

Information Bulletin for Local Communities – updated 16/7/20 Working Together to Tackle Irresponsible Camping

Perth and Kinross has some of the most beautiful scenery in Scotland, which attracts many visitors to our area. We warmly welcome visitors who act responsibly and respect their local surroundings.

The number of visitors is expected to increase this year due to Covid-related foreign travel restrictions, people wanting to get away after weeks of lockdown, and pressures on availability of traditional visitor accommodation.

Therefore there is a likely increase in informal camping and campervans, in our area, and our communities are already telling us this is happening. This creates pressures due to the volume of these visitors, but also the anti-social behaviour of a small proportion - the term **`dirty camping`** is being increasingly used to apply to these irresponsible activities.

This bulletin highlights to local communities the measures that are being/have been taken to mitigate the negative impact of these activities, and makes suggestions on how we can work together to tackle dirty camping.

1. Identification of hot spot areas

The Council's Safer Communities team has set up links with local communities to report problem issues to the team.

A multi- agency group has been set up, and meets on a weekly basis, consisting of Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Perth and Kinross Council staff.

Through the community information, and feedback from staff attending on site, we are able to build a picture, and monitor the main issues and the most affected areas. Main problems to date are:

- Littering and fly-tipping
- Damage (to fields and trees)
- Human waste not disposed properly
- Inappropriate parking on roads preventing access for residents and emergency vehicles
- Unattended campfires
- Other anti-social behaviour through alcohol consumption

The main hot spot areas identified to date are:

- Loch Tummel
- Loch Tay
- Calvine
- Struan
- Glenlyon

- Clunie Loch
- Kenmore
- St Fillans

Community information and 'on the ground' feedback from staff patrolling these sites will continue to provide intelligence to inform our future actions.

If communities have further information to assist, they are asked to contact the Council's Safer Communities Team on SCT@pkc.gov.uk.

2. Coordinated visits to hot spots/ patrols

We are co-ordinating joint visits, over busy periods such as weekends, by:

- Scottish Fire and Rescue staff
- Countryside Rangers
- Community Wardens

This will be in addition to Police activity in these areas.

These visits will be targeted at hot spot areas, to encourage campers to act responsibly and safely and to offer guidance on activities such as fires, litter disposal and parking as well as being 'eyes and ears' to report any serious issues to Police colleagues. These public services will maintain contact with each other, to share information on priorities and concerns.

Anyone concerned about crowds of people gathering in beauty spots should contact Police Scotland on 101 in the first instance or dial 999 in an emergency.

3. Clearways to manage parking

New Covid 19 Regulations have introduced a 'fast track' approach to establishing temporary traffic orders, including banning parking (creating 'Clearways') on sensitive roadways (eg narrow roads next to lochs or rivers). Clearways have been introduced at Stanley Linn, and we are looking at introducing similar arrangements at Clunie Loch and Loch Tummel.

Non-compliance by motorists with these clearways will be dealt with by the Council using penalty charge notices. Police have the power to remove vehicles which are causing an obstruction.

If communities are aware of other potential areas suitable for clearways, please contact traffic@pkc.gov.uk.

4. Installation of signs

A trial project is underway to install signage around Clunie Loch, with messages to promote responsible camping.

If communities believe this type of signage would help in their area, they are asked to contact the Safer Communities Team on SCT@pkc.gov.uk.

5. Fly-tipping support

If fly-tipping on local land is a problem, the Council has established a Fly Tipping Fund for landowners and communities, to help clean up these areas – more information is available [here](#)

6. Litter

If excess litter or bags at the side of the road are a problem, we can organise additional wheeled bin points to collect the litter. Please contact <https://my.pkc.gov.uk/MyServices>. We will arrange regular collections from these points.

We can also help communities organise local litter picks, with support such as litter pickers and black bags. We will arrange to uplift the waste that the community collects as well. To arrange this please contact wasteawareness@pkc.gov.uk

7. Communications Campaign

As part of celebrating our beautiful area, and welcoming considerable visitors, we will establish a communications campaign to promote responsible camping, and respecting the area, including advice on good practice. There are many sources of such advice including [CAMPA](#) (Campervan/ Motor Home Association) and the National Parks Authorities.

We are also developing a Frequently Asked Questions, which will be posted on the Council website.

Promotion channels under consideration include social media, Council website, signage, information to campervan hire businesses and local shops.

The initial draft key messages for the campaign are:

- Perth and Kinross is one of the most beautiful areas in Scotland, and that's why so many people visit us
- We warmly welcome responsible visitors
- Its important that we all play our part in keeping Perth and Kinross beautiful – visitors, communities, public services
- The actions of irresponsible visitors put people and our environment at risk, and could be breaking the law

8. Public Toilets

All Council run public toilets have been opened.

9. Learning from others

We will keep up to date with developments, best practice and emerging guidance from the Scottish Government, the National Parks Authorities, professional bodies and other Councils.

10. Working with local communities

We recognise that several community groups in affected areas have been proactive in responding to the challenges that irresponsible camping can present.

We would welcome the opportunity to work with these communities to explore what each of us could do to contribute to tackling these challenges. Other bodies have a role to play, including local landowners, business groups, Countryside Trusts and Community Councils.

We would like to bring these parties together to develop an understanding of what we are doing now, and what we could do together.

We invite Elected Members and community groups to identify these parties that would be interested in being involved in this type of gathering, please contact Briony Glover on bglover@pkc.gov.uk with contact details.

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