

## EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

### DOON VALLEY LOCAL COMMITTEE –6 SEPTEMBER 2005 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 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 June 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- June 2004	12	3	0	1	1	9
April 2005 – June 2005	13	2	1	0	3	4

Overall Crime in the Drongan, Dalrymple and Rankinston area has shown a slight decrease down 11%. Crimes of violence has shown a very slight increase up one whilst housebreaking crimes have shown a marginal decrease of one. Vehicle crime has shown an increase of 2.

## **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- June 2004	51	1	0	4	7	18
April 2005 – June 2005	36	1	1	2	6	2

Crime within the Dalmellington and Patna area has shown an overall decrease of 32%. It is particularly pleasing to note that crimes of violence have decreased. Housebreaking crime and Vehicle crime have shown a slight decrease down 1.

- 2.2** Through high visibility policing and good work from various departments within the police it has resulted in a reduction in overall crime in the committee area, and particularly pleasing is the reduction in crimes of violence. It is also pleasing to see the number of housebreakings to dwelling houses falling, Housebreakings to commercial premises also show a reduction, however housebreakings to garages and sheds and also vehicle crime show a marginal increase. Proactively tackling misuse of drugs has resulted in considerable success detecting drug related crime.
- 2.3** The detection rate for group 1 – 7 crimes (all crimes and offences) in the Doon Valley area is currently running at 68%, which is an extremely favourable detection rate.
- 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** 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 fell from 92 to 65 within the designated period. This increase is largely due to the amount of proactive policing within the Doon Valley area.

- 3.3** Vandalism fell from 68 to 44 within the designated period and work continues during the summer months with School Watch to address the seasonal effects on this type of crime. Local Community officers in Dalmellington and Patna have recently attended local youth groups along with the support of the anti vandalism bus. This was well received and will be repeated throughout the area.
- 3.4** The focus of police attention in relation to disorder over recent weeks has been Cedar Terrace, Dalrymple and Bellsbank Primary School, Dalmellington Dalvennan Ave and Carskeoch Caravan Park Patna. Additional patrols are being utilised in these areas at highlighted problem times.
- 3.5** Targeted patrols are continuing to have a positive effect on disorder, which is being complemented by the work done by our community officers in schools and youth clubs in the area. These inputs are designed to encourage good citizenship and positive behaviour while discouraging disorder, drunkenness and vandalism.
- 3.6** The ASB team and Police ASB liaison officer are presently carrying out enquiries in the Dalrymple area, which may result in further action being taken. 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 PRO-ACTIVITY**

- 4.1** Regular patrols on foot, by vehicle and pedal cycle have been carried out in the section allowing greater visibility throughout the area. Additional resources through overtime patrols by community constables, shift personnel and special constables have targeted any identified hotspots in response to community concerns, relating to youths congregating and general disorder and these have resulted in areas quietening down effectively. Action plans for additional resources have been submitted and approved, allowing greater coverage and flexibility.
- 4.2** As you are no doubt aware, there is an increasing public concern over anti social behaviour and in particular the problems, which are caused by under-age and excessive consumption of alcohol. East Ayrshire Licensing board, East Ayrshire council, Strathclyde Police and other Community Planning partners are committed to addressing this problem and minimising the impact on the communities within East Ayrshire. It is recognised that many licence holders are being pro-active in this area and operating in a responsible manner. It can therefore be seen that a number of parties are already working in partnership. At the meeting of the East Ayrshire Licensing board in March 2005 it was decided that a further step forward would be for all Off-Sales licence holders to sign up to a voluntary code of conduct. Community Police and Trading standards officers have visited each off-sales premises and premises are now participating in the scheme almost without exception. The

code covers issues such as: - no proof/no sale, proof of age, staff training, record keeping, irresponsible promotions and best practice.

- 4.3** The Road Safety Action Plan is now up and running with the aims of influencing driver behaviour, reducing the number of road traffic accidents/fatalities/injuries and to allay fears of the community regarding speeding drivers. All community police officers are now trained in the use of hand held speed detectors and have already been out using these devices in the recognised areas in the Doon Valley area, where speeding is reported by various community groups or individuals.
- 4.4** Youth Diversion from crime forms a large part of the Community Safety Action Plan and considerable work has been done over the last months by Community Planning Partners to provide opportunities in the Doon Valley Area. A new summer initiative named street sport express was launched by Leisure Development Services has had a considerable impact in all areas of East Ayrshire. The idea is a simple one, fill a vehicle with trained workers and leisure equipment, advertise where you will be and turn up for a game of whatever suits. This will be considered through the summer months and Community Police are liaising with Leisure Services to maintain a related programme of diversion to capture the interest of young people through the winter months. At present building work is under way within Dalmellington on 'The Zone' which will initially provide a café style environment along with learning opportunities for 16-25yr olds.

## **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.

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## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**Nil.**

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