

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EAST AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM – 1 DECEMBER 2005

FIREWORK SAFETY CAMPAIGN

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. To advise Forum members of the Firework Display incorporating a Firework Safety Initiative on 5th November 2005.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. At previous Forum meetings Firework Safety was identified as a key Community Safety issue.
- 2.2. In accordance with East Ayrshire Improving Community Safety Action Plan it has been agreed that the Community Safety Co-ordinator work with Leisure Services to incorporate firework safety into the Council's Firework Display held at Kay Park, Kilmarnock on Saturday 5th November 2005.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1. Prior to the event, visits were made by Trading Standards Officers, Strathclyde Police and Strathclyde Fire Brigade to all retailers registered to sell fireworks.
- 3.2. A mobile unit was set up in the Kay Park on 5th November and information was displayed relating to injuries caused by misuse of fireworks and general safety issues. The unit was staffed by East Ayrshire Council Community Safety and Strathclyde Fire and Rescue.
- 3.3. The display was attended by around 22,000 members of the public and there were no casualties reported on the night. The display was also staffed by 46 stewards; 30 police officers and 12 members of staff from East Ayrshire Council.
- 3.4. Information was distributed through a press release to local newspapers, and West Sound Radio.
- 3.5. A survey was carried out at the event and out of those people questioned the results show that:

- 83% said by attending the Fireworks Display they would not purchase fireworks for themselves or members of their family
- 100% agreed that East Ayrshire Council should continue to provide a firework display
- 95% said they would recommend the event to a friend
- 68% said they had attended the event before

The survey shows the geographical breakdown as follows:

- 46% - Kilmarnock
- 6% - Irvine Valley
- 13% - Stewarton, Kilmaurs, Crosshouse and Fenwick
- 11% - Cumnock and Doon Valley
- 6% - North Ayrshire
- 6% - South Ayrshire
- 2% - Glasgow, Paisley, Castle Douglas and East Kilbride

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. The cost of the campaign was met from the East Ayrshire Quality of Life Funding.

5. LEGAL/AUTHORITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. Nil

6 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Nil

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The Event was successful and a report on firework injuries will be available from the Community Safety Co-ordinator at the next Forum meeting.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee are recommended to note the contents of the report

W Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/AW

16th November 2005

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. For further information please contact John Crawford, Head of Protective Services on 01563 576111 or email: john.crawford@east-ayrshire.gov.uk
2. Implementation Officer: Ann Williams