

**Ward 8**

**Community Council Report**

**MID-FORMARTINE**

**BELHELVIE, TARVES, OLDMELDRUM AND UDNY**

**July 2021**

**1 July 2021 – 31 July 2021**

**\*\*In the event of a Police non-attendance at the meeting, can you ensure that you provide any concerns raised at the meeting to the Police ASAP by email to ensure we capture any issues early and can provide an update at the next meeting.\*\***

This report covers progress we have made in dealing with your priorities for the Ward 8 areas during the period 1 July 2020 to 31 July 2021. There will be no figures or comparison data provided in respect of the monthly overview.

The report aims to highlight emerging issues in your area, and to provide crime prevention advice and guidance to Community Council members and residents you represent. Our focus is to reduce crime and disorder, help create safer communities and respond effectively to local concerns.

Keeping people safe is at the heart of local Policing and our community based approach in Formartine continues to reduce crime and increase detection rates across the area.

The local priorities for Formartine are;

\* Protecting Vulnerable People

\* Serious and Organised Crime

\* Anti-Social Behaviour, Violence and Disorder

\* Road Safety and Road Crime

\* Acquisitive Crime

**Protecting Vulnerable People**

During July, there were a number of calls across the area relating to vulnerable people and ‘Concern for Person’ calls. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic it has become apparent that our community is dealing with the inevitable difficulties faced during recovery, whether this is financially or regarding mental and physical well-being. This is especially visible with the use and abuse of alcohol and controlled substances, as well as limited access to mental health services due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Formartine officers remain, in many instances, first responders to persons in crisis and are able to provide an opportunity to really listen and render assistance to those in need. However, it is the aim to continue to work closely with key partner agencies to ensure the best and most suitable help is offered.

Incidents involving mental health and suicide have a significant impact on close connections and the wider community and as such a list of sources is detailed in the Advice and Prevention Section.

Police Scotland have a firm stance in dealing with perpetrators of Domestic Abuse and/or Sexual Offences. As such it is vitally important for all members of the community to know that our officers are dealing with any such incidents with the utmost diligence and professionalism, with the victim’s interests being paramount.

Domestic abuse manifests itself in a number of ways and over the last few months we have seen an increase in the number of reports of coercive control and we received a further report this month. This related to an individual exercising excessive financial control, amounting to threats and money laundering. Enquiries are still ongoing in this particular matter however I highlight this incident to advise members of the community that domestic abuse does not just involve violence or aggressive behaviour.

**Serious and Organised Crime**

In July the increasing trend of cyber enabled crime, especially in terms of Fraud incidents in the local community continued with a report of a male releasing a four figure sum of money believing that his Bank was requesting the transaction. Everyone neds to remain vigilant in relation to this type of Fraud and ensure that if you are contacted by who believe to be your bank from an unrecognised email address you should not send money and contact your branch whether in person, by phone or online.

As this remains an emerging crime trend across Formartine, ‘Scam Advise’ has been listed at the end of the report. All members of the public are urged to be vigilant and follow Online Safety and Security advice provided.

There was an incident relating to Concerned in the Supply of Controlled Drugs and Possession of Controlled Drugs with Heroin and Cannabis being seized. This seizure was through a proactive road stop. Should any resident of the area have information relating to controlled drugs please contact the Local Policing Team on 101 or provide the information anonymously through Crimestoppers.

**Antisocial Behaviour, Violence and Disorder**

This priority encompasses a wide range of offences from lower level nuisance and disorder to more serious crimes of Assault and Robbery.

It is common for these types of crime to increase over the summer holidays however it is pleasing to report that the number of incidents reported was stable. Officers have been out patrolling across the area and engage with youths when possible. We are working closely with our Early Interventions Officer to work on Diversionary Projects. Should anyone in the communities wish to highlight ideas or be involved in organisations who wish to work with Police and other agencies in respect of Diversionary Programmes please get in touch via the CPT email address.

There were reports in relation to youths congregating, being on roofs at school premises and drinking alcohol however on Police arrival there was no trace of youths. I would encourage residents to continue to phone in these issues in order that I can build a better picture and hopefully identify those involved.

We are working with our Licensing Officers in respect of underage drinking and supporting the Proxy Sale of Alcohol Campaign across Formartine. There is no information to suggest any premises are selling alcohol to those under 18 years and it may be the case that youths are taking alcohol from the family home ‘drinks cabinets’.

Despite the further relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions and the opening up of the hospitality sector, it can be positively noted that the number of incidents linked to licensed premises has not been adversely affected. With further easing over the coming weeks, we will likely see increased footfall which by its very nature can increase crime however patrols will be in place in an attempt to prevent this.

Police Scotland take the reports of antisocial behaviour, public nuisance, violence and vandalism very seriously and will deal with all complaints robustly. We continue to urge members of the public who witness acts of antisocial crime in our communities to get in touch and let us know.

**Road Safety and Road Crime**

On 5 July 2021, Police Scotland launched its summer drink and drive campaign which aims to educate drivers about the legal prescribed limit of alcohol whilst driving as well as the consequences drivers could face should they fail to ignore these warnings.

Even small amounts of alcohol can lead to diminished response times, affecting coordination, reaction times, judgment and ability to drive safely. Being convicted of a drink driving offence could mean a driving ban, disqualification, imprisonment and/or a fine of up to £5,000, as well as the loss of your motor vehicle.

Officers will continue to carry out intelligence-led high visibility patrols and roadside checks to detect and identify offenders.

We continue to receive reports of excessive speed within local urban areas. As such officers have continued to conduct high visibility patrols as well as regular speed checks being carried out at key points and have dealt with various offences ranging from Dangerous and Careless Driving to document offences.

It is unfortunate to report that there was a Fatal Road Traffic Collision on the outskirts of Oldmeldrum this month.

**Acquisitive Crime**

Acquisitive crime encompasses a number of crimes such as Theft by Housebreaking, Vehicle Crime, Shoplifting, Fraud and Theft.

During July, there were no reported thefts or attempted thefts from personal premises or vehicle with the only acquisitive crime reports relating to Thefts from local convenience stores in Pitmedden. These relate to the theft of alcohol and enquiries are ongoing.

Although there were no reports of housebreakings or thefts from rural properties this month, I would ask residents not to become complacent and they should ensure the security of their property as a preventative measure.

**Advice and Prevention**

***Mental Health and Suicide Awareness Contacts***

***Mind Infoline*** • 0300 123 3393 • info@mind.org.uk

Information on types of mental health problem, where to get help in your area, medication and alternative treatments, advocacy.

***Mind Legal Line*** • 0300 466 6463 • legal@mind.org.uk

Legal advice on mental health, mental capacity, and community care human rights and discrimination/equality.

***Victim Support*** • 0845 30 30 900 • www.victimsupport.org.uk

Free and confidential help to victims of crime, witnesses, and anyone else affected across England and Wales.

***Samaritans*** • 08457 90 90 90 • www.samaritans.org

Support and advice for people experiencing a crisis.

***Alzheimer’s Society*** • 020 7423 3500 • www.alzheimers.org.uk

Advice and information on supporting people affected by dementia in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

***Neighbourhood Return*** • www.ourturn.org.uk

Helps find lost people with memory problems quickly, and gets them home safely.

***Self Help Services*** • www.selfhelpservices.org.uk

A user-led mental health charity providing primary care mental health services and self-help initiatives to people across the North.

***NHS Choices*** • www.nhs.uk

Information on local services, including mental health services and emergency departments.

***NHS24 Mental Health Hub*** • 111 • www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk

Information and advice on a wide range of health issues via telephone, email and the internet.

***Local council websites*** • www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Will provide a directory of council services in your area.

***Prevent Suicide NE App*** (available for free download on Android and iOS, info also available at https://www.preventsuicideapp.com/ ) – contains info on how to ask someone about their thoughts of suicide, a directory of local and national supports and an option to create a safe plan

***Guidance booklets*** with further information are available through SAMH’s website (https://www.samh.org.uk/about-mental-health/samh-publications/suicide-publications)

***Fraud***



