



**Garthdee  
Community Council**

This report covers progress we have made in dealing with your priorities for the Garthdee Community Council area during October.

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

## Crime Overview

In October there were a total of 125 calls to Police relating to the areas covered by the Garthdee Community Policing Teams,

These calls, in addition to proactive work, resulted in 52 individual charges being recorded. The vast majority of calls received by Police are concern calls, missing persons, assisting members of the public and false calls with good intentions.

Any significant incident

Crime Type	October
Drug Offences	3
Vandalism	6
Assaults	7
Thefts	9
Road Traffic Offences	18

## Antisocial behaviour, Violence and Disorder

They have included various incidents of vehicles and houses being hit with items that have been thrown by youths. There has also been an instance whereby a vehicle has been struck by a firework.

In response to these police have increased high visibility mobile patrols and provided suitable advice in regards to firework safety with Bonfire night approaching.

## Acquisitive Crime

They have included a communal window within a block of flats has been smashed and thereafter the private door of an occupant has been tried. There has also been a further instance of someone using a black sharpie pen to draw on the lens of a video doorbell causing damage.

In response to these police have attended at both incidents and provided suitable safety advice in regards to securing your doors and logging any incidents that occur within communal areas.

## Road Safety & Road Crime

They have included incidents whereby youths have been driving in a reckless manner within a local car park. There have been various incidents whereby a car has been struck by another vehicle and said vehicle has not stopped to report the incident. There have also been several instances of vehicles being driven without the correct insurance and/or MOT.

In response to these police have spoken with the involved parties and charged as required. Police have also increased their high visibility mobile patrols in the affected areas to increase their presence to deter the same kind of incidents reoccurring.

## Community Safety – After Dark

### **Housebreaking can be a traumatic experience.**

Although housebreaking can occur at any time of year criminals will often take advantage of darker nights and shorter daylight hours.

Simple crime prevention measures can greatly reduce the chances of your home being targeted.

### **Lock the Door**

Obvious, isn't it? But some people don't do it. Lock the door even if you're only out for a short time. If you have window locks, lock those too. Keep the door locked when you are at home. This stops criminals coming in if you are in another part of the house or garden. Don't leave your keys on the inside of locks or just inside the door. If you have a spare key, don't leave it under a mat, plant-pot or other easy to spot place at home. Never keep house keys and car keys on the same ring.

### **Safes and Security Boxes**

Don't keep large amounts of gold, jewellery and cash at home. Bedrooms and lofts are routinely searched during housebreakings, particularly if the occupants are celebrating a cultural festival.

Consider storing valuable items at your bank. Private companies offer similar services. If this option is unavailable, consider an insurance rated safe. Safes should be securely attached to the solid fabric of the building not just to a plasterboard wall or left sitting on the floor.

### **Lighting and CCTV**

House alarms and CCTV are a great visual deterrent. Modern Wi-Fi enabled CCTV systems can be combined with bright LED lighting. Any movement detected outside your home can trigger an alert to several mobile devices. If considering CCTV look to cover every aspect of your home. Small discreet cameras can also be used inside. Use

signage to advise that CCTV is in use.

When your away use timers to turn on lights, radios, or TVs to put off unwanted visitors. Smart plugs allow times to be changed even whilst away.

## **Vehicles**

High value cars are particularly vulnerable to theft and criminals will commit a housebreaking to obtain the true key of the vehicle. Where possible park vehicles inside a garage. Secure the keys inside your property out of sight. Avoid leaving them in obvious locations such as the hallway table or kitchen. Never leave valuables in your car. Keyless Theft or Relay Theft involves criminals using handheld technology to identify whether a parked car has keyless entry. If the car 'key' is close enough the criminals can amplify the signal and send it to a transmitter which acts as the true key and opens the car allowing it to be driven off. Keep keys and fobs well away from doors and windows and purchase a signal blocker wallet to keep them in.

## **Property Marking and Insurance**

There are several products you can buy which contain a unique code like DNA. This code is registered to your address. They are usually clear liquids which can be applied onto your possessions.

Check you have adequate insurance cover. Photograph and record your valuables to assist any insurance claim or Police report. This will assist police in identifying any items recovered.

## **General Maintenance**

Never leave anything that can be used by a thief to gain entry lying around the garden. Overgrown bushes prevent neighbours seeing into your garden and allow criminals to go unseen.

## **Social Media**

Consider what you are putting on social media, especially if you are going on holiday or attending weddings, functions or posting pictures with jewellery. Criminals search for this information to create a list of empty houses. Your social media accounts should be set to friends only.

## **Unusual Activity**

Report any unusual activity to Police. Criminals will often call offering to carry out work. This can be used as a method to identify vulnerable targets

## **Community Concerns**

Please take the opportunity to let us know what concerns or community issues the representatives of the community council have discussed this month and would like the Local Policing Team and the Community Action Team to address to improve your area.

## **Contact Us**

Please also remember you can contact us using any of the following:

- 📞 101 – Non emergency;
- 📧 Email - [AberdeenNorthCPT@scotland.police.uk](mailto:AberdeenNorthCPT@scotland.police.uk)
- 🐦 Twitter - @NorthEPolice
- 📘 Facebook – [www.facebook.com/NorthEastPoliceDivision](http://www.facebook.com/NorthEastPoliceDivision)
- 🌐 Web – [www.scotland.police.uk](http://www.scotland.police.uk)
- 📞 999 – Emergency;
- 📞 0800 555 111 - Crimestoppers;