

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

KILMARNOCK NORTH LOCAL COMMITTEE - 13 NOVEMBER 2001

COMMUNITY SAFETY IN KILMARNOCK NORTH

Report by Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Local Committee of current and planned community safety projects which will impact on the Local Committee area.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At previous meetings community representatives have highlighted a number of community safety matters. At the last meeting it was agreed that a report be prepared on the status of project in New Cumnock which involved the purchase of domestic CCTV systems for elderly residents.
- 2.2 As the New Cumnock project is still in the early stages it is intended that this report will also focus on available funding opportunities and other matters which may be of interest to the Local Committee.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Funding was secured, via the Community Safety Forum, from the Chief Constable's Fund for a security project for the elderly in New Cumnock. It was the intention at the time to purchase black and white domestic CCTV security systems to enable elderly people to see who was at the door before they answered it. The systems have yet to be purchased as the possibility of investing in colour systems is being investigated. Consequently, it is not possible to evaluate the project as anticipated and reported at the last meeting. Further information will be sought and the possibility of a local project will continue to be considered.
- 3.2 Community safety encompasses a wide range of issues including crime, fear of crime and accident prevention issues. A number of community safety issues which have been raised at the Local Committee in the past include littering and dog fouling.
- 3.3 Following the last Local Committee meeting the Head of Protective Services arranged for additional dog fouling patrols to be carried out in problem areas highlighted by the community representatives and for schools to be contacted with a view to erecting "No dog fouling" signs within school grounds.
- 3.4 The Principal Officer – Licensing and Community Safety has arranged a meeting with other Council officers and the Police Liaison Officer to discuss a co-ordinated approach to littering. It is hoped to link recycling and littering initiatives and to access available funding for this type of project. More information on the types of project suggested will be available at the time of the Local Committee meeting.
- 3.5 The Licensing and Community Safety Section had received an unprecedented number of complaints in relation to the setting off of fireworks in public places and I anticipate that this

will have been a problem in Kilmarnock North as it has been throughout East Ayrshire. The Section is involved in various aspects of this issue. The Section deals with applications for registration for sale of fireworks and with firework and bonfire safety from the wider community safety perspective. A Firework and Bonfire Safety Working Group was established by the Community Safety Forum and a Firework Safety Initiative was launched on 25 October in conjunction with ASDA supermarket. Packs containing leaflets and posters were made available throughout East Ayrshire via local offices and libraries. In addition, Trading Standards Officers made joint visits, with Police Officers, to registered premises to emphasise legal obligations and issue the packs.

- 3.6 It is unlawful to sell fireworks to those who are under 18 years of age and it is also an offence to set off fireworks in a public place. In the past the Police have indicated that they did not wish to be consulted in relation to registration of retailers of fireworks. However, the Police Licensing Office in Kilmarnock has now indicated that they wish to be consulted in the future and will provide information relating to convictions for selling fireworks to underage persons.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Any project costs will be met from existing budgets or from external funding sources.

5. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Community safety projects meet with the aims and objectives of the Community Safety Strategy.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 It is recommended that the Local Committee:-
- (i) note the content of the report and
 - (ii) contact the Principal Officer – Licensing and Community Safety regarding any proposed projects for the Kilmarnock North Area.

W Stafford
Director of Community Services

31 October 2001

Any person wishing further information should contact Alison Smith, Principal Officer Licensing and Community Safety on (01563) 554391.

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AGENDA