

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

29 August 2008

Agenda Item	
Report No	

Crime Situation

Report by the Chief Constable

SUMMARY

The report informs Members of notable crimes, incidents, initiatives and convictions since the last report.

BACKGROUND

The following is a brief summary of a few of the incidents attended, illustrating the diverse and sometimes serious nature of crime and incidents throughout the Force.

RECOMMENDATION

The Board is invited to note the current position.

**I Latimer
Chief Constable**

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

AREA COMMAND: Shetland

PERIOD: From: 01/04/2008 To: 30/06/2008

1. REDUCING CRIME

Class 1 – 4 crime, for the year commencing 1 April, is showing a slight increase of 6.4%, or 13 crimes overall. However, this increase is wholly attributable to a vandalism spree instigated by a 13-year-old youth who is now in secure accommodation on the mainland. This boy was successfully reported to the Children's Reporter at Lerwick for, in excess of, 40 crimes. Class 1 crime (crimes of violence) shows an increase from 3 to 5. Class 5 crime (miscellaneous crime – including drugs) is at a similar level to the corresponding period last year. Class 2 crime (crimes of indecency) and class 3 crime (crimes of dishonesty) are showing a marked decrease on the same period last year. Class 3 crime has reduced by over 23%. Class 4 crime (vandalism) has increased by 58%, or by 37 crimes on the same period last year. However, as stated above this increase is entirely attributable to the youth mentioned above. The long term trend in this type of offence remains downward. Our detection rate for class 1 – 5 crime stands at 85%, which is an exceptional performance.

The Command Area continues to promote footpatrol as an effective medium to both reduce the incidence of and fear of crime. This has proved to be highly effective and popular, with members of the public and local businesses commenting favourably.

2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

Violent crime has increased from 3 – 5 over the course of the reporting period as compared with the same period last year. Although this represents a percentage increase of 67% the numbers are remarkably low and Shetland remains one of the safest areas in the country. The detection rate for this class of crime is 100%.

Class A drugs with a street value of £11,115 have been seized during the current review period which is an increase from £1,526 on the same period last year. This is, in the main, due to one major seizure quoted below. During the current period 5 offences regarding supply and possession with intent to supply Class A drugs have been recorded against 4 recorded during the same period last year.

We continue to make progress in tackling the supply of controlled drugs in and to Shetland through targeted specific operations. The following is a brief resume of successes during the review period :

A 38-year-old man, disembarking the Northlink Ferry was found in possession of heroin with a street value of approximately £8,500. Having pled guilty, he remains in custody awaiting sentence.

A 35-year-old man was sentenced to 2 years imprisonment for cultivation of cannabis at a house in the North Mainland of Shetland.

A 34-year-old man was sentenced to 20 months imprisonment for the supply of heroin to a woman at a house in Sandveien, Lerwick.

3. SAFER ROADS

During the review period there have been no fatal or serious road accidents. There have been 2 'slight' injury accidents resulting in 2 casualties. This represents a reduction of 60% on the same period last year.

Enforcement of road traffic legislation has resulted in 10 drivers being charged with drink driving. These figures represent a very slight decrease on the same period last year. Nobody has been detected 'drug driving' during the review period.

The promotion of Road Safety remains one of our key priorities. Through a combination of enforcement and the development of initiatives with our partner agencies we are striving to make Shetland's roads safer for all who use them. Assistance, during the period under review, was provided to the Command Area by Road Policing Unit officers from HQ. In addition to an effective period of enforcement they participated in a well received 'bikesafe' initiative

We continue to enforce legislation and have made use of the local media to encourage and advise motorists of ongoing issues.

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

We continue to work with our partners to ensure speedy and efficient Criminal Justice processes. Against the national target of 80% of police reports submitted to the Procurator Fiscal within 28 days of caution and charge, this Command Area has achieved 95.3% within 28 days. Similarly, against the target of 80% of police reports to the Children's Reporter within 14 days of caution and charge, this Command Area has achieved 97.5% within 14 days. This is, overall, the best performance in the force.

We have a detection rate of 100% for non-sexual crimes against the person in the current period.

We have detected 3 out of the 4 crimes of indecency reported. This represents a detection rate of 75%. A positive line of enquiry is being undertaken on the single undetected crime.

Our detection rate for crimes of dishonesty has risen from 55% to 80% during the review period compared to the same period last year.

The overall percentage of crimes of vandalism cleared up was 82%, an increase from 44% on the same period last year.

The provision of a CCTV system for Lerwick town centre continues to make progress, albeit slowly. An issue has arisen in regard to the size of certain components which is

causing concern to Planning Officials'. Work is ongoing to resolve this. It is anticipated that work on installing the system, once started, will take approximately 9 weeks to complete.

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

One 'racially aggravated' crime was reported and detected during the review period. This involved an arrested man shouting racist abuse at the arresting officer who was Welsh. This represents approximately 0.04 racist incidents per 1,000 population well below the target of 0.4 incidents per 1,000 population.

Planning is now underway for two forthcoming major events. The 'Hamefairin' will take place in 2010 and in 2011 the Tall Ships race will again include Shetland as a port of call.

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD REPORT

AREA COMMAND: Orkney Area Command

PERIOD: From: 1 April 2008 To 30 June 2008

1. REDUCING CRIME

It is pleasing to start the reporting year with a continued reduction in reported crime, down from 138 for the same period 2007 to 98 this year, a reduction of 29%. This decrease being accounted for by a marked reduction in Class 3 and 4 crimes (Dishonesty and Vandalism). This reduction was also accompanied by a significant detection rate of 95.9% for all Class 1 – 5 crimes. We continue to look to publicise crime prevention and it is planned to hold an information event during the next review period. The introduction of an alcohol/drug arrest referral process is in its early stages and should be completed during this reporting year

2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

Of note during this period is the increase in serious assaults, up from 1 for the same period in 2007 to 5 this year. This is a trend that is concerning, though the numbers are still low. We continue to have low incidence of Class A drugs seizures, however we are acutely aware of the issues surrounding drug misuse and are making good use of our intelligence to disrupt the supply of drugs. To assist in this we have deployed the drug detection dog on a recent successful enforcement operation.

On 12 May 2008 at Glasgow High Court Michael Ross, 29 years went to trial for the Murder of Shamsuddin Mahmood. This major crime took place on the 2 June 1994, in Kirkwall and resulted in a massive inquiry. In 2006 a witness came forward that led to a cold case review being carried out. A significant inquiry took place, witnesses were re-interviewed and the case submitted to the Crown Office. The Crown indicated that there was sufficiency of evidence to proceed with a prosecution and on 23 May 2007 Michael Ross appeared from custody at the Sheriff Court, Inverness, charged with the murder of Shamsuddin Mahmood.

The trial at the High Court, Glasgow lasted approximately 8 weeks. The accused Michael Ross being found guilty, Ross was remanded in custody and awaits sentence. This brings to a close a major crime that was unsolved for 14 years and credit must go to the officers and police staff that carried out the cold case review, resulting in the successful prosecution.

3. SAFER ROADS

Safer Roads continue to be a high priority for the area command, with 7 drink drivers detected over this period. Extra patrols are being tasked targeting speeding, seatbelts and mobile phone use, as well as drink and drug drivers, these patrols are intelligence-led through the National Intelligence Model.

There were 36 road collisions recorded over this period, 29 non-injury, 6 slight injury and no serious injury. One fatal road traffic collision occurred on 24 May 2008 on the island of Stronsay, where a 17-year-old male sustained fatal injuries. This collision is subject to a police report and is sub-judice. However we have no recorded Fatal or serious injuries for children over this period which is very welcome

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

We continue to use the local media to publicise our performance and take every opportunity to inform the wider public. Community Councils provide a suitable vehicle and at the recent Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council it was pleasing to note a comment that our increased foot patrols have been noted by members of the public.

During this period we have exceeded the national targets set for the submission of police reports to both the Children's Reporter (14 calendar days) and the Procurator Fiscal (28 calendar days).

As previously mentioned our detection rates for class 1 – class 5 crimes are at an excellent level and coupled with the reduction in reported crime, clearly contribute to the sense of wellbeing within our community.

A significant public impact assessment and a media strategy were produced, in consultation with Crime Support and Media Services, to address the positive and negative impact on the community following the conclusion of the murder trial of Michael Ross. This approach has proved successful.

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

Over the period under review, extra patrols have been directed towards Anti-Social Behaviour. This has been achieved by external funding sourced through the Orkney Drugs Alcohol Smoking Action Team (DASAT) and has produced a reduction in street disturbances. Further initiatives are planned over the summer period, again with an emphasis on foot patrols targeting under-age drinking and anti-social behaviour.

Racist crime remains at a low recorded level, though we are acutely aware that our community is not immune to such crimes and that when reported, they will be rigorously investigated.

Looking forward over this summer period there are challenges to policing, with many annual public events taking place, from Stromness Shopping Week in July to the annual agriculture shows in August. These events are varied and many, though with the assistance of the public and good policing should be once again successful.

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

CENTRAL DIVISION

AREA COMMAND: WESTERN ISLES

PERIOD: From: April 2008 To: June 2008

1. REDUCING CRIME

The Area Command detection rate for crimes class 1 to 5 is currently 74% against a Force average of 64.4%

2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

Attempted Murder

On 5th May a 49 year-old-male was apprehended following the stabbing of another 48 year-old-male in Stornoway. The 49-year-old male appeared at Stornoway Sheriff Court and the case continues.

Misuse of Drugs

Following the above incident further enquiry revealed a 39-year-old female and 48-year-old male believed to be concerned in the supply of controlled drugs in the Stornoway area. Drugs to the value of £14,000 were seized.

Assault

On 20th May within Stornoway town centre, a 33-year-old male was assaulted with a knife by two 18-year-old males. Two 18-year-old males were apprehended and appeared in Stornoway Sheriff Court where the case continues.

Misuse of Drugs

Following police enquiries into drug supply activity in Lewis, a 19-year-old male and 21-year-old female appeared at Stornoway Sheriff Court in connection with the supply of controlled drugs. Drugs to the value of £30,000 were seized.

3. SAFER ROADS

During the period 1st April – 30th June, there were 9 recorded slight injury accidents and no serious injury or fatal road accidents.

The Area Command continue to provide the testing of children engaged in the Scottish Cycle Training Scheme. During this period 268 pupils were tested and passed through the scheme.

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

On 15th May 2008 the Choices For Life event for primary seven children returned to Stornoway. During this event all the children were informed of the dangers of alcohol and drugs together with dealing with bullying and peer pressure, all mixed in with music and drama. In total 304 pupils attended this annual and highly thought of event.

On 16th May a 23-year-old male was sentenced to 8 months' imprisonment for a spate of thefts in the Stornoway area where he was convicted of 4 thefts by OLP from motor vehicles.

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

- Operation Harlequin which is an ongoing operation targeting anti social behaviour throughout the Western Isles, continues to tackle the underage drinking culture each weekend.
- Letters are now being sent to parents of those under 16 years of age caught with or in the company of those in possession of alcohol.
- Of note is a case at the end of May in the Vatisker Beach area where 7 individuals were caught with alcohol valued in excess of £70.
- During the period under review 3 individuals have been reported for the supplying of alcohol to person under age. This aspect of Operation Harlequin will continue to be robustly policed.

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

AREA COMMAND: Caithness, Sutherland & Easter Ross

PERIOD: From: 1st April 2008 To: 30th June 2008

1. REDUCING CRIME

In the period to 30th June 2008, we have achieved a significant reduction in reported crime by some 30%, equivalent to some 215 crimes. Our detection rate for class 1-5 crimes has risen to 57%. The key future focus is pro-activity in deterring & detecting crimes of dishonesty & vandalism, where our detection rate lies at 44.2% and 32.8% respectively. The formation of the Pro-active Team, Caithness has allowed us to action intelligence and actively target some of our resident criminals. Increased uniform visibility has seen a slight decrease in vandalism, a particular problem in Caithness.

2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

Although there has been an increase of two crimes in Class 1 – crimes of violence, our clear up rate is at 100%. Intelligence led policing has led to a greater recovery of Class A drugs and enquiries are ongoing in this field to bring those responsible to justice.

A murder of a 74-year-old woman, in the remote village of Badnaban, Lochinver presented many logistical challenges, however a through and concise enquiry saw a 72-year-old male being apprehended for this crime. He remains in custody awaiting trial.

The discovery of a sophisticated Cannabis Factory at Dornoch, has led to a significant criminal enquiry, where members of a serious and organised crime group from outwith the Force area have been caught and have appeared at Dornoch Sheriff Court.

A tragic fatal fire at Dornoch where a male died within a domestic dwelling, involved the challenges of an in-depth investigation to establish the cause of the fire, whilst supporting the grieving family through this process.

The rape of a female in Tain resulted in a 20 year old male appearing from custody. He is awaiting trial.

Of note, was the recent sentencing of two males for the armed robbery at the Co-op, Thurso in 2007 receiving imprisonment of 5 years and 4 years respectively.

The establishment of the Pro-active Team at Caithness, led by a Detective Sergeant has given us capacity to deal with serious criminal enquiries swiftly, without impacting upon the core shifts. It has also given us the ability to be able to action intelligence on receipt.

3. SAFER ROADS

A young male driver lost his life in a road accident on the A9 Latheron to Thurso road during the period. One serious and 14 slight accidents showed a reduction compared to the same period last year.

There has been significant investment in operational time with high visibility policing and enforcement of speed, mobile phone and seatbelt offences which assists in keeping accident occurrence low.

The problem of drunk driving persists with 19 drunk drivers being detected and reported throughout the Area Command.

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

We work hard to ensure we improve our reporting timescales to the Children's Reporter and Procurator Fiscal with our performance within the timescale being at 69.2% against targets.

Given the rising cost of fuel and scrap metal, we have seen a rise in thefts, particularly from rural areas, including farms. A joint initiative, involving the National Farmers Union, Local Vets and all Farms saw the launch of Farm Watch to assist farmers in preventing thefts and notifying police of suspicious vehicles around their areas. This increased intelligence has led to an ongoing operation focusing on criminal activity within Caithness.

November 2008 will see the introduction of Automatic Number Plate Recognition technology in a marked and unmarked police vehicle within the Area Command, which will increase our ability to detect travelling criminals and increase our intelligence gathering. Caithness Councillors generously part funded this technology to the sum of £10,000 and demonstrates their commitment in assisting to make Caithness a safer community.

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

While racially aggravated crime remains low, we investigate it robustly and have achieved 100% detection of all racially aggravated crimes reported.

The introduction of Operation Jacobite – a monthly operation devolved to Inspectors and Sergeants to mount operations based on our key priorities. This has the effect of deterring criminal activity in our communities, whilst at the same time giving focus to pro-active policing through licensed premises checks, stop checks for drugs and under age drinking. The results will see a steady flow of information to the community through good media relations to advise of our pro-active work and offer reassurance.

The visit of HRH Duke and Duchess of Rothesay to Castle of Mey presents a significant policing operation over a ten day period in August 2008 with a number of public engagements to be policed.

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

CENTRAL DIVISION

Area Command : ROSS & CROMARTY and LOCHABER & SKYE AREA COMMANDS

PERIOD: From: APRIL 2008 To: JUNE 2008

1. REDUCING CRIME

Generally, during the period in Ross & Cromarty, crimes of dishonesty and vandalism have shown a marked decrease. Notwithstanding this decrease there have been a number of thefts of domestic heating oil which has received significant media interest and a growing incidence of thefts of scrap metal which is linked to the soaring price of this commodity. Vandalism in Lochaber & Skye Area Command has also shown a reduction with notable successes in detecting these difficult enquiries.

2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

The incidence of serious crimes, particularly involving serious assaults, has shown a downward trend.

In April, a search of persons in Invergordon recovered a quantity of Heroin and over 300 suspected Ecstasy tablets

A 39-year-old female from Inverness was sentenced to 3 years imprisonment after admitting to being concerned in the supply of heroin. She was found with heroin to the value of £70,000 in Muir of Ord.

A 60-year-old man was convicted of sexually abusing two females in Aberdeenshire and Alness in the 1970's. He was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment and placed on the sex offenders register.

A man from North Kessock was sentenced to 7 years imprisonment after pleading guilty to being concerned in the supply of drugs and firearms offences in the Ross-shire area.

A 31-year-old man from Glasgow was sentenced to 32 months imprisonment at the High Court in Edinburgh for having unlawful sexual intercourse with a 14-year-old girl in Easter Ross after meeting her through an internet chat-room site.

On 1st April 2008, a stop/search of a vehicle on the A82 opposite Glencoe Police Station resulted in three persons being detained for a drug search whereby 16 x bars of brown resinous substance, along with other items were found within the vehicle. Approximate street value £20,000.

On 24th April 2008, as a result of numerous reports of counterfeit currency being

passed in the Skye and Lochalsh area, two persons were detained, interviewed and arrested.

3. SAFER ROADS

Within Ross & Cromarty, Road Traffic Collisions are generally showing a decrease from the same period last year. However, sadly, there were three fatal road traffic collisions during this period.

Proactive road policing remained a priority in Ross & Cromarty Area Command during this period with 372 road traffic offences detected, 115 of which were speeding, and 22 of which were drink drivers.

During the period 1st April – 30th June, there were five serious injury road accidents and 29 slight injury road accidents in the Lochaber & Skye Area Command. There were no fatal road accidents recorded.

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

BLUELIGHT DISCO – During the period the Police, in conjunction with the other emergency services and health and local authority staff, held the first Blue Light disco for secondary school age youngsters at the Spa Pavilion in Strathpeffer. The numbers attending were in excess of that anticipated and the event was seen as a success with more planned for this year.

DOMESTIC ABUSE PILOT – Our local Community Safety Officer, with assistance by Reliance Prisoner Services, has been carrying out a pilot with persons accused of domestic abuse offences to assess their interest in addressing their offending behaviour. The take-up has been significant and will inform future provision of services in this area.

SAFE ROSS-SHIRE INITIATIVE – Work continues to set up the first Shop-safe type initiative in Dingwall in association with the Inverness co-ordinator. A significant number of retail premises have expressed interest and work is underway to provide radio coverage in the area.

A 51-year-old male was reported missing from his caravan at Contin in early June. Following extensive searches, the missing man was found on 15 June 2008 in a caravan at Ledmore and required urgent medical treatment for blood poisoning. He has since recovered from his ordeal and has been offered new housing.

A local community campaign in Easter Ross regarding inconsiderate parking in the housing schemes has been supported by the Police. Both in terms of media and also extra enforcement, i.e. untaxed cars receiving tickets and speeding.

Realistic and consistent messages continue to be communicated to communities in

relation to the issues that exist in local areas. This is achieved through consultation with local groups such as community councils and Residents Associations. Regular contact is made with community wardens in Lochaber who contribute to the positive messages that local initiatives deliver. Lochaber Pubwatch and the use of the CCTV continue to demonstrate a positive message to the community in relation to their contribution to safety and the reduction of crime.

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

Police assisted in the two successful concerts given by the Kaiser Chiefs at the Spa Pavilion in Strathpeffer. The events were well attended by a large number of young people and there were no problems reported during or after these events.

A 29-year-old male has been arrested in the Lochaber area and cautioned and charged with seven charges of making obscene phone calls in the Northern Force area. Enquiries are still ongoing.

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

AREA COMMAND: EAST DIVISION

PERIOD: From: April 2008 To: June 2008

1. REDUCING CRIME

The first quarter of the year has seen many positive aspects from the introduction of the Divisional structure. The detection rate for the Division in the period under review was 62.7%, showing a significant improvement of 3% over the same period last year, which is a positive start to the year, particularly in view of the high level of demand. Recorded Crime overall has increased by 5.1% which equates to 104 crimes. Detailed analysis enables this to be put into context- almost 100 thefts were reported at Rockness 2008 which thus has led to the increase in Class 3 – Crimes of Dishonesty. A team of thieves from England were apprehended for most of these crimes and work is currently ongoing to resolve the others.

Serious assaults have fallen from 23 to 16 which is encouraging and is a positive trend. In the same statistical category of crime, crimes against children have risen from 15 to 26. The assessment is that the new GIRFEC process is working well, information sharing has improved and the Highland Child Protection Committee awareness raising activity is making a difference. Although reports of crimes have increased in Class 1 due to this it is pleasing that agencies and the public are working better to improve the protection of children. An increase in confidence in the police generally entails more individuals being willing to report crime and thus recorded crime reaches ever closer to the true rate of crime. This assists in ensuring that the resources that the Force has targets the real issues.

Instances of fire raising have increased from 6 during the same period last year to 63. This type of crime is usually sporadic until those responsible are caught. Four young people have been reported for 24 fire raising offences and another man has been reported for 20 so far this year. Work continues, including linking with Highland Fire and Rescue Service to minimise incidences and raise awareness of what businesses can do to prevent issues.

The development of the new Public Protection Unit (PPU) is ongoing and is already showing signs that it will perform well within the Division. Good relationships with our partner agencies and the sharing of key information have helped reduce crime and the fear of crime. This is particularly so with the joint initiatives conducted with SAFEINVERNESS in reducing/preventing theft by shoplifting. The PUBWATCH scheme has also proved to be an effective tool against disorder in licensed premises, both in Inverness and across Badenoch, Strathspey and Nairn. Offenders are barred for a period of time from all town centre premises, and premises quickly share information regarding any identified individual or group.

2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

There has been one murder, five attempted murders and one culpable homicide during the period. These have all been very professionally dealt with and those responsible

apprehended very quickly. The most significant, the murder of Mark Connors, had a significant impact upon the Merkinch area of Inverness where much work has been done by the community, police, public and other agencies to improve the quality of life and reputation of this area.

The effort to reduce the supply of controlled drugs continues with best use being made of intelligence to target drug dealers. On 25 April 2008 Operation Amuse, a Force drugs squad operation, concluded with 4 homes in Inverness being searched under warrant with over £30,000 and one kilogram of cocaine being seized. Another seizure of note was the recovery of over £30,000 worth of cannabis in the Culloden area in late July 2008. A number of vehicle stops and house searches by Divisional officers in the Badenoch and Nairn area have also led to useful recoveries of multiple commodity controlled drugs and the seizure of cash.

3. SAFER ROADS

The period under review saw progress in reducing road traffic collisions (RTCs) compared to 2007-08. Fatal RTCs were down from 5 to 1, serious RTCs down from 17 to 3 with only a small increase in slight injury RTCs, up from 35 to 42. As part of the Northern Constabulary commitment to road safety, the pilot Divisional Road Crime Car continues to increase public visibility on the arterial routes viz. A9, A96 and A82. Reported road traffic cases are up 101 to 1489 which is attributed to this team's proactivity. The pilot initiative will continue until the end of 2008. Road Policing Unit patrols, alongside Northern Camera Safety Partnership work complements what is being done by the Division.

The Division is ever aware of projecting the road safety message and we utilise every opportunity in promoting the message through media sources. This has proved particularly successful in relation to drunk driving. An increasing number of detections have now been made due to concerned members of the public reporting drink drivers to the Police and this is a trend worthy of note and one that elected members and the police can usefully encourage to grow.

Whilst not in the review period, the usual summer increase in road users has seen a number of particularly challenging fatal RTCs which have been professionally dealt with and received kind comments from a number of the families of the bereaved regarding the work of the emergency services in general and the Family Liaison officers in particular.

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

One of the main concerns of Community Councils and Ward Forums has been anti social behaviour caused by young people who have been drinking. Inverness was chosen to pilot a new phased multi agency approach to this problem which is designed to change attitude, target licensees and reduce the supply of alcohol to young people.

Phase One was Operation Roundup which found a number of young people consuming alcohol in situations that could leave them vulnerable and who were then

given advice and the enforcement message in the presence of their parents or carers, working with other agencies.

Phase Two mirrored Phase One but expanded to include a test purchase operation targeting off sales premises identified during Phase One.

Phase Three was another test purchase operation using community intelligence and information gleaned at Phase Two. Nine licensees passed the test and one failed. Northern Constabulary are grateful to the support received from the licensing board who recently suspended an off-sales licence for 6 months. This firm multi-agency phased approach will work to address the issue.

This activity has been supported by diversionary activity, most noticeably midnight football and “blue light” discos. It is at the very early stages but has received positive feedback from Inverness residents.

Similar concerns regarding anti-social behaviour centre round the main villages in the Badenoch, Strathspey and Nairn areas. In response to this 2 operations under the banner of Operation Mexican and Operation Magma have been launched.

This has involved high visibility foot patrols, the utilisation of mobile CCTV, the deployment of the Divisional crime car and a local police community support unit to address the issues. As a consequence there has been a significant amount of alcohol confiscated and a number of persons arrested for alcohol related offences and drugs offences.

These operations will, where relevant, include joint work with the British Transport Police where those causing a nuisance travel on the rail network.

In order to provide an additional tool Northern Constabulary has been in consultation with Ward Forums and Community Councils with a view to extending the current alcohol by-laws to include the majority of towns and villages within the Badenoch and Strathspey area and this appears to be receiving popular support, alongside a recognition that both parents and the public at large have a part to play in resolving these issues.

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

Rockness 2008 took place over four days in June and is now seen as the second largest of this type of event in Scotland. The event received positive feedback in policing terms with very few incidents taking place over four days. Sadly a male from Hopeman died as a result of taking illegal drugs, despite the very strong enforcement message and activity by the police.

Belladrum 2009 takes place on the 8th and 9th of August but is actually a four day event in policing terms with an expected attendance of 10,000 on both days.

The PPU has responsibility for Events planning. The Events Planning Inspector has a challenging job organising the Police response to events like Rockness, Beladrum, Highland Games and other major events in the Division. All planning is based on maximising public safety and includes enforcement activity in relation to drugs, drunkenness and violent/unacceptable behaviour.

The Football season will bring its own challenges and plans are already in place for the visit of Liverpool and other major teams throughout the season.