



CREATING SAFER COMMUNITIES IN HARROGATE DISTRICT

We asked, You said, We did

The Harrogate District Community Safety Partnership asked the residents of the Harrogate District about their community safety concerns, through the Citizens Panel in July 2010.

The Citizens Panel is co-ordinated by Harrogate Borough Council and currently has 1,200 members.

This report highlights what you said and what we have done in response to your concerns.

Damage to cars

You said

43% of participants were worried about their car's being damaged

We know

- The majority of vehicles are damaged on streets which lead from Town and City Centres to residences
- Majority of vehicles are damaged during weekend evenings
- There are strong links with alcohol consumption with offenders having a problem with binge drinking
- Offenders are unemployed or have problems in school
- Cars are often damaged during neighbourhood disputes

We did

- Advised residents to remove vehicles from the street in frequently damaged locations. This involved simple measures such as using driveways and garages.
- Residents were advised to fold mirrors on both sides of their vehicle.
- Encouraged street pastors and police officers to patrol the streets as well as the Town Centres
- Diversionary activities and initiatives such as Life/Bridge have favoured young people who have problems in school. We have also supported taster days to help people get skills in local colleges to improve their prospects of obtaining employment.
- Funded mediation for neighbourhood disputes

Outcomes

Reduction of 18% in 2010 compared to 2009

Burglary

You said

- 42% of participants were worried about their house being broken into
- At Safer Neighbourhood Group meetings you raised domestic burglary as a concern

We know

- The majority of burglaries are from insecure properties
- Burglars target properties where portable valuables are on display
- Burglars target the keys of vehicles by breaking into homes

We did

- Distributed leaflets to hotspot areas encouraging people to secure their property. This included simple measures such as closing doors and windows.
- Used Stray FM radio to promote messages related to darker nights
- Promoted the 'keep keys safe' message to residents

Outcomes

Increase of 31% in 2010 compared to 2009, so our work continues!

Cars being broken into

You said

37% of participants were worried about their car's being broken into

We know

- Small valuables are targeted such as SatNavs, Mobile Phones, Laptops and Handbags
- Power tools are often taken from people in the building trade
- Unattended cars are targeted particularly in Town and City Centres
- Tourist areas are targeted in Spring

We did

- Promoted simple measures such as not leaving valuables on display can prevent cars being broken into
- Increased patrols in locations and times where incidents took place to catch the thieves
- Gave out crime prevention leaflets and cards at tourist locations which were being targeted by criminals
- Funded and distributed hangers for residents and also tradesman

Outcomes

Reduction of 2% in 2010 compared to 2009

Thefts from sheds

You said

34% of participants were worried about their shed being burgled

We know

- Thieves tend to gain access to sheds by taking advantage of weak locks
- Only 1 out of 3 sheds have heavy-duty locks leaving 2 out of 3 sheds vulnerable to thieves
- Majority of sheds are broken into during weekday afternoons and evenings

We did

- Work is still to take place

Outcomes

Increase of 4 incidents in 2010 compared to 2009 of non-domestic burglary

Speeding cars

You said

57% of the participants stated that speeding cars were a problem

Speeding was mentioned as an issue at numerous neighbourhood meetings

We know

- Speeding is often a perception issue and only a minority of people break speed limits

We did

- Deployed 11 speed radar's which captures speed data and 7 speed matrix to remind drivers of their speed
- Carried out 4 Operation Siren's
- Introduced 'Learn and Live' showing the consequences of irresponsible driving

Outcomes

From 11 radars deployed, 3 have had a slight speeding issue. This confirms that speeding is a perception issue.

87 cars were stopped for speeding during Operation Siren.

440 students have received the Learn and Live presentation

Using mobile phones whilst driving

You said

54% of the participants stated that mobile phones whilst driving were a problem in their local area

We know

- People feel that mobile phone usage does not affect their ability to drive
- Research shows that using a mobile phone is as dangerous as driving whilst being under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- Reaction times are decreased by 50%

We did

- Police continue to enforce use of mobile phones whilst driving
- The new format of Operation Siren will focus on driver distractions, which includes mobile phones.
- Introduced 'Learn and Live' showing the consequences of irresponsible driving.

Outcomes

440 students have received the Learn and Live presentation

Lack of facilities for young people

You said

54% stated that they was a lack of facilities for young people

We did

- Provided diversionary activities to young people. Examples include supporting youth clubs and boxing clubs.
- Funded the Fire Service to deliver one LIFE course.
- Contributed to the Butler Road Play area and Valley Garden Skatepark
- Re-located a youth shelter

Outcomes

Youth re-offending has decreased significantly in 2010 compared to previous years.

2 out of 3 young people on LIFE courses do not re-offend after attending the course

Dog Fouling

You said

- 50% stated that dog fouling was a problem in their neighbourhood
- The Partnership asked communities at neighbourhood meetings to express their concerns

We know

- Dog fouling is one of the most common forms of litter in the District.

We did

- Carried out targeted patrols of dog fouling hotspots
- Inform people that dog fouling is an offence – from £50 to £1000
- Provided dog bins at common locations. Overall Borough Council manage 200 dog bins in the District

Outcomes

Increase of 51 incidents in June to December 2010 and work is on-going to reduce these figures