

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

**KILMARNOCK CENTRAL LOCAL COMMITTEE – 17th January 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

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

2.1.2 They cover the period from 1 April 2005 to 30 November 2006.

Beats 31 – 34 (Kilmarnock Town Centre)

	Crimes of Violence	House breaking to homes	House breaking to garages and sheds	House breaking to Commercial premises, Schools etc.	Vehicle crime	Drugs	
						Possession	Supply
April 2005 – Nov 2005	125	12	3	14	52	41	22
April 2006 - Nov 2006	190	9	0	15	46	74	30

2.1.3 Crimes of violence have increased on last years figures, the majority of these are petty assaults a good number of which occurred in Town centre areas near to licensed premises, which have been proactively targeted by operational officers and licensing staff. Housebreakings have shown an overall decrease as has vehicle related crime. Proactivity in tackling misuse

of drugs has resulted in continued success in detecting drug related crimes with 104 crimes being reported compared to 63 in the same period last year.

Beat 38 (Grange, Howard, Gargieston, Crosshouse, Gatehead & Knockentiber)

	Crimes of Violence	House breaking to homes	House breaking to garages and sheds	House breaking to Commercial premises, Schools etc.	Vehicle crime	Drugs	
						Possession	Supply
April 2005 – Nov 2005	41	19	5	11	25	3	2
April 2006 - Nov 2006	40	13	3	8	19	8	4

2.1.4 Crimes of violence have dropped slightly this reporting period. Housebreakings show a steady decline, as does vehicle crime. There is an increase in detections for drugs supply and possession for this period.

2.1.5 The detection rate for group 1 – 7 crimes (all crimes and offences) in the Central area is currently running at 76%, which is an extremely favourable detection rate.

2.1.6 The Ayrshire Division Control Strategy for 2005 – 2006 focuses on Violent Crime & Domestic Abuse, management of Registered and Non-Registered Sex Offenders, Child Protection, Drugs and Antisocial behaviour. Efforts over the 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 increased from 328 to 456 within the designated period due to police proactivity in these areas.

3.1.3 Vandalism has increased from 171 to 196 within the designated period. There is still no pattern to the vandalism and indications are that the schools have not been the main targets as of late.

3.1.4 There are currently 2 Anti-Social Behaviour Orders in place within the Central Area (Bonnyton and Kilmarnock Town Centre). There are currently no ABCs or UBNs in the Kilmarnock Central area. Local officers work closely with partner agencies including the Housing Department, Neighbourhood Disputes Team, SACRO mediation service as well as Atrium Homes to address local concerns at the earliest opportunity by the most effective means.

3.1.5 28 Parent Alert Letters have been issued as a result of contact cards being submitted by operational officers in relation to youth disorder.

4. LOCAL AREA IMPACT

4.1.1 The main concern in the Courts area of New Farm Loch has been young people hanging about the shops in Russell Court, however due to extra policing this has now reduced considerably. Police are also giving attention to youths hanging about the shops in Lindsay Drive.

4.1.2 There are ongoing issues with youths gathering in and around Gargieston Primary, The Mount and Dundonald Road. Local Community Officer continues to monitor the situation given extra attention at key times. In Bonnyton although there are no issues relating to youth disorder although a recent arson attack on a signal box resulted in extensive damage and major disruption to local rail network. British Transport Police dealing with this, have a witness to the incident and are following a positive line of enquiry.

4.1.3 There are still concerns with youths gathering outside the Spar Shop in Crosshouse, although they move quickly due to the fact that the Mosquito device has been fitted outside the shop. This device emits a repetitive sound which is detected by the younger generation which after a short period of time makes it very uncomfortable for them to remain in the area. Staff within the Spar state that it affects most if not all of the youths involved. No issues of youth disorder in Gatehead but reports have been received of youths gathering at the play park area in Knockentiber. The community officer is giving the area extra attention.

4.1.4 During the festive period, Kilmarnock Town Centre was busy with shoppers and party goers. Measures were taken to combat any criminal activity with extra patrols provided during all shopping and relevant days and to provide public reassurance and confront antisocial behaviour. Excellent results were achieved in partnership with the local shopkeepers with 67 arrests for shoplifting, drugs offences, warrants and various other offences, including Breach of the peace and street drinking in this area.

4.1.5 On Friday 8 December 2006 East Ayrshire Community Safety Partnership also commenced the SAFEZONE initiative to tackle alcohol related violence and disorder. The focus of this initiative is Foregate Square and the taxi rank between 2300 and 0330 hours on Friday/Saturday nights where stewards are employed as taxi marshals supported by police personnel. The police mobile office is also situated in the Square offering members of the public a focal point for reassurance. Results and public feedback have been positive.

4.1.6 The refurbishment of Kilmarnock Police Office is now complete with an improved public reception area and Prisoner Management has now returned to the office.

4.1.7 A warrants initiative is to commence on 8th January 2007 and a drugs initiative will commence in February 2007.

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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