am pleased to report that Martin has taken to his new role like a duck to water! Despite bringing a pretty heavy workload from his previous role and being abstracted to cover other duties repeatedly, he has quickly begun taking steps to get himself known out in the community.



Cheerio



Ward 1’s Sandy Thomson bid farewell to the team last month to move to a new role based at Dunfermline Sheriff Court.

Sandy leaves after two years on the Community team, much of which he spent coping with the limitations and restrictions placed on the community due to COVID.

You may think that the loss of PC Kev Chandler has obviously been too much for Sandy to take, but while he is leaving a job he has enjoyed immensely, he is looking forward to the routine and family-friendly hours that his new post will bring.

Sandy will be missed by his team and community, and we wish him the very best of luck in his new role.

Local News

PAW PATROL

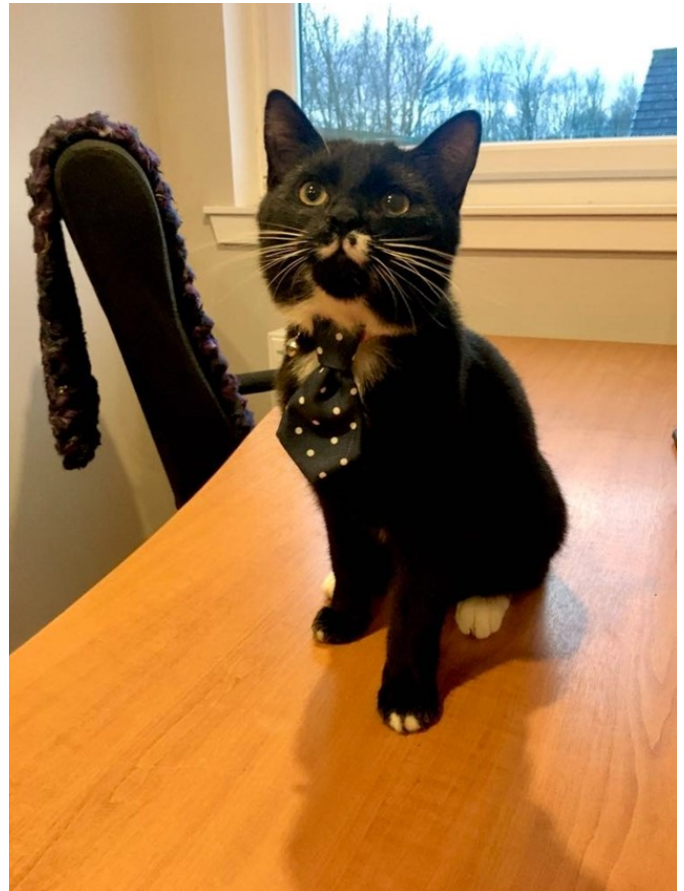
In the early hours of 18th February 2022, while everybody else was tucked up at home in their pawjamas, PC's Anna Lang and Leroy Wishart were out patrolling in South West Fife. Against the glare of the cat's eyes alongside the A921, the officers spied the shape of a small black animal at the side of the road.

Stopping to investigate, the officers found the animal to be a young black kitten who had been hit by a vehicle. Checking his vital signs they discovered that whilst still breathing, he appeared badly injured.

Moving meowntains to save the kitten, they took him to an emergency vet where he was initially found to be barely alive and thought to be blind.

Due to the pawsitive and caring actions of the officers, the kitten received emergency treatment and it was established he was local to the area he was found and was called Beagle. The officers notified the owner, a local Councillor about his injured pet. "You're kitten me" said the councillor, "he left here in a huff earlier this evening!" Leaving pet and owner to hiss and make up, the officers reflected on a near cat-astrophe.

It was later confirmed that after a rather large vet's bill, Beagle is now as good as mew and in purrfect health. Everybody loves a tabby ending!



Blairhall Antisocial Behaviour



Over recent weeks and months we have experienced a very disappointing increase in antisocial behaviour in Blairhall.

Reports are that a group of predominantly local young teenagers have been causing damage to buildings and vehicles, with repeated vandalisms and thefts reported at Blairhall Community Centre and Primary School.

This is particularly galling for the community as these are public buildings, for the use of the community.

The entire policing team at South West Fife will be giving the area extra attention over coming weeks and there will be zero tolerance for antisocial behaviour. This pattern of behaviour has to stop, and we appeal to the community to assist us.

If you are parents of young teens in and around Blairhall, please ensure that you know where your children are and what they are doing. Please make no mistake, these are the children of people who live in or near the village.

If you have any information about the people involved or what they have been doing, please contact us in confidence by calling 101 or emailing WestFifeCoastal-VillagesCPT@scotland.police.uk

Responsible Countryside Access



What are livestock attacks and worrying?

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.

Some examples of livestock worrying include:

- a dog chasing livestock in a manner that could cause injury or suffering,
- the stress caused to the animal by the presence of the dog, could, in the case of female livestock, cause abortion or miscarriage,
- livestock becoming desperate in their attempts to escape and injure themselves in doing so,
- dogs who chase ewes or lambs may cause them to separate from their mothers, later dying of starvation or hypothermia.

Reporting livestock attacks and worrying

Call 999 if the crime is ongoing and animals are being injured. To report a crime which isn't ongoing call 101 or [submit an online Contact Us form](#).

What are Police Scotland doing about it?

Police Scotland is committed to tackling rural crime particularly, 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 Scottish Land and Estates, Scottish Crofting Federation, NFU Scotland, and NFU Mutual, coming together to proactively prevent, reduce and tackle rural crime.

It also works to raise awareness of rural crimes, ensuring the public is informed in what they can do to help.



Advice for dog owners and land managers

Dog owners

It's important for dog owners to be aware that livestock are valuable assets and any harm to them could significantly affect the livestock owners livelihood.

There's a number of things owners can do to reduce the chances of their dog committing a livestock attack or worrying crime.

When in the countryside, be wary of your dog approaching animals. Try to stop your dog coming into contact with livestock. Remember, in the countryside, it may not always be obvious when animals are around.



Livestock attacks and worrying and the law

The [Dogs \(Protection of Livestock\) \(Amendment\) \(Scotland\) Act 2021](#) came into force on 5 November 2021 to tackle the issue of out of controls dogs attacking and worrying livestock.

Under this law, the term "livestock" is wide ranging, including cattle, sheep, goats, swine (pigs/boars), horses, camelids (alpacas/lamas), ostriches, farmed deer, enclosed game birds or poultry.

What are the consequences of livestock attacks and worrying?

Under this new law, owners of dogs that attack or worry livestock can be **fined up to £40,000** or even **sent to prison for up to 12 months**.

If you're in an area where livestock are nearby, always keep your dog in your sights and maintain control over them. If you can't guarantee this, use a lead.

It's important to be aware that under certain circumstances, land owners can shoot your dog if it is attacking or causing distress to their animals.

Land managers

There's a number of things you can do to minimise the threat of your livestock becoming a victim of worrying and attacks.

Appropriate signage can make walkers in the area aware of their responsibilities and can suggest alternative routes if you're worried of an attack or worrying.

You'll also need to think about public access near your land and any risks that this can cause to your animals.



How Should You Contact Us?

Always dial 999 in an emergency. The calls are free from any phone.

An emergency is when:

- Someone's life is at risk
- Someone is injured
- There is a fire
- Offenders are nearby
- Immediate help is needed

101 is the number to contact the police when it's less urgent than 999.

The 101 non-emergency number makes it quicker and easier for you to contact the police when you don't need an emergency response, for example to:

- speak to your local police officer
 - report a crime that's already happened, such as a theft or damage to property
 - get crime prevention advice
 - make us aware of any policing issues in your area
- 101 provides one easy-to-remember number to contact the police wherever you are in Scotland, or elsewhere in the UK.

The 101 non-emergency number is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. When you dial 101, the system will determine your location and connect you to the service centre covering your area.

In an emergency always dial 999 - when a life is in danger, a crime is in progress or a suspect is nearby.

South West Fife Community Team

Dalgety Bay Police Station
Regent's Way
Dalgety Bay
Fife
KY119UY

Email (Ward 1): WestFifeCoastalVillages-
CPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Email (Ward 5): RosythCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk

Email (Ward 6): Inverkeithing-
DalgetyBayCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk

**** The above email addresses are not monitored 24/7 and should be used for routine contact with your community officers. Please do not report crime via these emails. ****

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/>

Twitter: @policescotland
Twitter: @SWFifePolice

Facebook: www.facebook.com/policescotland



CrimeStoppers.
0800 555 111
100% anonymous. Always.



Keeping People Safe

***** If you would like to be added to the mailing list for our newsletter please email RosythCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk *****