

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

KILMARNOCK SOUTH LOCAL COMMITTEE – 18 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.

2.1.2 The following crime statistics relate the area of East Ayrshire Beat 37 which relates to Bellfield, Shortlees, Riccarton and Kirkstyle.

2.1.3 They cover the period from 1 April 2004 to 31 March 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 2003-March 2004	115	54	16	14	261	73
April 2004 – March 2005	205	31	18	33	164	96

- 2.1.4** 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 South area and a dramatic decrease in vehicle related crime. There has been an increase in detection's for drug related offences. These detections are all as a result of proactive work by the police.
- 2.1.5** 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.
- 2.1.6** The detection rate for group 1 – 7 crimes (all crimes and offences) in the Northern area is currently running at 61%, which is an extremely favourable detection rate.
- 2.1.7** 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.

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 rose from 250 to 267 within the designated period. This increase is largely due to the amount of proactive policing within the South area.
- 3.1.3** Vandalism rose from 178 to 312 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.
- 3.1.4** The focus of police attention in relation to disorder over recent weeks has been Central Avenue, Shortlees Road, Whattriggs Road and Kinloch Road. These areas have been subject to additional patrols, the key times identified through incident analysis.
- 3.1.5** 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 other diversion projects. These inputs are designed to encourage Good Citizenship and Positive Behaviour while discouraging disorder, drunkenness and vandalism.

- 3.1.6** Community officer Evelyn Brown commenced her Police Officer Surgery within Shortlees Community Centre on 12 April 2005 between 6.30 and 7.30pm. Two surgeries per month are planned and if successful the scheme will be extended to the Bellfield area.
- 3.1.7** Due to BNSF funding shift personnel, as well as specialist departments, including the Pro-Active Crime Team, Community Policing and Traffic Department, were able to provide regular anti disorder patrols on beat 37.
- 3.1.8** Problem licensed premises were quickly identified at Tasking & Coordinating Group meetings and in excess of 250 regular visits were carried out on licensed premises within beat 37.
- 3.1.9** The Anti social behaviour team and the Police anti social behaviour liaison officer are presently working towards 1 ASBO for residents in the South area, relating to serious neighbour complaints. There is presently 1 interim ASBO in force for serious neighbour nuisance, 3 UBN's for juveniles (general nuisance) and 1 ABC (general nuisance)

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 the hotspots in response to community concerns relating to youths congregating and general disorder.
- 4.1.2** 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** 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 Kilmarnock South 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, girls football and dance classes. The activities were identified were based on a survey of youth issues.
- 4.1.1** Housebreakers and car crime were also targeted on beat 37 with some prevalent housebreakers and car thieves being apprehended, predominantly in the Shortlees area. Within the same area there were in excess of 82 action plans carried out between April 2004 and March 2005. All of which is a direct result of BNSF funding.

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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