

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DOON VALLEY LOCAL COMMITTEE –24 JANUARY 2006 SAFER STREETS STRATHCLYDE POLICE REPORT

Report by Superintendent Elizabeth Weir
Sub Divisional Officer
East Ayrshire

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1.1 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

2.2.1 The following crime statistics relate to the area of East Ayrshire Beat 48 which relates to Drongan, Dalrymple and Rankinston, also Beat 49 Dalmellington and Patna. Collectively known as the Doon Valley.

They cover the period from 1 April 2005 to 30 November 2005.

Beat 48 Drongan, Dalrymple and Rankinston

	Crimes of Violence	House breaking to homes	House breaking to garages and sheds	House breaking to Commercial premises, Schools etc.	Vehicle crime	Drugs Possession and Supply
April 2004- Nov 2004	32	5	0	0	4	10
April 2005 – Nov 2005	37	5	1	3	14	16

Crimes of violence and housebreaking crimes have shown a slight increase. Vehicle crime has shown an increase. Detections for Drugs possession and supply have shown an increase due to Proactivity.

Beat 49 Dalmellington and Patna

	Crimes of Violence	House breaking to homes	House breaking to garages and sheds	House breaking to Commercial premises, Schools etc.	Vehicle crime	Drugs Possession and Supply
April 2004- Nov 2004	114	2	1	12	12	23
April 2005 – Nov 2005	101	6	1	4	12	21

It is particularly pleasing to note that crimes of violence have decreased as have Housebreaking crimes. Vehicle crime has remained static. Drug related offences have shown a slight decrease.

- 2.2.3** The detection rate for group 1 – 7 crimes (all crimes and offences) in the Doon Valley area is currently running at 67%, which is an extremely favourable detection rate.
- 2.2.4** The Ayrshire Division Control Strategy for 2005 – 2006 focuses on Violent Crime, Acquisitive Crime, Vandalism and Anti Social behaviour. Efforts over the next year will impact positively on the above figures.

3 OVERVIEW ON ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

- 3.1.1** 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.
- 3.1.2** Disorder offences fell from 186 to 172 within the designated period. This decrease is largely due to the amount of proactive policing within the Doon Valley area.
- 3.1.3** Vandalism fell from 152 to 144 within the designated period and work will continue to address this type of crime.
- 3.1.4** Targeted patrols are having a positive effect on disorder, which is being complemented by the additional work done by our community officers in schools and youth clubs in the area. These inputs encourage good citizenship and positive behaviour while discouraging disorder, drunkenness and vandalism.

- 3.1.5** The ASB team and local officers work closely with partner agencies including the Housing Department, Neighbourhood Disputes Team, SACRO mediation service to address local concerns at the earliest opportunity by the most effective means.

4 CHANGES TO POLICE SERVICE DELIVERY

- 4.1.1** At present Strathclyde Police is undergoing a major change programme that will significantly improve our service to the public. The following is a brief outline some of the projects and provides updated information in relation to the timescale. To enhance the service within East Ayrshire additional Community Police officers will be appointed and a mobile police office will replace the closure of certain police offices that are no longer required given the impact of the abovementioned improvements.
- 4.1.2 Airwave Radio:** Within Ayrshire the project will “go live” on or about 8th March 2006. This digital system provides enhanced coverage, clarity and security and is the foundation for further development within communications including telephony and mobile data. Every officer will be issued with a personal handset capable of contacting anyone on the extended police network in the UK. This will require increased security measures, which, cannot be done at the smaller offices.
- 4.1.3 Contact Centre:** The new Contact Centres will take all calls for Ayrshire from March 2006. This will mean that wherever a caller is, whatever number they dial the call will be diverted to a contact centre and will be answered quickly and professionally by trained and competent staff who will be able to deal with the calls efficiently. This will put an end to the current frustrations when trying to call an individual police office and receiving the message “you are being held in a queue and will be answered shortly”. As this will increase the workload the structures need to be in place to deal with this but it will also provide a more accurate picture of the problems and issues affecting the communities.
- 4.1.4 Area Control Room:** There is currently a police control room within East Ayrshire based at Kilmarnock. In March 2006 this will be replaced by an Area Control Room at Force Headquarters, Pitt Street, Glasgow. This will release staff locally for operational deployment and will provide a greater link to the Contact Centres.
- 4.1.5 Divisional Call Handling Unit:** This Unit has been operational at Ayr police office since September 2005 and takes calls from the public on police matters. This directly reduces the demand on busy officers and the public feedback from this Unit has been very positive.
- 4.1.6 Community Police Officers:** Community Police officers have been able to forge excellent local relationships with Councillors, Community Councils, Residents Associations and other. These officers deal with local issues in

conjunction with other services and this is true partnership working in action. All Community officers work closely with the wardens, anti-social behaviour investigative teams and others to provide long-term solutions to problems.

4.1.7 Mobile Police Office: A mobile police office has recently arrived in East Ayrshire. The Sub Divisional Officer, Superintendent Weir, has developed a schedule for the mobile office and parking places have been devised to meet the needs of the local communities.

4.1.8 Police Offices: Inspection reports have been received and recommend closure of some of the smaller offices. Many of these offices are in a poor state of repair. By closing smaller offices substantial revenue savings can be achieved which will then be directed towards further service improvements. The following police offices will close on 1st February 2006:

Muirkirk
Newmilns
Darvel
New Cumnock
Mauchline

The provision of the mobile office will be in place by this time and there will be no detrimental effect.

4.1.9 Conclusions: The changes and developments will lead to improvements in service delivery and provide East Ayrshire with a structure to face the challenges that lie ahead. Strathclyde Police is committed to tackling crime and criminals effectively in East Ayrshire and plays a leading role in making East Ayrshire safe. Updates will be provided to the local media to ensure they have accurate information and also the opportunity to report these changes.

5. LOCAL IMPACT

5.1.1 Locally the major developments and changes highlighted will work towards improvements in service delivery throughout the Doon Valley area.

5.1.2 The introduction of the Airwave radio system and the secure communication it allows will provide a first class tool in the fight against crime. It also provides us with greater officer safety in remote areas such as the Doon Valley. The Divisional Call Handling Unit and Contact Centre are new departments, which can deal with incidents, which do not require a police response, quickly and professionally. In turn this allows local Officers more time for routine patrol dealing with issues of concern to the wider community.

- 5.1.3** The Community Officers will continue with their excellent work liaising with our partner agencies working towards reducing the anti-social behaviour problems within our area. They will also ensure the delivery of Citizenship and the Law inputs to our primary and secondary school pupils.
- 5.1.4** The arrival of the Mobile Police Office in East Ayrshire will provide an excellent resource for the Doon Valley. The villages of Dalrymple, Rankinston, Patna and Bellsbank will benefit from the office which will attend at a publicised place and time on a set day of the week within each of the villages. The residents will be able to report incidents, report lost property or hand in found property. This will allow us to forge closer relations with the residents of these outlying villages.
- 5.1.5** Overall the introduction of these changes, will allow more flexibility in the policing of the area along with the provision of a more professional service to the public.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1.1** 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

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.