

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CUMNOCK AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE - 29 MARCH 2007

SAFER STREETS - STRATHCLYDE POLICE REPORT

Report by Superintendent Elizabeth Weir
Sub Divisional Officer
East Ayrshire

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Local Committee Members of Crime Figures and Police activity within their area. Community Constables will continue to report to their respective Community Councils with more detailed information. This meeting will also provide an opportunity for members to provide feedback to Strathclyde Police on areas of concern and to have these concerns addressed.

2. CRIME TRENDS

- 2.1 The following crime statistics relate to the area of East Ayrshire Beat's 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46 & 47.

They cover the period from 1 April 2006 to 31 January 2007.

Beat 41 Cumnock

	Crimes of Violence	House breaking to homes	House breaking to garages and sheds	House breaking to Commercial premises, Schools etc.	Vehicle crime	Drug Possession	Drug Supply
April 2005-Jan 2006	105	41	5	15	18	90	19
April 2006-Jan 2007	140	12	9	20	55	61	8
Since Last Committee	25	2	3	2	15	5	2

There has been an increase in crimes of violence in the Cumnock area during the designated period. However, 128 of the violent crimes were of a minor nature and 108 were detected. Housebreaking to dwelling houses continues to fall. Vehicle crime has increased but it should be noted that half of the crimes have been detected. Vandalism in Beat 41 has decreased from 260 to 231 in the designated period.

Beat 42 Lugar, Logan, Netherthird and Craigens

	Crimes of Violence	House breaking to homes	House breaking to garages and sheds	House breaking to Commercial premises, Schools etc.	Vehicle crime	Drug Possession	Drug Supply
April 2005-Jan 2006	69	9	3	4	11	18	4
April 2006-Jan 2007	49	6	2	12	12	18	0
Since Last Committee	9	0	0	0	2	2	0

There has been a decrease in the number of crimes of violence in the Lugar, Logan, Netherthird and Craigens area. 37 of the violent offences committed were detected. There has been a decrease in housebreakings to dwelling houses and garages and sheds. Housebreakings to commercial premises have increased, however efforts are being made by CID and Community Police Officers to gather intelligence and identify suspects.

Vandalism in Beat 42 has also shown an increase from 96 reported incidents to 117 incidents. Community Police are actively targeting youths believed to be responsible through educational work in local schools and youth clubs.

Beat 43 Auchinleck, Skares and Ochiltree

	Crimes of Violence	House breaking to homes	House breaking to garages and sheds	House breaking to Commercial premises, Schools etc.	Vehicle crime	Drug Possession	Drug Supply
April 2005-Jan 2006	71	10	2	7	22	32	6
April 2006-Jan 2007	65	10	2	5	11	30	6
Since Last Committee	12	1	1	0	3	3	0

There is an overall reduction in crimes of violence in the Auchinleck area with 49 of the violent offences detected. Vehicle crime has reduced by half compared to the same period last year. Overall, housebreaking to dwellings, garages and commercial premises has decreased slightly during the designated period.

Vandalism in Beat 43 has decreased from 119 incidents to 110 reported incidents. Community Officers will continue to focus efforts on reducing vandalism.

Beat 44 Mauchline

	Crimes of Violence	House breaking to homes	House breaking to garages and sheds	House breaking to Commercial premises, Schools etc.	Vehicle crime	Drug Possession	Drug Supply
April 2005-Jan 2006	35	7	5	14	6	16	4
April 2006-Jan 2007	23	10	3	8	12	11	2
Since Last Committee	7	0	1	0	0	2	0

There has been a reduction in overall crime in the Mauchline area compared to the same period last year. Crimes of violence have shown a marked decrease with 19 violent offences detected. However, there has been an increase in domestic housebreakings and vehicle crime. Intelligence is being gathered to identify suspects and implement an action plan to quell the rise in domestic housebreaking and vehicle crime.

Vandalism for Beat 44 has decreased from 42 incidents to 33 incidents when compared to the same period last year.

Beat 45 Catrine and Sorn

	Crimes of Violence	House breaking to homes	House breaking to garages and sheds	House breaking to Commercial premises, Schools etc.	Vehicle crime	Drug Possession	Drug Supply
April 2005-Jan 2006	25	7	2	7	7	9	0
April 2006-Jan 2007	32	6	2	6	21	14	0
Since Last Committee	3	1	1	0	5	2	0

There has been an increase in crimes of violence and a rise in vehicle crime in the Catrine and Sorn area. However, 30 of the violent offences have been of a minor nature and 22 were detected. Community Police and CID are actively gathering intelligence and seeking suspects in relation to the rise in

vehicle related crime. By proactively tackling misuse of drug offences, there has been a noticeable increase in persons being reported for possession.

Vandalism has shown an increase from 44 incidents to 67 during the designated period. However, Community Police are educating youths through educational work in local schools and youth clubs.

Beat 46 Muirkirk and Glenbuck

	Crimes of Violence	House breaking to homes	House breaking to garages and sheds	House breaking to Commercial premises, Schools etc.	Vehicle crime	Drug Possession	Drug Supply
April 2005-Jan 2006	27	2	0	0	5	6	0
April 2006-Jan 2007	31	1	1	3	6	3	1
Since Last Committee	4	0	1	2	1	0	0

Crimes of violence have increased when compared to the same period last year. However, 27 were of a minor nature and 21 of the violent offences have been detected, including 1 detected for attempted murder.

Vandalism has shown an increase from 23 reported incidents to 37 when compared to the same period last year. 12 vandalism offences were detected.

Beat 47 New Cumnock

	Crimes of Violence	House breaking to homes	House breaking to garages and sheds	House breaking to Commercial premises, Schools etc.	Vehicle crime	Drug Possession	Drug Supply
April 2005-Jan 2006	33	13	7	5	14	14	3
April 2006-Jan 2007	29	11	1	8	12	11	4
Since Last Committee	3	4	1	2	2	4	4

In the New Cumnock area, crimes of violence have decreased. Of the 29 violent offences committed, 23 were of a minor nature and 21 detected. Overall, housebreaking has reduced and this is especially noticeable in the reduction of housebreakings to garages and sheds during the designated period. Vehicle crime has shown a slight decrease.

Vandalism has decreased from 85 to 52 crimes when compared to the same period last year.

- 2.2 The detection rate for group 1 – 7 crimes (all crimes and offences) in the committee area is currently 67%, compared to a Force Detection Rate of 69.5%.
- 2.3 The Ayrshire Division Control Strategy for 2006 – 2007 focuses on Violent Crime, Acquisitive Crime, Vandalism and Anti Social behaviour, has had a positive impact on those crimes of greatest concern.

3. OVERVIEW ON ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

- 3.1 Disorder offences, defined by the Scottish Executive as Breach of the Peace, Urinating in Public, Drunk and Incapable and Consumption of Alcohol in a Public Place.
- 3.2 Disorder offences increased from 596 to 646 when compared to the same period last year. This increase is the result of 80 pro-active action plans targeting street drinking and street disorder.
- 3.3 Vandalism has decreased from 669 to 647 within the designated period. This reduction is a result of 80 pro-active action plans and education in schools and youth clubs. A review of all vandalism is being carried out to identify any patterns or key suspects.
- 3.4 There are currently 6 Anti-Social Behaviour Orders, 21 Acceptable Behaviour Contracts and 6 UBNs in place within the committee area. Local officers work closely with partner agencies including the Housing Department, Neighbourhood Disputes Team, SACRO mediation service as well as Shire Housing to address local concerns at the earliest opportunity by the most effective means.

4. PRO-ACTIVITY

- 4.1 A pro-active approach to youth disorder is adopted each weekend throughout the area, whereby off-sales premises and known hot spots are regularly visited. This strategy produces positive results including the confiscation of alcohol and individuals being reported for street drinking offences. The parents/guardians of juveniles located at hot spots and areas of standing complaint are notified of this through the Parent Alert Letter process. During the months of December 2006 and January 2007, 73 letters were sent out to parents regarding minor disorder complaints.
 - 4.1.1 **Cumnock** – Additional patrols at weekends have concentrated on the areas of the Woodroad Park and Broomfield Playing Fields in an effort to combat underage drinking and youth disorder. This has resulted in large quantities of alcohol being seized, some of which has been traced to the supplying off-licence premises through the ongoing Bottle Marking initiative. A full evaluation of recovered alcohol will be undertaken at the end of the scheme. Several juveniles have been reported for a series of vandalisms and housebreakings as a result of intelligence gathering by local Community Police Officers.

- 4.1.2 Cumnock Landward** – An action plan aimed at addressing the increase in vandalism in Netherthird saw the Mobile Police Office and cycle patrols visit the area both midweek and at weekends. In addition, a letter drop was carried out in Menzies Avenue, encouraging the reporting of all incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour to the Police. This action plan has resulted in several Contact Cards being submitted to the Community Safety Department and some valuable intelligence being obtained. Attention continues to be given to the vicinity of the shops in Netherthird and Logan, which remain a gathering point for local youths. However, future action plans will address this issue.
- 4.1.3 Auchinleck/Ochiltree** – Community Police Officers and Core Groups have been providing extra attention to Auchinleck during late afternoons and early evenings in order to tackle vandalism to service buses passing through the village. This has included the Mobile Police Office being present in the area and officers monitoring buses during their journey. Well Road and Main Street remain a focal point for local youths, with both areas featuring in weekend action plans.
- 4.1.4 Mauchline** – High visibility patrols continue in the hot spot areas of Beechgrove Park and Loudoun Street, where local youths are known to consume alcohol and become involved in street disorder. As a result, several juveniles from Mauchline have been the subject of the 73 Parental Alert Letters that have been issued.
The Community Officer has been heavily involved with local primary pupils delivering Citizenship and the Law presentations, which has been met with a favourable response from both parents and teachers.
- 4.1.5 Catrine** – With partner agencies, Community Police Officers have been involved in youth diversity projects whereby the Youth Express and YIP World TARDIS have visited the village on Friday evenings, allowing officers to interact with local youths and provide anti alcohol and drug abuse advice and guidance. This has proved a popular venture which has been well received. The areas of Sommerville Street, Shawlands Street and Sorn Street remain places of standing complaint and will continue to be the main focus of action plans in the area.
- 4.1.6 Muirkirk** – High visibility patrols have undertaken visits to all licensed premises within the village on a regular basis with advice and guidance being provided to staff. The Community Officer, supplemented by Core Group officers, has concentrated on concerns raised in relation to speeding motorists, with several drivers being reported and warned accordingly.
- 4.1.7 New Cumnock** – Community Officers and PACT personnel were involved in successful house searches in New Cumnock resulting in four persons being reported to the Procurator Fiscal for offences under the Misuse Drugs Act 1971.
Youth diversity projects have included the use of the Youth Express and YIP World TARDIS within the village on Friday evenings and the transport of some 10-12 boys to the Football Night Leagues in Cumnock. This has been made possible by the Netherthird Youth Group, Four Connections.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-

- (i) identify any local problems which may be addressed by local officers;
and
- (ii) otherwise, note the content of this report.

Superintendent Elizabeth Weir
Strathclyde Police
Kilmarnock Police Office
10 St Marnock Street
Kilmarnock
KA1 1TJ

9 March 2007

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS - NIL

Implementation Officer – [mail to:Donald.McIntosh@east-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:Donald.McIntosh@east-ayrshire.gov.uk)
Sgt McIntosh can be contacted at Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock,
Tel 01563 576512.