

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

KILMARNOCK CENTRAL LOCAL COMMITTEE - 14th March 2007 SAFER STREETS STRATHCLYDE POLICE REPORT

Report by Superintendent Elizabeth Weir
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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 2006 to 31 January 2007.

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 - Jan 2006	206	22	4	24	77	72	35
April 2006- Jan 2007	272	14	1	23	59	108	40
Since last Committee	82	5	1	8	13	34	10

2.1.3 Crimes of violence have increased on last year's figures. However, the detection rate for Crimes of Violence has also increased from 44 to 57. The majority of these are petty assaults, a good number of which occurred in the

Town Centre area near to Licensed Premises. The Licensed Premises in question have been proactively targeted by operational officers and licensing staff. Housebreakings have shown an overall decrease as has vehicle related crime. Proactively targeting drug users and drug dealers has yielded some excellent results in detecting drug related crimes with 148 crimes being reported compared to 107 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 - Jan 2006	63	27	7	13	34	14	11
April 2006- Jan 2007	49	14	6	13	35	11	4
Since last Committee	9	1	3	5	16	3	0

2.1.4 Crimes of violence have dropped during this reporting period. The detection rate has increased from 8 to 9. Housebreakings show a steady decline whilst vehicle crime has increased. There has been a decrease in detections for drugs supply and possession during 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%, compared to a force detection rate of 69.5%.

2.1.6 The Ayrshire Division Control Strategy for 2006 -2007 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 528 to 722 within the designated period due to police proactively patrolling in these areas. Further evidence of Police pro- activity is shown by the increase in disorder detection rate from 504 to 701.

- 3.1.3** Vandalism has increased from 254 to 269 within the designated period. There is still no pattern to the vandalism.
- 3.1.4** There are currently 2 Anti-Social Behaviour Orders in place within the Central Area (Bonnyton and Kilmarnock Town Centre). There is currently 1 ABC in the Kilmarnock Central area (Crosshouse). 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** 29 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** The Local Community Officer has continued to monitor the areas of Gargieston Primary, The Mount and Dundonald Road and has observed a decrease in the youths gathering at these areas. Although Gargieston Primary was subject to vandalism on the first day of school the holidays resulting in a number of windows broken and graffiti on walls and railings enquiry into this has resulted in a number of local youths being reported to the Reporter. Bonnyton again was subject to extensive mobile and cycle patrols no problems encountered with local youths
- 4.1.3** In the Crosshouse area there are still problems with youths loitering in Kilmarnock Road near to the Spar. This is much improved due to Police patrols and the Mosquito being deployed when the youths congregate causing them to disperse. There are parking problems in Playingfield Road at the start and end of lessons at Crosshouse Primary School, due to the fact that there is a car park being put in the area of Gatehead Road behind the school and in school premises for teacher parking. This will continue for four to six weeks until the car park is completed. Gatehead and Knockentiber are quiet and the problem with speeding traffic is much improved with both areas having speed calming in place.
- 4.1.4** During the period, Kilmarnock Town Centre was again a busy area. Police patrols by Town Centre officers Alan Stott and Jordan McManus and community officer John Douglas continue to target criminal activity. These officers provide public reassurance and confront antisocial behaviour making Kilmarnock Town Centre a better place to work and shop. Once more very good results were achieved in partnership with the local shopkeepers, CCTV and members of the public with 46 arrests for shoplifting, drugs offences, warrants and various other offences. Work is also ongoing for the renewal of the Town Centre Radio Link with equipment and installation at an advanced stage.

4.1.5 The Safezone Initiative commenced on 8th December 2006. 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 Safezone was initially manned by 1 Sgt and 5 PCs in order to cope with Christmas/New Year parties in the area but the personnel has been reduced to 3 PCs since January 2007. The police mobile office is also situated in the Foregate Square offering members of the public a focal point for reassurance. Since the beginning of the campaign 29 persons have been arrested or charged for Breach of the Peace, 1 for assault, 17 for Street Drinking, B for urinating, 2 for possession of knives, 1 for Attempting to Pervert Justice and 1 male for supplying Cannabis and Ecstasy. The initiative has received positive feedback by members of the public.

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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