



# Police Service of Scotland

## Community Council meeting

Name of  
Community Council:

**Lauder Community Council**

**Date of meeting: 11<sup>th</sup> of June 2018**

Foreword:

Police report for May 2018 prepared by PC 5955 Michael Norrie.

This report is based on the Leaderdale and Melrose Multi Ward Policing Plan.

### **Police Scotland warn of hidden dangers when shopping online**

Police Scotland is warning of the hidden dangers of shopping online after consumers' details were used to set up websites selling counterfeit products.

Officers are working in partnership with the Intellectual Property Office to reinforce the need to ensure security while spending your cash online. An animated game show "Scam You" based on cases investigated by Police Scotland has been developed to highlight the dangers of shopping online without taking proper steps to protect your security. This can be found on Police Scotland's social media channel and its website. For advice about staying safe while shopping online, visit [getsafeonline.org](http://getsafeonline.org)

### **Mandate Fraud - What you need to know**

It seems the phone never stops ringing these days with conmen on the other end of the line, trying to part you from your hard earned through any manner of nefarious means. One of the most insidious forms of modern scammy, which has resulted in the loss of millions of pounds from both businesses and members of the public, is what is known as Mandate Fraud.

In essence, Mandate Fraud is when the scammer contacts the scam-ee with the intention of redirecting an existing standing order or Direct Debit. In the case where the victim is a business, the scammer will contact the victim and usually pretend to be one of their existing suppliers. They will then claim that they have set up a new bank and give a new account number and sort code for the victim to make their payments to. The first the victim finds out they've been scammed is when the ACTUAL supplier contacts them, wondering where their money is.



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A variation of the same scam is often run on members of the public.

Remember: ALWAYS BE EXTREMELY WARY SHOULD ANYONE ASK YOU TO MAKE CHANGES TO ANY OF YOUR BANKING ARRANGEMENTS.

If in doubt, contact the bank, charity or business supplier in question on a separate number to check the validity of any requests. If you have been the victim of this, or type of scam, contact the police on 101, or report the incident to Action Fraud.

#### **Keep Safe from Doorstep Crime and Bogus Callers**

From bogus callers to rogue traders, doorstep criminals are cunning, creative, and often very convincing. Anyone can be fooled as these people are professional con artists.

#### How can I protect myself from doorstep crime?

- Be on guard if someone turns up unexpectedly.
- Keep front and back doors locked.
- Use the door viewer or nearby window when answering the door.
- Fit a door chain or bar – use it and keep it on when talking to callers at the door.
- If you're not sure, don't answer the door.
- Don't feel embarrassed - genuine callers expect you to be careful.
- Only let callers in if they have an appointment and you have confirmed they are genuine.
- Always ask for identification badges of anyone you answer the door to, but don't rely on them. Identity cards can be faked – phone the company to verify their identity.
- Some companies offer a password system. Ask your utility providers if this can be used and if you have a password with a company make sure the caller uses it.
- Never let people try to persuade you to let them into your home even if they are asking for help – they may not be genuine. If someone is persistent, ask them to call at another time and arrange for a friend or family member to be with you.
- Never agree to pay for goods or give money to strangers who arrive at your door.
- Don't keep large amounts of money in your home.
- Remember, it's your home. There's no reason why anyone should ever enter your home against your wishes.



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### Ward Priorities

- If you're not sure, don't answer the door.

Find out more about doorstep crime by reading our [Beat Doorstep Crime campaign](#) on the Police Scotland website

#### **Indiscriminate parking**

- You highlighted parking as a problem locally, the following was recorded regarding parking issues during the month of May 2018.

There has been no reports of indiscriminate parking during the month of May 2018. Further patrols will continue to be carried out and any vehicles reported or seen parked illegally will be dealt with robustly.

#### **Speeding/Road Traffic**

- Speeding is an issue that concerns you particularly in built up areas

There have been no reports of excessive speeding during the month of May 2018. A number of speed recording devices have been placed along East and West High Street to monitor speed ratios. The results of which will soon be published. Police checks will remain ongoing and will take place within the Borders at specific areas where there has been concern regarding excessive speed and highlighted accident hot spots.

#### **Rural thefts**

- Thefts from houses and farms particularly in more remote locations concerns you

There have been no recorded incidents of theft by housebreaking from commercial dwellings during the month of May 2018. However residents are encouraged to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity.

### Other Incidents of note/relevant Community Council information.

In addition to the incidents listed above relating to the ward priorities the following incidents are also of note –

- 02/05 – Lauder Common Ridings, event passed without incident.
- 06/05 – A697, Lauder, dead falcon, wildlife crime, enquiries ongoing.
- 17/05 – Edinburgh Rd, Lauder, male arrested for possession of offensive weapon.
- 21/05 – Edinburgh Rd, Lauder, males charged with a breach of firearms legislation.
- 25/05 – Threepwood Rideout, Lauder, event passed without incident.



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26/05 – Wanton Walls, Lauder, motorbike event, passed without incident.  
26/05 – Edinburgh Rd, Lauder, male charged with a drugs offence.  
30/05 – Smithy Croft, Lauder, vandalism to motor vehicle, enquires ongoing.

Residents are encouraged to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity to Police Scotland. If possible ensure that your property and vehicles are securely locked and that all valuable equipment is out of sight!

Police responded to 41 calls during the month of May 2018, these vary from anti-social incidents, drugs, offensive weapon, vandalism and road traffic related offences.

Feedback from  
meeting:

Please e-mail any feedback to  
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