POLICE SCOTLAND

DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPORT

Community Council – Kirkcowan

Date of Meeting -   15/02/21

Officer Attending / Report Prepared By -   PC V0130 Jamieson

Updates Required / Requested From Previous Meeting

None.

Crime Update (cover Performance / Issues / Trends)

A cross section of incidents in the Kirkcowan CC area reported to Police since 18/01/2021 and until 15/02/2021.

The incidents reported each month are an accurate representation of what's reported to ourselves via our crime recording platforms on a monthly basis which is in turn shared with yourselves at each CC meeting.

It is respectfully requested that members and attendees of the Community Council report any incidents or concerns that they have, or that are reported to themselves, as and when they occur to Police Scotland. This should be done in the normal manner via attendance at Newton Stewart Police Station, via the 101 system, by using the 'Contact Us' form on the Police Scotland internet site or, in an emergency, by the 999 system. This creates an official record of the report, allowing it to be graded accurately, provides accountability and the best opportunity for any timely investigation required.

Significant Incidents / Occurrences - (Local / Divisional / National)

18.01.21 ; Serious injury two vehicle RTC on the A75 Gretna – Stranraer road near to its junction with the U99 Gass road, near to Barlae, Kirkcowan, Newton Stewart.

Male driver of one of the vehicle's involved receiving ongoing treatment and surgery at the QEUH, Glasgow, and enquiries regarding the cause of the RTC continue.

Community Issues

A75 ROAD CLOSURE – 17.02.20 – 18.02.20

AMEY, on behalf of Transport Scotland, are proposing to resurface 803m of the A75 carriageway, east of Newton Stewart roundabout. Due to the nature of the works it is essential, for the safety of the workforce and the general public, that the carriageway will be controlled using a convoy traffic management system.

AMEY are proposing to undertake the works overnight between 7pm to 6am for 2 consecutive nights; Wednesday 17th & Thursday 18th February 2021.

Please advise AMEY of any concerns with this proposal to allow them to consider the programme of works.

COVID – FRAUDULENT EMAILS

"We have had a couple of instances reported to us now regarding fraudulent emails appearing to make appointments for NHS Corona Virus Vaccination Clinics.

There are links on the emails that will no doubt lead to information gathering and even possibly payment requests. These emails look very official but are not genuine.

There are tell tale giveaways regarding these emails including the fact often your name is not included at the start of the message and your email address is substituted for your name i.e Dear ………@gmail.com.

Police have contacted the NHS who confirm that any vaccine appointments will be made by letter.

Remember- appointments will not be made by email or text. The NHS will not make any charge and already have your details.

Information regarding the vaccine is available locally at-
 http://www.nhsdg.co.uk/vaccines/ "

PARCEL DELIVERY SCAM

Criminals are sending out phishing emails, purportedly from well-known delivery companies, which claim that they have been unable to deliver parcels, packages or large letters. These emails may ask the recipient to pay a fee or provide additional details in order to rearrange the delivery.

The recipient are typically tricked into clicking on links to seemingly genuine websites requesting personal and financial information such as their address, date of birth, mobile number or bank details, which are then used to commit fraud. In some cases, victims later receive a call from the criminal pretending to be from their bank's fraud team, trying to persuade them to move their money to a safe account or reveal their pass codes.

You should also be aware of an increased risk of scam phone calls and texts impersonating delivery companies, as well as fake delivery notices posted through letterboxes. Similarly, these will ask for advance payment or for the recipient to provide information that is later used to defraud them.

Remember that criminals will send out phishing emails with links leading to fake websites used to steal personal and financial information. These emails may appear to be from trusted organisations and may use official branding to convince you they're genuine. Always access websites by typing them into the web browser and avoid clicking on links in emails.

Remain vigilant and check delivery notifications very carefully to ensure they are genuine. Emails, texts or cards through your letterbox may look very similar to those that are genuine but may use generic greetings, such as Dear Sir/Madam, or include spelling errors.

Always question claims that you are due goods or services that you haven't ordered or are unaware of, especially if you have to pay any fees upfront. Consider whether you're expecting a delivery from the company named on the card.

If you receive a delivery card through your letterbox which you do not believe is genuine and which asks you to dial a premium rate number, contact the company direct, using a number you know to be genuine.

You can get more information by following the advice of the Take Five to Stop Fraud campaign.

You can report suspected scam texts to your mobile network provider by forwarding them to 7726, and forward any suspicious emails to report@phishing.gov.uk, the National Cyber Security Centre's (NCSC) suspicious email reporting service.

If you have been a victim of crime, and it is not an ongoing emergency, you can report this to Police Scotland on 101. For all emergency calls, dial 999.

This alert was sent out for your information by Police Scotland Safer Communities Cybercrime Harm Prevention Unit - PPCWCyberHarmPrevention@scotland.pnn.police.uk

SCAM ADVICE FOR HOME SCHOOLING

The internet is an amazing place for children to learn, create, have fun, game and communicate with friends, but they may occasionally have to deal with a variety of related challenging issues being Online can bring and there are positive things you as a Parent or Carer can do to equip yourself to support your child or young person if they face such issues.

As a Parent or Carer, there is support there to enhance your children or young persons' safety and security Online, such as the links below, which are very informative, easy to follow and will also open up the opportunity for you to start the discussion about online safety.

Thinkuknow is the online safety education programme from the National Crime Agency (NCA) and their website has home activity packs from the ages of 4yrs to 14+yrs to take support from.

https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/

CEOP, NSPCC and Internet Matters, at the links below, have created a number of fantastic free to use advice hubs to help you learn more to support you and your child or young person with Online issues.

https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/

https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/

As we are now in a new lockdown and education establishments are closed, our children and young people will be spending more time Online, so as a parent or carer please take time to enhance your knowledge in terms of the support that is available

FRAUD ADVICE

Unfortunately local residents, (Stewarty and Wigtownshire) have been victims of fraud and have lost substantial amounts of money. The most recent scams involve a man contacting the victims by phone and pretending to be from the victims bank. They then proceed to obtain personal information from the victims in relation to their affairs as well as banking and card details. The criminals prey on peoples fears and trust. In one instance they have even convinced the victim to post a financial item. These criminals are very convincing.

No-one should ever contact you out of the blue to ask for their full PIN or full password, or ever make them feel pressured into moving money to another account. If it doesn't make sense contact your bank yourself using a trusted method.

From the Take 5 Campaign

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

Stop: Taking a moment to stop and think before

parting with your money or information.

Challenge: Could it be fake? It's ok to reject,

refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will

try to rush or panic you.

Protect: Contact your bank immediately if you

think you've fallen for a scam.

My money, My info, I don't think so!"

More information can be found at https://takefive-stopfraud.org.uk or from your own banks web site or leaflets.

As part of Cyber Scotland Week Neighbourhood Watch Scotland brings you a webinar by Police Scotland.

Our webinar will be delivered by Sergeant Beverly Bowles of Police Scotland and is intended to help raise members' awareness of their exposure to online risks and providing practical steps they can take to make themselves safer.

This is a practical presentation and no technical knowledge is required. The following topics will be covered:

• What to consider when setting up devices
• Sharing and Privacy when downloading Apps
• What parents should look out for
• Scams
• Q & A

The event will take place on **Wednesday 24th February at 11am**. You can register through Eventbrite by clicking the following link -
 https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/neighbourhood-watch-scotland-cyber-security-basics-tickets-139916525093

We look forward to seeing you on the day.

Matters brought to Police attention by Council

Response given to above points at the meeting

Further action to be taken regarding above points

Section Sergeant (Comments

Area Inspector (Comments)

Use overleaf if necessary