

6. POLICE WARD REPORT

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by PC Paul Connor providing an update on policing activity within the Livingston South Ward.

PC Connor commenced by advising committee that Police Scotland were still without an analyst so unfortunately there was no statistical data available. He did however explain that partnership working with colleagues at the Fire Service and the council continued.

PC Connor also explained that parking, which had been raised earlier in the meeting, was not just a problem at Livingston FC's stadium but also in other parts of the ward including St John's Hospital. He explained that staff members were no longer able to park at St John's Hospital which meant that they were using nearby residential streets which was generating a number of complaints from residents. Again PC Connor explained that the biggest issue was inconsiderate parking; not illegal parking.

He continued to explain that Police Scotland were working with NHS staff about personal safety issues when it came to walking to and from the hospital, depending on where they had parked and shift patterns. He also advised that patients seemed to like the new parking arrangements as this meant they could generally always find a car parking space and were now making their hospital appointments on time.

PC Connor also advised committee that disabled parking bays also generated a number of complaints for Police Scotland some of which was attributed to a lack of understanding by users of such bays as to when they could/could not be enforced. He asked if the council could give consideration to having a page on their website explaining the procedures and processes in terms of applying for and enforcement of disabled parking bays.

PC Connor concluded his presentation by providing a brief overview on tackling substance misuse, the Parksmart Scheme for local schools and an update on a recent spate of thefts in the Ladywell area.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the Police Ward report;
2. To agree that a report on the procedures and processes for disabled parking bays by brought to the next local area committee scheduled for May; and
3. To note that Police Scotland would continue to raise concerns over indiscriminate parking in and around Livingston Football Stadium, with the club's Safety Officer.