

KILMARNOCK NORTH LOCAL COMMITTEE - 13 NOVEMBER 2001

MATTERS RAISED UNDER THE 15 MINUTE QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

	<u>MATTER RAISED</u>	<u>RESPONSE/ACTION TO BE TAKEN</u>
1.	Community Representative Matt Donnelly drew attention to the problem of surface water collecting at an area in the vicinity of Amlaird Road/Hareshaw Drive.	Agreed that the Administrative Officer advise the appropriate Department of the Council of the problem and arrange for the Department to respond directly to Mr Donnelly on the action to be taken.
2.	Community Representatives expressed concern at the use of warrant sales as a means of debt recovery and sought clarification regarding East Ayrshire Council's position on the use of warrant sales.	Councillor McIntyre advised that current legislation applicable in Scotland allows Local Authorities to utilise warrant sales, but confirmed, subject to detailed checking, that the Council had not used warrant sales as a means of recovering debt in respect of rent arrears.
3.	Community Representative Matt Donnelly suggested that, in order to combat the problem of dog fouling, there is a need to provide "No Fouling" signs and dog fouling bins at the area bounded by Grassyards Road and Kennedy Drive, New Farm Loch.	Agreed that the Administrative Officer would highlight the matter raised by Mr Donnelly to the Director of Community Services and request the Director to respond directly to Mr Donnelly on the matter.
4.	Community Representative Matt Donnelly expressed concern at the noise nuisance and disturbance caused by fire works being set off for some time before and after 5 November, particularly after 8.00 p.m. Community Representative Beryl Graham highlighted the safety implications of these actions which seem to be perpetrated in many cases by young people. During discussion, clarification was sought on the powers and responsibilities which East Ayrshire Council and Strathclyde Police have in respect of these issues.	<p>The Administration Manager explained that shops selling fireworks require to be licensed and all shops are regularly visited by Trading Standards and Police and spot checks are carried out where problems are identified.</p> <p>The Administration Manager advised that he would arrange for information to be provided to Mr Donnelly from Trading Standards on the legislative background controlling fireworks and the precise nature of the Council's powers and responsibilities.</p>

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		<p>Chief Inspector William Prendergast acknowledged that the level of nuisance and disturbance caused by the setting off of fireworks for some weeks before and after 5 November had been increasing in recent years and was particularly noticeable this year. He took the view that this was, at least partly, due to the increased availability of fireworks at this time of year over an extended period covering 5 November and New Year.</p> <p>The Chief Inspector indicated that while noise and disturbance arising from fireworks could be treated as breach of the peace, this is a difficult offence to Police. In general terms, the Association of Scottish Police Superintendents would prefer to see the sale of fireworks to the public restricted to use for co-ordinated events only, rather than to private individuals generally.</p> <p>It was confirmed that both Strathclyde Police and East Ayrshire Council would welcome information from the public in relation to possible breaches of the law in respect of the sale of fireworks, as well as nuisance and disturbance arising from the letting off of fireworks.</p>
5.	<p>Community Representative Archie Pryce reported that this was the last meeting of the Local Committee at which he would be present since the organisation which he represents, New Farm Loch Community Initiative, would be wound up at its AGM in January 2002. He explained that the Initiative had been successful in achieving its aims within the local community and on behalf of the Initiative, expressed thanks to the Local Committee and a range of local organisations and individuals who had provided support and assistance to the Initiative during its existence.</p>	<p>Councillor McIntyre, in response, acknowledged the good foresight of members of the local community in establishing the Initiative and the value of the work carried out and the positive contribution which had been made to the local community.</p>