

KITTOCH MUIR OWNERS ASSOCIATION

CRIME PREVENTION FORUM

MONDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2017 @ 6.30PM

KOA organised this event further to a request made at the last AGM.

In attendance: Local Community Police Liaison Officers – Laura and Jill. 18 houses were represented by residents.

The following key areas were discussed:

1. Security advice for property (see point 11 below).
2. Crime prevention survey (Community Police Liaison will do this following a break-in).
3. Recent examples of crime in the EK area:
 - entry to property via unlocked doors
 - devices to remove door locks being used
 - crime becoming more sophisticated in approach
 - theft of high value cars – huge problem
 - thieves will come in 4s – 2 to steal, 2 to getaway
 - no obvious pattern to crime
4. Dedicated house-breaking team in Airdrie that support EK area residents
5. Prior to meeting, Laura and Jill drove into Kittoch Muir estate. They felt the estate was very dark with dark street lighting and suggested residents speak to factor to see if lighting could be improved. The lighting is the responsibility of South Lanarkshire Council. They suggested moving from existing bulbs to new white lights, especially at the front entrance. This could potentially make the estate less attractive to anyone considering committing a theft.
6. Laura and Jill confirmed that local problem solving police teams will be allocated Community Policing Officers working in the area from May 2017. Further information is available at: <http://www.scotland.police.uk/your-community/>
7. Laura and Jill confirmed that residents should not hesitate to call 101 should they witness any suspicious behaviour and believe that a crime is being committed. Discussion took place on the car noise being experienced by “racers” in the industrial estate and on Stewartfield Way. This was an example where residents could dial 101. The police may be in a position to react if there is a high volume of calls received at the same time in regard to the same

problem.

8. Discussion on CCTV. Laura and Jill advised on careful use of CCTV in the estate. It was advised that CCTV would not be appropriate for public areas, nor would dummy CCTV cameras it would suggest the area is protected and if someone was harmed/crime took place there would be no CCTV evidence to back it up. This gives a false impression of protection to individuals entering the estate. It is up to individuals if they wish to have CCTV on their own property but the cameras should not point into a public area. Signage and dummy CCTV on private properties can also help reduce crime.

9. The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme works very well:

<https://www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk/>

People can join online individually or in groups. There are automatic alerts that can go within the group should someone see any suspicious vehicles/people. Or, for example, you can inform the group when you are off on holiday. It may also help reduce home insurance.

10. There have been 12 reported incidents in the estate in the last 12 months including 2 vehicle thefts and the report of one suspicious person and some anti-social behaviour.

11. Some examples of crime prevention advice included:

- snap locks – a mechanism to prevent thieves drilling through locks
- thumb turn – good in the event of a fire as you may be able to exit the property quicker
- battery-chime on doors – so you are aware of someone entering the house – some alarms can be programmed to do this
- look at your property for signs of weakness
- install security light on garage and in dark areas (ie at back patio doors)
- look at locks – are they robust?
- make sure your alarm, if fitted, works