

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a dark puffer jacket and a patterned scarf, stands with her arms crossed in front of a metal fence. Behind the fence is a playground area with a green field, a wooden bench, and a blue sky. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

**March  
2026**

**SURVEY  
RESULTS  
INSIDE:**  
Anti-Social  
Behaviour in  
Cowdenbeath

# Addressing Anti-Social Behaviour in Cowdenbeath

**Melanie Ward MP**

# What is the best thing about living in the Cowdenbeath area?

“I honestly love living in my street. I love living on the edge of the park. Its also accessible for my commute to work.”

“There’s a lot of good things happening here. There’s more clubs for kids, big community support for things like charity, local sports and more. There’s so much good that gets overlooked because of the poor behaviour of a noisy minority.”

“There is a good community feel in Cowdenbeath, shared belief there’s a problem.”

“The community is still strong - that’s what makes the behaviour of these young ones so annoying. Cowdenbeath is a good place to stay with really good people but there is a nasty undercurrent that is definitely getting worse.”

“Most people are very welcoming in Cowdenbeath and honest with friendly pubs and cafes in the area.”






“It is not right that communities like Cowdenbeath should be tormented by anti-social behaviour. I will continue to push for real action to tackle it.”



Anti-social behaviour has plagued the Cowdenbeath community for far too long. Whenever constituents from Cowdenbeath and the surrounding areas contact me whether on the doorstep, by email, or through social media, I am struck by the seriousness of the experiences that are shared about local disorder.

**Since being elected as your Labour MP in 2024, I have been pushing for action on this behaviour. Thank you to all of the 200 residents who responded to my anti-social behaviour survey.**

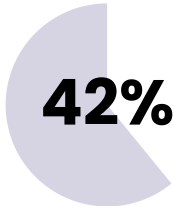
Here is what I have already done to push for action on anti-social behaviour in and around Cowdenbeath:

-  **Held the first Anti-Social Behaviour Summit in Cowdenbeath**, bringing together affected local businesses, Beath High School, Police Scotland, local councillors, community councillors and community groups to develop a coordinated action plan to address local disorder.
-  **Held a follow-up Cowdenbeath Anti-Social Behaviour meeting**, to monitor progress against actions and hold agencies accountable for making change happen.
-  **Met with Fife Police leadership**, to review recent trends, discuss emerging issues, and press for a joined-up approach to tackling anti-social behaviour.
-  **Written to the SNP Scottish Government ministers** to demand action on anti-social behaviour and greater support for Fife’s police force in light of year-on-year reductions in policing resources, and raised the issue in the House of Commons.
-  **Consulted with residents right across Cowdenbeath** to gather their experiences of anti-social behaviour, understand the impact on their families, and hear their ideas on how we can address the problem together.

# Foreword from Melanie



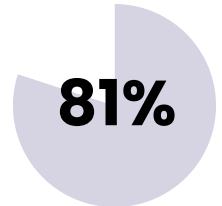
Over 200 Cowdenbeath residents responded to my anti-social behaviour survey. The results are alarming, showing the real impact that this unacceptable disorder is having on their daily lives. Throughout my election campaign, and since becoming the MP for the Cowdenbeath & Kirkcaldy constituency, residents and local businesses have repeatedly raised concerns about the rise in anti-social behaviour in our community. **These results make that picture unmistakably clear.**



**'Rarely' or 'never' feel safe in Cowdenbeath after dark**



**Experience a form of anti-social behaviour weekly in Cowdenbeath**



**Feel that anti-social behaviour in Cowdenbeath has significantly increased in the last year**

I want to begin by commending the constructive engagement and ongoing efforts of local businesses, residents, councillors, the Community Council and community groups, who have worked hard to highlight and address anti-social behaviour in the area. I also want to acknowledge the commitment of our local police officers, who continue to respond to these challenges despite year-on-year reductions in policing resources from the Scottish Government. Fife is losing one police officer every month on average.

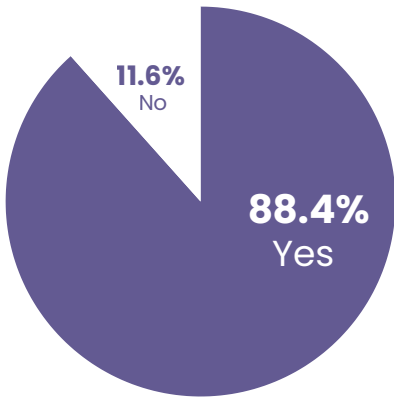
It is deeply concerning that nearly half of respondents to this survey reported rarely or never feeling safe in Cowdenbeath after dark. Also concerning is that more than half of respondents witness some form of anti-social behaviour in the town on a weekly basis.

This report brings together the responses to my local survey on anti-social behaviour in Cowdenbeath. It sets out the case for increased support from the Scottish Government to cover stretched resources, and outlines the next steps I will be taking to help push for action. 4



# The Survey Results

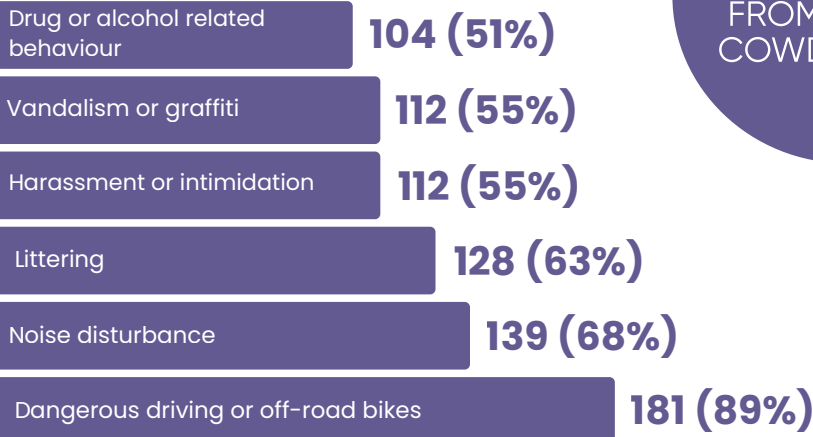
## Have you witnessed acts of anti-social behaviour in Cowdenbeath?



"Youths on ebikes/mopeds on Leuchatsbeath Drive and along the path between Johnston Park and Kirkton Place."

"I stay near the woodland; there are always groups of kids coming out of there drinking and heading to bus stops also on bin night kids running past screaming and knocking them all down"

## What types of anti-social behaviour have you witnessed?



**200+**  
RESPONSES  
FROM ACROSS  
COWDENBEATH

## Where have you witnessed acts of anti-social behaviour in Cowdenbeath take place?

"High Street, Stenhouse street,  
Lidl retail park"

"Path at the allotments. Path  
behind Morrisons"

"Bins stolen and set alight in  
Leuchatsbeath Meadow,  
motorbikes being ridden  
through the public park and  
Beath High playing fields"

"B&M/High Street/golf course"

"High street and near the  
Leisure Centre"

"Directed towards me, my  
family and property on the  
High Street"

"Aldi car park"

"Groups of young people  
vandalising the bus stop on  
Greenbank Drive, causing  
noise at night and waking up  
my children by constantly  
kicking and destroying the  
bus stop"

"Aldi, Public path between  
leisure centre and  
Cowdenbeath clinic, Tunnel  
leading to Taylor Avenue,  
Stenhouse Street from Raja  
shop down towards High  
Street"

"The local golf club have had  
our greens vandalised by  
youngsters on electric  
scooters and quad bikes"

"Broomfield Road, Public Park"

"Perth Road, Rosebank, public  
park"

"Cowdenbeath public park"

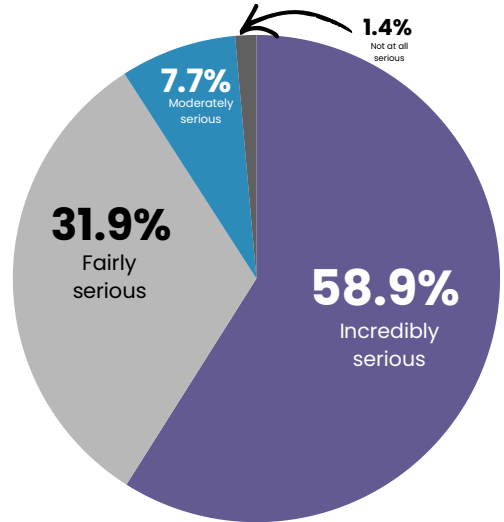
"Motorcycle and underage  
drinking in Park Street and  
vinters football park  
Cowdenbeath"

"I stay near the woodlands.  
There are always groups of  
kids coming out of there  
drinking and heading to bus  
stops. Also bin night kids  
running past screaming  
knocking them all down"

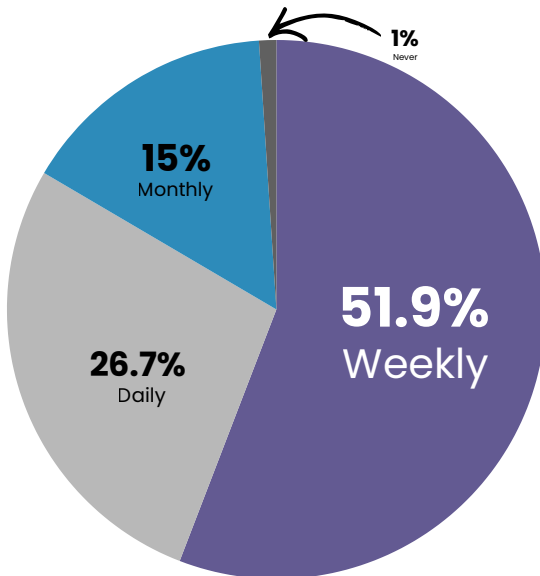
## How serious an issue do you think anti-social behaviour is in Cowdenbeath?

"[Cowdenbeath]it's not the same anymore. Youngsters out of control, no respect for police, teachers, or people. Behaviour is shocking as they get away with it. Parents should be held accountable for their actions"

"The anti-social behaviour has increased drastically due to the fact that there is no police station open at night time and no police presence on the High Street. We need police on the best to make our community safe again"



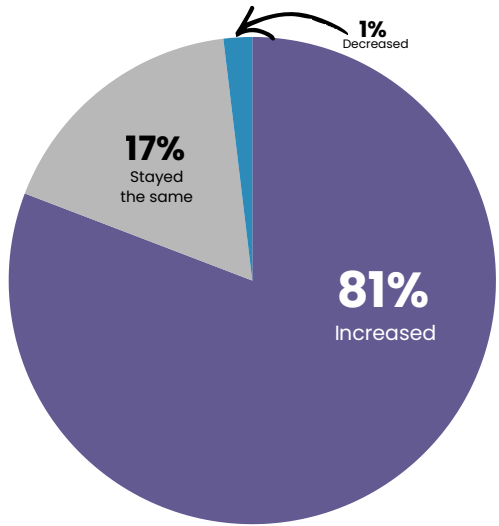
## How often do you notice acts of anti-social behaviour in Cowdenbeath?



"In the Selkirk Avenue area, plastic bins stolen and set alight up the woods causing fire brigade to be called out"

"...Setting bins on fire (Perth Road), large groups gathering near house (Monument), large groups in shops arguing with staff (Lidl), off road bikes on High Street"

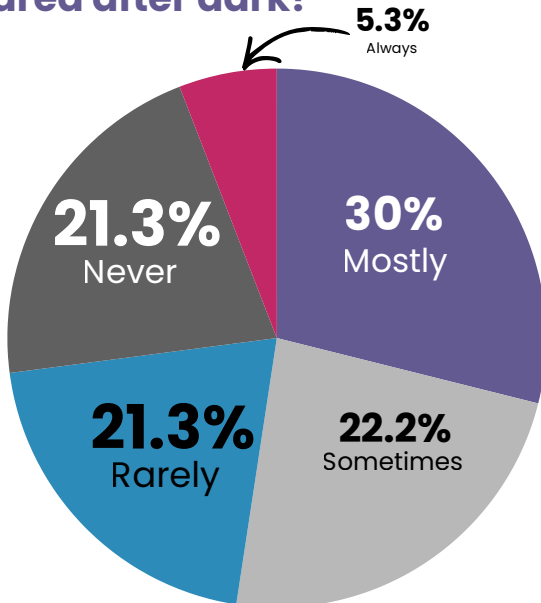
## Has anti-social behaviour increased, decreased, or stayed the same over the past year?



“There isn't enough consequences for bad behaviour any more. This needs to change for everyones benefit”

“Increased rise in racism and xenophobia, especially through community lead social media groups. Dog fouling is another issue, alongside the poor conditions of local roads.”

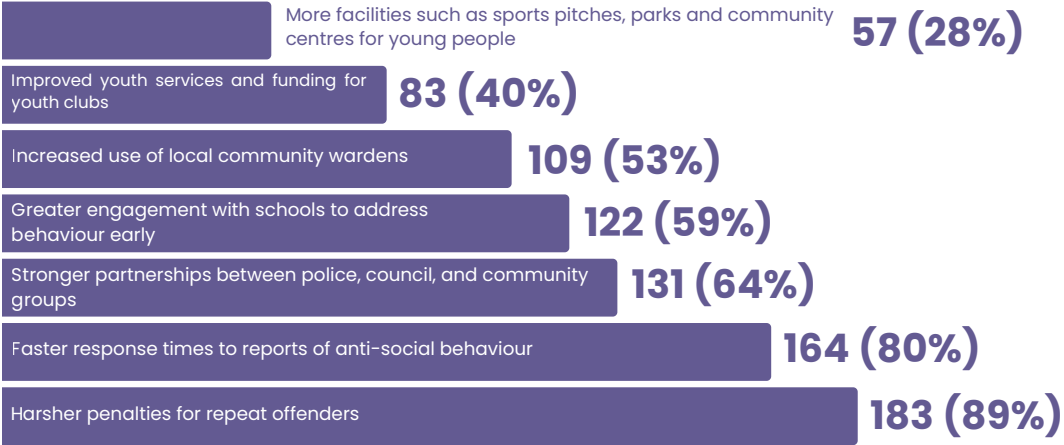
## Do you feel safe in your local area after dark?



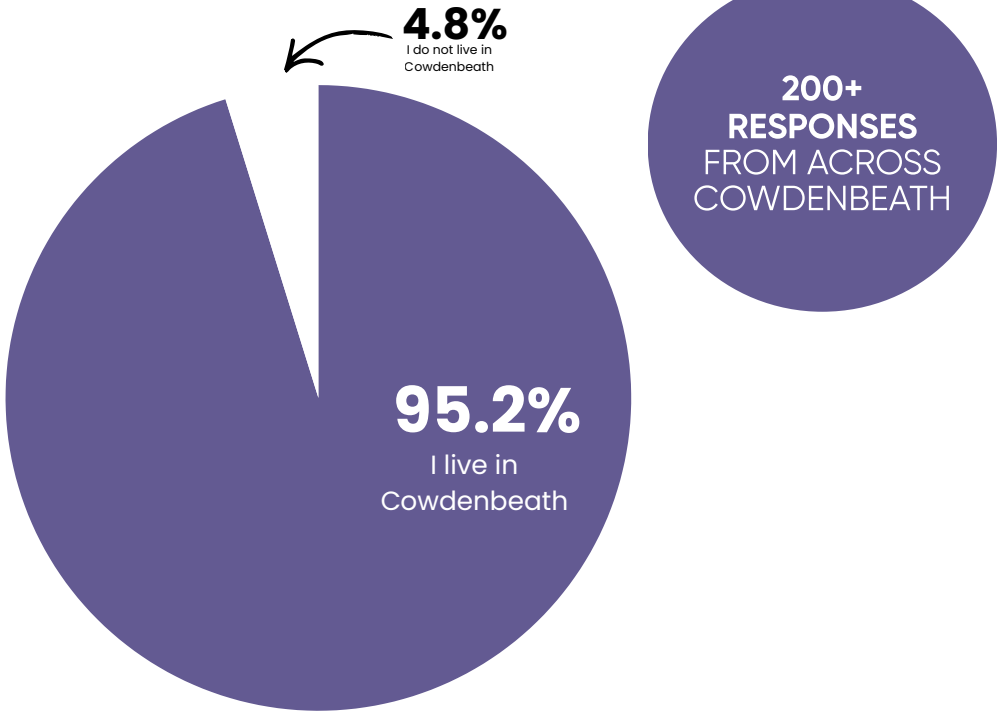
“We live 5 minutes from the Leisure Centre but my wife is forced to use the car when she is backshift for fear that they will recognise her or the uniform on the public streets. This is not acceptable”

“I would just like to feel safe in my home again”

# What do you believe could be done to solve anti-social behaviour in the Cowdenbeath area?



## Where do you live?





I've been doing everything I can to push for action on anti-social behaviour. Here is just a snapshot my work since I was elected.



### **Met with local police officers and Fife police superintendent**

- Raised local cases of anti-social behaviour in Cowdenbeath
- Requested a greater police presence in hotspots such as Cowdenbeath High Street and retail park.



### **Convened the first Cowdenbeath Anti-Social Behaviour Summit**

- Held the first summit in December 2025 to push for action and follow-up meeting in March 2026 to ensure accountability.
- Coordinated greater collaboration between businesses, Beath High, Fife Council, police, local groups and elected representatives.



### **Written to the Scottish Government to push for more funding to Fife's police force.**

- Expressed directly to the Scottish Minister for Victims and Community Safety the need for more resources to solve this issue
- Spoke up about the issue in the House of Commons.



To restore safety and confidence for residents in Cowdenbeath, coordinated action is required from national and local partners. The following asks set out the changes needed to begin to turn the tide based on responses to this survey.

## **What we need from the Scottish Government**

### **Restore and strengthen local police numbers across the Cowdenbeath area**

Fife has been losing one police officer a month due to cuts

*I urgently call on the Scottish Government to:*

- Reverse year-on-year cuts to Police Scotland's budget, which directly impacts communities in Fife like Cowdenbeath
- Provide targeted funding to tackle anti-social behaviour hotspots such as we are witnessing here in Cowdenbeath

### **Tougher penalties for repeat offenders**

*I urgently call on the Scottish Government to:*

- Ensure that unacceptable behaviour has a price. From removing free bus passes to fixing the justice system, tougher action is needed against those responsible

### **Invest in local youth services and anti-social behaviour prevention strategies**

40% of respondents feel that improved youth services are needed

*I urgently call on the Scottish Government to:*

- Provide greater funding for youth clubs and community facilities
- Expand early-intervention programmes within education, reflecting 59% of respondents who want increased engagement with local schools

## What we need from Fife Council

### Quicker repair times and improved environmental protections

Numerous residents reported vandalism, graffiti, and damage to public spaces, including parks and greens.

*I ask Fife Council to:*

- Increase quicker response times for vandalism and graffiti in and around Cowdenbeath
- Provide upgrades to street lighting in areas of Cowdenbeath to prevent more residents feeling unsafe after-dark
- Continue to work with local police to deter disorder and engage with more with local schools

### Strengthen Community Partnerships

64% of respondents called for stronger collaboration between local police, Fife Council, community groups and schools.

*I ask Fife Council to:*

- Get a Cowdenbeath anti-social behaviour taskforce off the ground so there is ongoing work to tackle this issue
- Ensure that social work, schools and the police work together to deal with minors who are repeat offenders
- Implement solutions observed from neighbouring towns and cities which have been successful in tackling disorder
- Build on the work of youth clubs like CACA in Cowdenbeath





## What we need from Police Scotland

### A visible, consistent presence in Cowdenbeath

With 51% of residents witnessing anti-social behaviour weekly and 42% 'rarely' or 'never' feeling safe after dark, visible policing is essential.

*I ask Police Scotland to:*

- Deploy community police more frequently, reflecting the 53% of respondents who support this measure.

### Stronger targeted action on dangerous driving and off-road bikes

Dangerous driving and off-road bikes were the most commonly reported issue, with 91% of respondents witnessing it.

*I ask Police Scotland to:*

- Expand targeted operations to seize illegal bikes and identify repeat offenders
- Work with Fife Council to redesign priority hotspots to prevent misuse of paths and parks



# What I will be doing as your MP with the UK Government

## Stand up for my constituents

Although police and justice is devolved to the Scottish Government, I will work to influence UK-level support that could help with the underlying causes of anti-social behaviour

*I will push for:*

- A continuation of record levels of funding to the Scottish Government so that the resources exist to properly fund Fife's police
- Action to tackle youth unemployment - with 1 in 6 young people not in education, employment or training, we need more action to get young people into jobs, apprenticeships or education

## **Hold the Scottish Government to account for year-on-year cuts to policing and keep anti-social behaviour on the local and national agenda**

59% of residents describe anti-social behaviour as a "incredibly serious issue", with 81% believing that it has increased over the past year. I will continue to ensure that the concerns are prioritised at every level of government

*I will continue to:*

- Raise individual cases directly with Police Scotland and Fife Council, ensuring that residents' experiences are addressed promptly and appropriately
- Hold local agencies to account for the promises they make to act on anti-social behaviour
- Push for clearer communication with residents, so the community is informed when action has been taken
- Use every parliamentary tool available to keep Cowdenbeath's concerns on the national agenda

# Get in touch



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Whatever the  
issue, **I am**  
**always here to**  
**help**

