



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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Dear resident,

Re: Youth Disorder – Inverkip

As you may be aware, for several years I have brought together relevant stakeholders to try to find solutions to reduce the anti-social behaviour in and around the Harbourside area in Inverkip. The meetings have included representatives from Inverkip and Wemyss Bay Community Council, local councillors, Police Scotland, British Transport Police, Inverclyde Council Community Wardens, and ScotRail. Last month, Inverkip Wemyss Bay Community Council held a well-attended single issue meeting on the issue also.

As a result of these regular meetings, I believe Police Scotland and the Community Wardens have increased their visibility and activity in the area. However, I do feel that ScotRail could invest more resources to support efforts to reduce the number of predominately young people boarding the train without paying and using this service to access the beach and wider village. That said, they do now appear to be looking to assist in this matter with a new model for addressing anti-social behaviour, which I welcome.

Stakeholders have often been told at the meetings by Police Scotland officers and Community Wardens that most of the young people are not causing any issues. However, the good weather and large groups of youths congregating can make local people using the train or beach feel intimidated. If alcohol is involved or youths who intend on causing problems visit the area, residents rightly become concerned. Add to this the issue of the mess that is left behind when large groups congregate.

Further, towards the end of summer 2023 and the second quarter of 2024, Cllr James Daisley and I were contacted by several residents who live near Wemyss Point who unfortunately experienced similar spates of anti-social behaviour.

Consequently, I sent letters to Inverkip residents in 2022 and 2024 updating them on my efforts to bring together stakeholders, and to provide contact details for the relevant agencies involved in this work.

Following the recent meeting of the Inverkip and Wemyss Bay Community Council, I thought it prudent to once again send contact details for local and national agencies you can contact when you witness any issues in and around your community.

Serving Greenock, Gourock, Inverkip, Port Glasgow & Wemyss Bay

Police Scotland – Crimes including incidents of violence, suspected drug dealing, and racial harassment should always be reported to Police Scotland on 999 or 101 for non-emergencies.

There are reports of people waiting for prolonged periods to speak to a call handler when dialling 101. If so, you can report issues using the online contact form on the Police Scotland website: <https://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/contact/>

Inverclyde Community Wardens – Community Wardens are operational between **13:00hrs-23:30hrs** and can be contacted on **0800 01 317 01** when incidents of anti-social behaviour are occurring. An answering machine is available if the line is busy. If you wish to speak to an antisocial behaviour investigator (Social Protection Team) to discuss your options or ask for advice, they can be contacted between 09:00hrs-17:00hrs on 01475 714204. You can also email the team: ASBINT@Inverclyde.gov.uk

Crimestoppers – If you have any concerns about making a report directly to the police, you can make a report to Crimestoppers anonymously by phone on **0800 555 111** and online, 24/7, 365 days a year: <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/give-information-anonymously>.

Fearless – Part of Crimestoppers, but specifically for youths to report issues anonymously: <https://www.fearless.org/en/give-info>

ScotRail – Issues on board a train or at a station should be reported to a member of rail staff or to the British Transport Police. You can also use the ‘help points’ at train stations to report issues if necessary. However, at our meetings, ScotRail have told us that they are not directing resources to combat anti-social behaviour on local trains as they are not receiving many reports. Please report any issues to BTP at the time, but also follow up by contacting ScotRail: <https://www.scotrail.co.uk/about-scotrail/contact-us>

British Transport Police – Everyone who uses Scotland’s Railway is being urged to report anything unusual either in person to a member of rail staff, or by texting or calling British Transport Police on **61016** or **0800 40 50 40**.

Having recently spoken to Police Scotland, I understand only one call was made to them throughout the whole of July regarding anti-social behaviour in Inverkip. My understanding however is that issues are continuing to take place. I would therefore urge residents to report issues as and when they are happening.

To conclude, I hope that you will not need to make any further reports this year. However, should the need arise, please report these to the appropriate agencies at the time. Please also feel free to contact me following your report to the stakeholders mentioned so I am aware of any issues taking place.

Yours sincerely,



Stuart McMillan MSP