

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

KILMARNOCK NORTH LOCAL COMMITTEE – 24 MAY 2005 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

2.1.1 Due to a National change in the method by which crimes were recorded in April 2004 there has been a dramatic increase on crime figures throughout Strathclyde Police area.

5.1.1 The following crime statistics relate to the area of East Ayrshire Beat 35 Northwest Kilmarnock which relates to Onthank, Altonhill, Wardneuk, Longpark and Knockinlaw, also Beat 36 New Farm Loch and The Dean.

5.1.2 They cover the period from 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005.

Beat 35 Northwest Kilmarnock

	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 2003-March 2004	179	147	38	34	224	170
April 2004 – March 2005	231	114	20	36	222	133

Beat 36 New Farm Loch

	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 2003- March 2004	112	63	29	42	192	169
April 2004 – March 2005	261	42	7	24	140	164

5.1.1 Through high visibility policing and good work from various departments within the police there has been an overall reduction in the number of housebreaking's within the North area and a decrease in vehicle related crime. There has been a decrease in detection's for drug related offences. It should be born in mind that these detections are all as a result of proactive work by the police.

5.1.2 Violent crime is an area which has been affected by the Scottish Crime Recording Standards, ensuring that there is a more accurate reporting and recording of these crimes. Domestic violence had an impacted upon these figures. Due to a number of high profile campaigns, victims feel more confident in reporting instances of Domestic Violence. Whilst this is having an impact on crime figures it is a positive step forward.

5.1.3 The detection rate for group 1 – 7 crimes (all crimes and offences) in the North area is currently running at 60%, which is a favourable detection rate.

5.1.4 The Ayrshire Division Control Strategy for 2005 – 2006 focus's on Violent Crime, Acquisitive Crime, Vandalism and Anti Social behaviour. Efforts over the next year will impact positively on the above figures.

6 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.

6.1.1 Disorder offences fell from 416 to 362 within the designated period. This decrease is largely due to the amount of proactive policing within the North area.

- 6.1.2** Vandalism rose from 379 to 715 within the designated period. Vandalism is one of the areas most affected by the introduction of the National change in crime figures, as there is now more accurate reporting and recording of vandalism.
- 6.1.3** The focus for police attention in relation to disorder over the period has been Morven Avenue, Ardgour Road and Ardgour Place in the Northwest area where additional patrols over a two week period were provided and problem individuals arrested or reported. Community officers have been liaising with a number of residents and shopkeepers to reassure them and a number of parents lettered, whose children while not committing an offence have been in the fringes, the parents asked to take responsibility for their children's behaviour. This focused action has been successful in reducing disorder incidents in the area.
- 6.1.4** 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 Antisocial Behaviour Unit and police coordinator have been working at a pace gathering information and intelligence. They are presently pursuing Anti Social Behaviour Orders (looking at three juvenile's), procedure to start eviction on the grounds of ASB for certain families, acceptable behaviour contracts / unacceptable behaviour notifications to be processed for two juveniles and parents lettered to advise them of their children's involvement in ASB.

7 PRO-ACTIVITY

- 5.1.1** 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 the hotspots in response to community concerns relating to youths congregating and general disorder.
- 5.1.2** The police continue to focus on under age drinking and positive work has resulted in the license holders co-operating with the police and the community to reduce availability of alcohol to youngsters. This will have a direct impact on disorder and vandalism.
- 4.1.3** Initiatives continue with the development of police involvement in local surgeries. Community police officers attended Wardneuk Parish church for a joint surgery together with Councillor Daniel Coffey and every second Tuesday between 1030 and 1130 a joint surgery is held at New Farm Housing office together with the local housing officer.

- 5.1.3** 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. Superintendent Weir met with William Stafford, Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services and representatives from Leisure Services and Community Services to set up a programme of youth activities through the summer months. The activities include night league football, girl's football and dance classes. The activities were identified were based on a survey of youth issues.
- 5.1.4** As a direct result of BNSF funding, housebreakers and car crime were targeted on beat 35 with some prevalent housebreakers and car thieves being apprehended, predominantly in the Onthank area. Other initiatives tackling everyday issues, such as indiscriminate parking in Dean Street and speeding were also implemented which was well received by local inhabitants.
- 5.1.5** There were in excess of 98 Action Plans executed on beat 35 alone from April 2004 to Mar 2005.

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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9 May 2005

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil.

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