

COMMUNITY POLICE NEWSLETTER

Issue 6

We have been concentrating recently on the illegal use of off-road bikes, drug issues, road safety and conducting action days across our areas. Recently we have welcomed PC Kirsteen Macdonald into our Community Beats Team. She is working alongside PC Gibb which has allowed us to extend our cover in the rural areas. We have also had Inverness Response Officers seconded to Community for short periods which has been of huge benefit to us as a team and helps them have an insight into our role and how they can use Community Beats knowledge when they return to response. The lighter nights are now here so we are also focusing on areas likely to experience anti-social behaviour.

Action Days



We have continued over the past few months to operate Action Days in Merkinch, Dalneigh, Raigmore, Hilton, Culloden, Smithton, and our rural areas. We choose days when we have optimum levels of staff in Community Beats and use resources from our drug, operational support and road traffic police unit if required. We visit the schools ensuring road safety at peak times and giving parents and pupils the opportunity to engage. We attend the local shops at key times for shoplifting and anti-social behaviour. We also visit

the community centres, children's houses, and religious places of worship in the area. Court issued warrants, curfew checks and tailored warrants for drugs or off-road bikes are executed on Action Days. We also focus on the priority concerns from the local people, and each day is tailored to meet the needs of the individual community. Speeding, drugs, anti-social behaviour, off-road motorbikes are just some of the hot topics we have been targeting recently.

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Off-Road Bikes



The illegal use of off-road motorbikes continues to be an issue across Inverness. These vehicles cause concern in the community, risk severe injury, and damage local green space. They can also be involved in other criminal activity. It can be difficult to identify the individuals involved as they often have face coverings and will evade police. We have been collaborating closely with partner agencies and complainers who are calling 101 to identify the persons involved. Recently successful information resulted in a warrant being conducted at an address with all off-road bikes and related equipment seized and the male rider being reported for multiple offences. Our response police team and armed response team have also had recent successes seizing illegal bikes.

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Community Involvement

PC Macdonald and PC Spence attended the Wimberley Way Open Day alongside multiple partner agencies at the event. There were activities for kids to partake in. It was a great morning for the community to come together and an opportunity to express any policing issues in the area.



PC Gibb and PC Macdonald welcomed this eager group of cubs to Burnett Road Police Station. They were taken to the briefing room where the day begins for an Inverness Response Officer. They enjoyed their tour and testing out the police equipment.

Partnership Working



Cùra Guardian invited PC Johnstone to attend Merkinch Nature Reserve to promote “Merkinch Month.” This project is a unique initiative which demonstrates the role of different individuals and organisations who are part of a community and who all have a role to play in safeguarding, preserving, and protecting the natural environment which brings people together. Community Beats are focused on tackling anti-social behaviour in the Merkinch Nature Reserve, so this was a fantastic opportunity to engage with the community.



The City Centre Team tackle a high level of anti-social behaviour with young people, so supporting events which offer alternative activities and opportunities for youths is important. City Centre Officers were in attendance at the recent Street Scene programme which was organised by BID. This is an engagement initiative offering young people a variety of interactive activities and has proved to be very successful.

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Street Surgeries



PC Gibb invited the Fire Service and Police Scotland Preventions & Interventions team to join his rural street surgeries. It allowed residents to interact with partner agencies for information and advice. Rural areas can be a target for house breakings, thefts, and vehicle crime so this gave local people an opportunity to receive preventative advice. Would-be-thieves often “case” their targets prior to conducting thefts, so good vigilance can often prevent crimes from happening in the first place. Further street surgeries are planned for the coming months in various locations. Dates have been set for the following so far:

26 May 2026 Dores

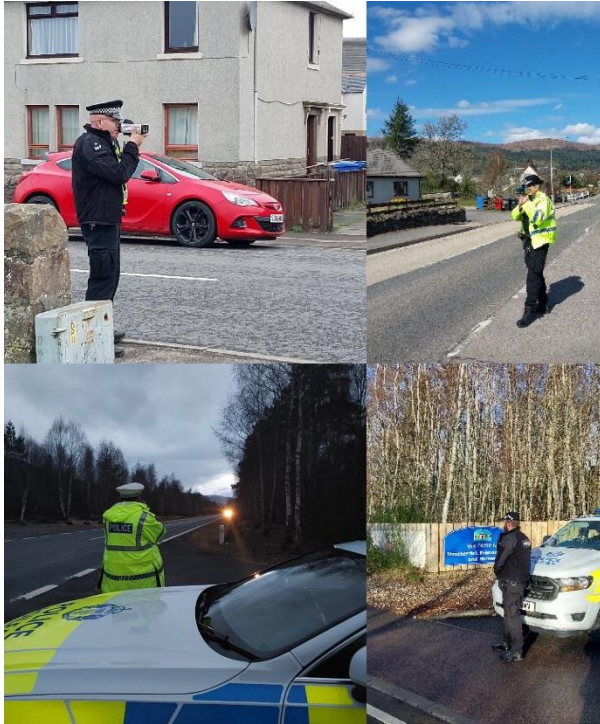
27 May 2026 Farr

5 June 2026 Culloden/Smithton

8 June 2026 Ardersier

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Road Safety



Speeding continues to be an issue across most areas covered by Community Beats. Our main aim is to prioritise the roads around our schools. The Highland Council recently implemented a trial at Duncan Forbes Primary School and Kirkhill Primary School with restricted road access during school start/finish times. PC Gibb, Macdonald, and Bain have been supporting the council with a presence at these schools encouraging road users to park in appropriate areas ensuring the safety of the children.

Reducing the Risk of Collisions



The Community Beats team assisted Road Police Units at Culloden Battlefield, Clava Cairns and Urquhart Castle with promoting road safety for motorists, particularly tourists. This included providing guidance on driving on the left, managing fatigue, and taking care when turning across traffic. These are key factors identified in serious and fatal crashes involving visiting driver.

Joint Road Safety Initiatives



Cycling in the Highlands is popular for both locals and tourists. There are many rural roads covered by our Community Beats Team which are frequented by cyclists. PC Johnstone was recently involved in Operation Close Pass which involved her being deployed on a bicycle in plain clothes. Road policing units thereafter monitor and target the drivers who overtake her too closely. This initiative aims to improve road safety and educate drivers about the importance of leaving sufficient space for cyclists.



If a main road is highlighted by communities as a problem with speeding, we highlight the issue to our Road Policing colleagues so they can also target the road. We also work jointly with Road Policing Units to encourage safe driving in our communities.

EDUCATION



At Stratthdearn Primary School many of the children cycle or walk to school so PC Bain and PC Myerscough were invited to come along and chat to them about road safety.



The inappropriate use of social media and messages can often result in both teenagers and adults finding themselves on the wrong side of the law. PC Bain and PC Myerscough spoke with P7 at Ardersier Primary School about keeping themselves safe online which should help them as they move into Secondary School.



The Uniform and Emergency Service class from Culloden Academy came to visit Burnett Road Police Station. They had a great morning been shown the key areas and a talk and demonstration from the dog handlers inspired a few pupils for a career as a police dog handler.

Support



We love being in our communities, but we can be abstracted to support other areas of policing. In the past few months that has included supporting response policing, mountain rescue, marches, protests, The Etape and the election. Recently PC Bain and PC Mackenzie were assisting with the Highland visits from John Swinney and pictured is PC Macleod and PC McIntyre supporting the recent royal visit to Cawdor.

Community Issues

We need the community to let us know if there are issues the Community Beats Team can assist with. We try to speak with as many people as we can when out on foot patrol or cycle patrol so the public can highlight issues to us. However, we encourage you to use our email address to contact us if there are community problems which you want to highlight to the team.

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CONTACT US

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PC Liam Simpson	MERKINCH	SOUTH KESSOCK			
PC Nadine Mackenzie	RAIGMORE	INSHES	MILTON OF LEYS	DRAKIES	NESS CASTLE
PC Kirsteen Macdonald	RURALS				
PC Jonjo Gibb	RURALS				

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