



## **Crime, order and social control**

### *Reshaping communities*

We've seen then how some key changes in the urban environment and in Leith in particular, have reshaped patterns of inequality, disadvantage, inclusion and exclusion. For example, we've seen how some behaviours and activities that were previously tolerated, are no longer tolerated. The struggle around the toleration zone in Leith represents a very visible example of a struggle over urban space, between different sets of interests. Each with different view about what the urban order should look like.

The more pragmatic response in Aberdeen alerts us to the need to be aware of different conditions, and choices in different localities. The importance of being aware of variations in different historical moments, and in different kinds of localities is reinforced further when we consider rural areas.

We've heard of the problem of rural climbers being claimed and disclaimed by different groups and authorities. For example, local authorities, and some sections of rural communities, and indeed those with an interest in boosting the local economy, may downplay local problems, including crime and disorder. Yet others, such as the police may draw attention to these problems, in order to secure more resources. What is important is that we look at the way that the urban and rural areas are constructed and some of the consequences of these representations.

We've heard ideas about the rural idyll and urban renaissance and mobilised in ways that reflect particular ideas, about the nature of the social order, in rural and urban areas. We need to acknowledge variations across different regions. But what is clear is that these notions not only reflect particular interests, shared by particular stakeholders. But they are also mechanisms through which they hope to realise them.

We have also heard how these ideas may downplay the importance of other changes in localities. For example, the changes that are taking place in urban and rural areas, are re-shaping social divisions, and reconfiguring patterns of inequality, inclusion and exclusion. In turn patterns of regulation, victimisation, and criminalisation have been re-shaped. Though appeals to chocolate box images and new urban futures may deflect out attention from them.