



**POLICE
SCOTLAND**
Keeping people safe

February 2025 Howe of Fife & Taycoast Community Council Newsletter

Introduction

Welcome to February's Howe of Fife Community Council Newsletter from your local officers, PC Mark Lowe, PC Kirstie Haddow and Sergeant Nicola Gillespie.

COMMUNITY AWARENESS

PHONE SCAMS

Nearly a third of all fraud is committed over the telephone. 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 and think. It could protect you and your money.

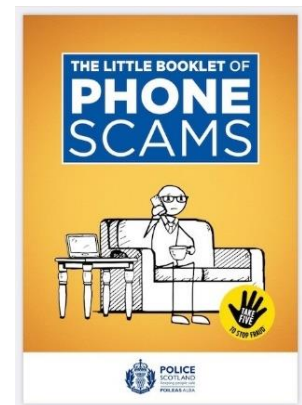
STOP: Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.

CHALLENGE: Could it be fake? Its 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 and report it to Action Fraud.

Criminals can disguise their phone number to make it look like it's from a bank, the tax office, the police or anyone. They can call you with what looks like a genuine phone number. They will keep your landline open by not hanging up and even play a dialling tone over the phone. They can send text messages requesting you call them or click on a link. These scam messages can appear alongside genuine messages on your phone. They can send website links which can steal your data and money when you click on them.

Don't trust the caller id display on your phone, a phone number is not proof of id.



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For more information visit: www.scotland.police.uk/advice-and-information/scams-and-fraud

5 things to look out for on a scam phone call:

1. The caller doesn't give you time to think, tries to stop you speaking to family member or friend or is insistent and makes you feel uncomfortable.
2. The caller asks you to transfer money to a new account
3. The caller asks for your 4-digit card PIN, your passcodes or your online banking password. Even if they ask you to give it to them by tapping into the telephone keypad rather than saying the numbers out loud, this is a scam.
4. The caller asks you to withdraw money to hand over to them for safe keeping.
5. The caller says that you are a victim of fraud and offer to send a courier to your home to collect your cash, PIN, payment card or cheque book.

For more information, please visit <https://takefive-stopfraud.org.uk>

DRIVEWISE 65+



Safer Communities, Fife Council, have set new dates for the coming year for the Drive Wise 65+ initiative. This initiative is aimed at drivers 65+ years of age who would like to gain more confidence behind the wheel so that they can continue to drive safer for longer.

The course runs for 1 ½ hours and constitutes the driver driving their own car for about 20 minutes observed by a Road Policing Officer. This drive will cover different road layouts, different speed limits, junctions and roundabouts. The Officer will observe the drive and then chat to the driver about things they are doing well and things they can improve on to stay safe.

The session will be broken down to the following:

15 Mins – Registration, Checks and Pre-Evaluation

60 Mins – Observation Drive, Discussion Time, Opportunity to observe Police Officer driving shorter route

15 Mins – Post-Evaluation and Merchandise

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The sessions planned for this year are
Tuesday 22nd April – Dunfermline Fire Station
Thursday 29th May – Kirkcaldy Ford Centre, and
Wednesday 25th June – St Andrews Fire Station

With time slots being from 0845 to 1015hrs, 0945 to 1115hrs, 1045 to 1215hrs, 1245 to 1415hrs and 1345 to 1515hrs.

Requirements

All drivers must bring their own car. This car must have a current MOT and driver must have a current licence. All details will be checked before the observation drive. A standard driving eyesight test will also be carried out.

There is no cost to sign up for this project as it is a free initiative. Drivers will be asked to use their own car for the observation drive and the route will be around 10-15 miles.

To register your interest please contact safercommunities.projectofficers@fife.gov.uk for a registration form.

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH INITIATIVE



Community Speed Watch is a voluntary scheme driven by members of the community and is supported by Police Scotland (Fife Division). Essentially, it is a high visibility deterrent which strives to encourage motorists to reduce their speed, thus improving the safety and quality of lives of the local community.

The scheme runs during the summer months, so work is underway to have this up and running again from April 2025.



We currently have 10 volunteers and are actively seeking more to join our initiative in keeping our roads a safer place. We have a further 2 people who have expressed an interest.

How to contact the Police to Report Crime

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Always dial 999 in an emergency

By phone – 101 for non-emergencies 0300 426 0101 if calling from outwith the UK. Network charges may apply.

Online – for issues of a non-serious nature using web address:

www.scotland.police.uk/contact-us

In person at your local enquiry office.

Text Relay - 18001101 for deaf, deafened, hard of hearing or speech-impaired callers

In writing – to PO BOX 2460, Dalmarnock, Glasgow, G40 9BA

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

We are always keen to engage with members of the Community Council and elected members and would welcome you and the public to get in touch with us regarding any issues they wish to raise. Please contact us on our team email address.

If you are organising or intending to have any village events that you would like to see your Local Community Officers attend, please contact us at the e-mail address

HoweOfFifeTaycoastCPT@Scotland.police.uk to make us aware of upcoming dates in your respective areas and we will do our best to attend as many as possible.

Calls Received (To end of February 2025)

Since 1st February 2025, Police have received 220 calls in the Howe of Fife and Taycoast area resulting in 29 crimes being recorded. This breaks down as follows:

Auchtermuchty

26 calls to the police which resulted in

2 recorded crimes

Calls consisted of road traffic matters, dishonesties, disorder, concern for persons and assist members of public.

Strathmiglo

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19 calls to the police which resulted in

2 recorded crimes

Calls consisted of road traffic matters, anti-social behaviour, disorder, concern for persons and assist members of public.

Gateside

3 calls to the police which resulted in

0 recorded crime

Calls consisted of road traffic matters

Ladybank

44 calls to the police which resulted in

6 recorded crimes

Calls consisted of road traffic matters, disorder, dishonesty, assisting members of public and concern for persons.

Giffordtown (Giffordtown, Edentown, Charlottetown, Kinloch)

2 calls to the police which resulted in

0 recorded crimes

Calls consisted of assisting members of the public

Dunshalt

0 calls to the police

0 recorded crimes

Falkland & Newton of Falkland

13 calls to the police which resulted in

0 recorded crimes

Calls consisted of road traffic matters and assist members of the public

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Freuchie

20 calls to the police which resulted in

6 recorded crimes

Calls consisted of Road Traffic Matters, dishonesty, disorder, concern for persons and assist members of public.

Kettle (Kettlebridge, Kingskettle)

14 calls to the police which resulted in

1 recorded crime

Calls consisted of assist members of the public, disorder, road traffic matters, dishonesty and concern for persons.

Newburgh

66 calls to the police which resulted in

6 recorded crimes

Calls consisted of were road traffic matters, concern for persons and assist members of the public.

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

9 calls to the police which resulted in

1 recorded crime

Calls consisted of road traffic matters, dishonesty, and the remainder consisted of concern for person.

Creich & Flisk (Creich, Brunton, Luthrie)

6 calls to the police which resulted in

0 recorded crimes

Calls consisted of road traffic matters

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

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0 calls to the police which resulted in

0 recorded crime

Contact Details

Your local community officers are 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.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.

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HoweOfFifeTaycoastCPT@scotland.police.uk

Website: www.scotland.police.uk

Tel: 101 Twitter: [@NorthFifePol](https://twitter.com/NorthFifePol)

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