

## Report from Martin Earl, Ward Councillor, January 2022

From both a NPA and Council perspective there is little to add to the reports provided for the December meeting.

I am aware that the convoy of souped up cars yesterday have been causing some debate/disruption and would provide the following information that may be useful to the CC:-

1. Modified exhausts on cars and motorbikes are often the cause of increased noise and disruption and these are illegal. However I have raised this previously with both the council and the police. It is a police matter and below is a copy of an e mail received from Police Scotland that outlines their position – basically, yes they are illegal but there is nothing they can do about them is the situation.

Reply from Police Scotland:

*Morning Martin,*

*I have taken advice from one of our roads policing experts who knows more about this. I'm advised that most exhaust modification involve the removal of the silencer which is an offence under the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations and that the larger tail pipes are often fitted to hide this. I don't see anything that specifically relates to the bore size of an exhaust, but when it comes to modifications that are intended to increase the noise emitted, then that becomes quite difficult to enforce. Whilst there are noise limits, the vehicle would need to be tested in strict test conditions and by way of a meter the police don't have, so simply a noisy exhaust isn't something we can enforce under road traffic legislation.*

*This isn't something that we randomly target and pull vehicle over to check unless we get reports / complaints however Roads Policing do proactive work in the area where we have the 'cruises' or track days at Knockhill.*

*If there is anti-social use of a motor vehicle to cause a noise, then that can be looked at under ASB legislation.*

2. I keep raising the need for static speed cameras at certain locations that would prevent the need for a police officer to be stood by the side of the road. However we are in a ridiculous situation that the national regulations governing the siting of static speed cameras means that only areas that have scored enough points on their matrix for collating reported accidents/incidents/injuries & fatalities can be considered. Therefore speed cameras cannot be used in a pro-active / preventative way. I keep arguing this should be addressed and much more flexibility introduced into how they can be used.

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3. Given that these convoys tend to do a defined circuit and repeatedly appear coming through locations such as Callander then I urge people to report to the Police and advise them that they are likely to be back around so Police can deploy and at least have an opportunity to regulate/enforce speeding.