

BoD Community Council / Police / Councillors meeting update

A meeting was held on 13th April between members of the BoD community council, local police, and three local ACC councillors in response to several concerns raised by residents about anti-social behaviour in the area. The information received by the CC was shared with the police, and various discussions held. A summary of the outcome is given below, mainly round the police response to our concerns.

In addition, the councillors have now committed to contacting the local school head teachers to reiterate that there have been problems and find out what the schools can do in terms of advising pupils/parents of issues.

Update from police:

Concerns were raised by residents over recent weeks and at the meeting on Tuesday 13th April in relation to youth disorder and anti-social behaviour. This is an ongoing issue in Bridge of Don and in other areas of the City and Shire as well.

Police Scotland are aware of the majority of these issues including at ASDA Jesmond, Ron's Bench/Ashwood, Road Traffic nuisance on the Parkway and AECC/Park and Ride car park, Westfield Park, Jesmond area / Whitestripes to name but a few. It is difficult to find a straightforward solution, and as discussed, the majority of kids are good kids, but it is the minority who cause trouble that we want to engage with and try and divert them from antisocial behaviour, but without alienating them.

To that end, we had a recent operation with hi-visibility foot patrols to engage with youths and show increased presence in the area. This is something we hope to repeat by securing additional funding for extra shifts for that purpose. Sgt Allan Masson is taking the lead on this.

I am aware the Community Wardens are also upping their patrols in those areas, and I have myself carried out extra patrols and liaised with staff at ASDA, Charlie Devine Court and the Ardene house Vet Practice. **We need residents and businesses to phone in on 101 when it occurs** so we can facilitate a response at the time it is happening.

We also have the 'contactus' online form that can be completed to report suspicious activity or public nuisance that is no longer ongoing. See Police Scotland website <https://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/contact/>
The above cannot be used to report crimes or ongoing incidents, but can be used to request passing attention.

Aberdeen City Council are the lead agency when it comes to antisocial behaviour and they have the ASBIT team which can be contacted on ASBIT@aberdeencity.gov.uk / 0800 0510434.
<https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/people-and-communities/antisocial-behaviour>
Any antisocial behaviour reported to them will make its way back to the Community Wardens and the local multi-agency meetings, which Police attend.

In the event of ongoing damage/feeling threatened or alarmed I would encourage a 999 call.

It is anticipated that as lockdown eases, youngsters may return to their old hobbies. Street Sports are not operating currently but this is something that could be looked at going forward.