ABERYSTWYTH police have been urged to launch a "blitz" on boy racers, rather than carry out month-long campaigns.

Cllr Gearoid Davies, who runs Mona Lisa in Great Darkhead Street, believes that police should take a different approach to tackling boy racers, whose anti-social driving is the bone of contention.

Cllr Davies met with Llandyfas Fferi Clr Paul James, police, and county council officers last week to discuss the problem.

And he told the Cambrian News: "Apart from the "blitz" last year, which residents in Elce Tree Avenue suffered constannt disturbance, another main area of complaint is Portland Street.

"Young drivers go around a circuit of Portland Street, Terrace Road, North Parade and Queen's Road.

"Portland Street is an "access only" thoroughfare, drivers should not be using it except for access, I would like to see the "access only" order enforced.

BY NORMAN WILLIAMS

"Using CCTV, police should be able to see that cars are going around in circles without stopping."

And he called on police to create short-term "blitzes" against boy racers - one of whom is believed to have run a red light, and ended up on the flower bed at the junction of Terrace Road and North Parade at about 6pm on Sunday.

Cllr Davies said: "Having a month-long campaign is all very well. But these drivers just go elsewhere until it is over, then come back."

"If police had a "blitz" for two or three days at a time, boy racers would not be expecting them - it would surely be more effective."

The problem had an airing at Monday night's meeting of Aberystwyth Town Council, where Cllr Mark Snow proved a strong ally to Cllr Davies's argument.

He asked Inspector Alan Samuel, who was at the meeting: "How many times does it take to drive round a circuit like that before something can be done?"

Inspector Samuel, who is responsible for the policing of the town, said: "It is frustrating - but driving around the town is not an offence. It is the responsibility of the drivers to ensure they do not cause an offence."

"An action plan has been launched, and we are targeting boy racers during May. We will monitor the situation, and extend the plan if necessary."

At the end of 2004, police and Cardigan's Community Safety Partnership ran a similar campaign, during which no complaints were received.

Insp Samuel said: "Many young drivers have been warned, and are now staying away from having their vehicle seized."

And on the Portland Street circuit, he said: "We use the CCTV, but without that "blitz" drivers are often stopped elsewhere in town, and are warned."

"When that happens, Portland Street residents would not be aware of it."

"We need the eyes and ears of the residents, and evidence to present. But some people are reluctant to talk to us."

When we are given a full explanation number, we have no reason to consider it an offence."

And the plan led to a formal warning under Section 59 of the Police Reform Act 2002."

That notice warns the driver that if he/she uses the vehicle in the same way on any other occasion, police can seize the vehicle under Section 59 of the Police Reform Act 2002."

"If you have information about those responsible for "anti-social driving", you should contact Dyfed Powys police on 0845 305 2000, and ask for the relevant police station in Cardigan division - Aberystwyth, Cardigan, Llanteg or Aberaeron."