

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DOON VALLEY LOCAL COMMITTEE - SEPTEMBER 2000

STRATHCLYDE POLICE - SPOTLIGHT ACTIVITY AND CRIME TRENDS

Report by Chief Inspector Hugh McKnight, Strathclyde Police

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Doon Valley Local Committee of Spotlight activity and other crime trends.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 An agreement was reached between East Ayrshire Council and the local Police Commander to provide information on Spotlight initiatives and crime matters affecting local communities.

3. SPOTLIGHTS

- 3.1 The Spotlight in connection with "Safer Streets" continues and due to its success, has been extended until the end of the year. From October to December 2000 the other seven Scottish Police Forces will take part and the initiative will be known as "Safer Scotland".

- 3.2 On Friday 28 July 2000 there was a Special Initiative Force Spotlight which gave Divisions the autonomy to target areas that were of particular concern to them. Officers from Cumnock, supported by additional staff from Divisional Headquarters, Kilmarnock, targeted the Doon Valley area concentrating on licensed premises, drinking in public and disorder issues.

This resulted in 24 visits to licensed premises, one person reported for possession of an offensive weapon, one for drinking in a public place and one person for breach of the peace.

Although difficult to quantify the level of crime prevented, there were no incidents of disorder during the Spotlight in the Doon Valley area.

- 3.3 On 14 & 15 July 2000, a local Spotlight in Auchinleck was held targeting offensive weapons as well as quality of life issues such as disorder and vandalism. Over the two nights 12 visits to licensed premises were carried out and 96 persons searched for offensive weapons or drugs. This resulted in four persons being reported for Misuse of Drugs Act offenses, two apprehensions for outstanding warrants and one apprehension for breach of the peace. There were no reports of disorder or violence during the hours of the Spotlight.

- 3.4** A further Mini-Spotlight was carried out in the Catrine area targeting drinking in public between 1000 hours and 1400 hours on Friday 4 August 2000 until Saturday 6 August 2000. Twelve visits were made to licensed premises by high-profile patrols. No offences were detected.

4. CRIME TRENDS

- 4.1** Crime figures for the first quarter of the financial year show an increase in crime of 18% from 689 to 815. However, these figures also incorporate a large number of drug offences detected (85) at the Homelands Festival held at New Cumnock on 24 June 2000. The detection rate for this period was an excellent 62.9% well above the force average. Crimes of dishonesty have increased by 14.3% up from 377 to 440 and violent crime has increased by 2% up 48 crimes to 49.

To date, July statistics are not available, but a verbal update will be given at the meeting.

5. PRO-ACTIVITY

- 5.1** During the first quarter, officers based in the area searched 150 persons for drugs and 755 persons for weapons. They also visited licensed premises on 283 occasions.

Further, during the first quarter, local officers dealt with 307 offences of which 164 were disorder related as well as 204 detected road traffic offences.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1** The Committee are asked to note the report.

Chief Inspector Hugh McKnight
Strathclyde Police

11 August 2000

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AGENDA