

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

NORTHERN AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE – 20 MARCH 2002

**SAFER STREETS
POLICING REPORT
'U' DIVISION**

Report by Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Members of the nature and results of policing issues, operations, localised crime figures and ongoing initiatives over the preceding period, and to advise of forthcoming initiatives.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Members previously agreed to make “Spotlight” a standing item on the Committee’s agenda. A 'Spotlight' report will only be included where a Force or local 'Spotlight' has taken place. Community Safety is the central theme that guides all policing in East Ayrshire. To improve the local interest of this report, several topical areas of specific local interest are included.
- 2.2.1 This report gives a general overview of crime and policing activity in the Local Committee area. Community Constables will continue to report to their respective Community Councils with more detailed information, specific to that area.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 **Crime Trends** (all figures relate to the Local Committee area)

	House breaking to homes	House breaking to garages and sheds	House breaking to Commercial premises, Schools etc.	Vehicle crime	Drugs
April 2000 -- Jan .2001	34	6	11	52	28
April 2001 – Jan. 2002	48	12	19	68	18

- 3.1.2 The number of persons charged with ‘supplying offences’ has dropped from 12 to 4 as a result of a more proactive approach.

4. Pro Active Initiative

- 4.1 Officers from the Community Safety Unit at Kilmarnock Police Office, in partnership with East Ayrshire Community Safety Forum and the Kilmarnock Town Centre Management Committee, organised a retail crime seminar which was held in the auditorium at the Dean Park Visitor centre on Wednesday 19 February. The 40 retailers who attended, listened to presentations from the police, Procurator Fiscal and Chair of Tradesafe, Dumfries. The overall aim was to alert traders to crime types that may affect their trade and customers, and offer current crime prevention advice so that Kilmarnock town centre can be promoted as a safe and secure environment in which to shop.

5. OPERATION SPOTLIGHT

- 5.1 From 1 to 31 January 2002, a total of 966 offensive weapon searches were carried out in the Kilmarnock area with 33 seizures being made. Among the weapons recovered were 19 knives and a varied selection of wooden batons other adapted items. Officers made 327 visits to licensed premises during the same period.

6. FINANCIAL/LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Nil.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 Policing in East Ayrshire is designed to combat local concerns and problems. The involvement of Members and the local community is essential to reducing crime and the fear of crime.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 It is recommended that Committee: -
- i) identify any local problems which may be addressed by a "Spotlight" operation; and
 - ii) otherwise note the content of this report.

William Stafford
 Director of Community Services
 4 March 2002
 WS/JR/JS

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil.

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AGENDA