

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

**KILMARNOCK CENTRAL LOCAL COMMITTEE – 30 AUGUST 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

2.1.1 The following crime statistics relate to the area of East Ayrshire Beat 31, 32, 33, 34 and 38 which relate to Kilmarnock Town Centre, Bonnyton, Piersland, Grange, Bentick, Howard, Gargieston, Crosshouse, Knockintiber and Gatehead.

2.1.2 They cover the period from 1 April 2005 to 31 June 2005.

	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 2005	98	16	1	23	80	45
April 2005 – June 2005	65	6	5	12	37	32

2.1.3 High visibility policing and good work from various departments within the police has resulted in a reduction in overall crime, and particularly pleasing is the dramatic reduction in crimes of violence. It is also pleasing to see an overall reduction in the number of housebreakings to dwelling houses and

commercial premises although there is a slight increase in the number of garden sheds broken into. Targeting those responsible for vehicle crime has resulted in a substantial decrease in vehicle related crime.

- 2.1.4** The detection rate for group 1 – 7 crimes (all crimes and offences) in the Kilmarnock Central Committee area is still on the increase, currently running at 70%, which is an extremely favourable detection rate.
- 2.1.5** 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 196 to 116 within the designated period. This decrease is largely due to the amount of proactive policing within the Central area and there are no disorder hotspots identified within the area at this time.
- 3.1.3** Vandalism dropped dramatically from 105 to 65 crimes within the designated period.
- 3.1.4** The focus for police attention in relation to disorder over the period has been M & D traveling funfair between 19th and 30th May at Scott Ellis playing fields and the Town Centre area. Scott Ellis playing fields and the surrounding streets were rigorously policed during the funfair and there were few incidents requiring police attention. The Town Centre area has been subject to additional patrols, the key times identified through incident analysis.
- 3.1.5** Targeted patrols are continuing to have a positive effect which is being complemented by the work carried out by out community officers in all schools, youth clubs and organisations. These inputs are designed to encourage good citizenship and positive behaviour, while discouraging disorder, drunkenness and vandalism.
- 3.1.6** The Anti Social Behaviour Unit and Police Anti Social Behaviour Liaison Officer are presently working towards several complaints from businesses and residents in the Central area. An Interim Anti Social Behaviour Order relating to serious neighbour complaints has been granted at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court relating to one individual. There is presently one acceptable behaviour contract (aggressive begging) and one unacceptable behaviour notice (neighbour nuisance) in force.

4. PRO-ACTIVITY

- 4.1.1** Regular patrols on foot, by vehicle and pedal cycle have been carried out in the area 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.
- 4.1.2** 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.
- 4.1.3** 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 allaying 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 East Ayrshire where speeding is reported by various community groups or individuals.
- 4.1.4** 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 Central area. A new summer initiative named street sport express, 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.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1.1 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.

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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil.

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