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Police Scotland – Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Partnership Update for meeting on 04 May 2021

1. **Personnel Change** - Inspector Simon Shanks will transfer to a new role in the Division as Response Inspector for West Dunbartonshire on 26 April 2021. He will be replaced by Inspector John Forrest, who knows the area well, having worked here previously as a Sergeant. Whilst welcoming John to his new role, I would like to thank Simon for his dedication and professionalism over the past 14 months and wish him well in his new post.
2. **Covid** - As we move forward with the continuing easing of Lockdown restrictions, local policing plans are in place to direct, guide and inform officers as the various different restrictions are relaxed. Officers are directed to monitor the main arterial routes, Ferry Ports, popular tourist areas and known wild camping areas. Regular liaison is taking place with the National Parks and key partners to ensure a joined up response.

Officers will also be monitoring some retail premises and licences premises as they open and restrictions relax on the purchase of alcohol. We will be liaising with Argyll and Bute Council Environmental Health and Trading Standards where there are issues identified.

Officers are generally still instructed to follow the strategic Police response which is the four-step escalation principles of engagement, explanation, encouragement and finally enforcement but as the lockdown restrictions have continued for so long now, there are more instances where officers are justified in moving straight to enforcement with the issue of fixed penalty notices.

3. **Livestock Attacks** – Upcoming changes in legislation
The Dogs (Protection of Livestock) (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill – brought forward by Emma Harper MSP & supported by local officers, local Farmers and the local Council Dog Wardens, was debated in parliament for the third time at the end of March & it will now proceed to Royal Assent before becoming law in about 6 months' time. Under the provisions of the new Bill, dog owners could be fined up to £40,000 and/or 12 months' imprisonment for letting their dog chase or kill livestock. The outdated 1953 UK Bill will also be modernised to extend the definition of livestock to include protection for the likes of alpacas, llamas and buffalo.

With Lambing in full swing across the country, livestock attacks traditionally increase at this time of year and officers work with Farmers and Dog owners to help prevent and detect these crimes. We regularly publish campaigns and increase awareness of the issue through our social media channels.

4. **Future planning** - issues which may provide resourcing challenges include the Euro 2020 football Tournament in Glasgow in June and the Climate Change Conference in Glasgow in November. Both these events may have an impact on local Police resources but contingency plans are being put in place which will mean officers working longer shifts to cover some absences for officers Policing the events.
It is not yet clear what local events will be taking place this summer but several have already cancelled and it is anticipated that very few will take place.

5. **Fraud Prevention – Telephone Frauds/Scams are a continuing problem**
The Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership have provided funding for a number of call blocker devices that can be installed at homes of vulnerable people (particularly those who have fallen victim to telephone frauds). Devices are held by both Police Scotland and Trading Standards. Police Scotland will offer a device to anyone who has been a victim of telephone fraud (through their landline) and a number of devices have already been installed in Bute and Cowal as well as the Isle of Mull. Members of the public can request a device directly through Argyll and Bute Trading Standards if they know of someone who is vulnerable and may benefit from these devices. Police Scotland will then assist in the installation of these.

All Community Councils have been contacted through the Basecamp SharePoint system to ask if they can help support fraud prevention awareness through trying to recruit people to become "friends against scams". This is a free online course open to everyone which provides the user with a certificate on completion but more importantly raises their awareness on scam types. Images that can be shared on social media have also been placed on Basecamp for all community councils to use where they wish to support this.

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6. **Frontline Support Packs** - Police Scotland is working with the Argyll and Bute Alcohol and Drugs Partnership to create a printed booklet that can be provided to members of the community by frontline staff from Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue and Scottish Ambulance Service. The booklet will include local support organisation and community groups that people can contact for emotional support, bereavement support or support with alcohol, drugs or gambling addictions. Bute and Cowal will be the test area for this work with the aim that this will then be replicated for Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands. The printed booklet was suggested following a number of incidents attended by Police officers where a person was in distress and wasn't able to access online support for a number of reasons. This printed booklet will provide people with these local groups so that they can make contact with them at a time suitable to themselves.

7. **Road Policing** – The National Motorcycle Campaign commenced on 5th April and runs until 30th September and will see road policing officers devoting particular attention across Argyll to reduce instances of motorcycle related incidents. Road policing officers primarily patrol the main strategic routes especially those favoured by motorcyclists providing a high profile presence with targeted enforcement in relation to road traffic offences. In addition, unmarked patrol vehicles are used to target dangerous and speeding drivers. Safety Cameras Scotland also carry out enforcement at various sites throughout Argyll.

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