Street Lighting Improvements and the Fear of Crime in Rugby

Findings from two surveys examining the fear of crime of residents in the Benn area of Rugby, before and after improvements to local street lighting

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Introduction

This report presents the combined findings from two surveys examining the fear of crime of residents in the Benn area of Rugby. More than 1,000 households in this area benefited from improvements to street lighting during September 2002. These residents were surveyed before the scheme began, in September 2002, and twelve months later to ascertain whether the lighting improvements had an impact on fear of crime levels. Although the main emphasis of the surveys was to ascertain the impact of the lighting improvements, other factors affecting the fear of crime were also examined so that the surveys could serve as a useful tool for the five Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnerships across Warwickshire.

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Key Findings

- The clear message to emerge from this research is that although the street lighting improvements have been welcomed, in isolation they do not significantly affect fear of crime levels.

- Residents hope for a combination of measures, including wider coverage of the alley gate scheme and more visible policing alongside the lighting improvements.

- This message reinforces the principles behind Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnerships. Only by combining the activity of different agencies would the fear of crime be reduced in Benn. The County Council can improve street fighting, the Borough Council can implement the alleygate scheme and the Police can increase their visibility. Together, these measures would combine to make a noticeable difference to the feelings of security in Benn.

- Since the street lights have been improved, there has been a small reduction in overall actual night-time crime and disorder levels, although there has been a significant reduction in domestic burglary incidents and vehicle crimes. The fact that this is not wholly reflected in the perceptions of crime in the area underlines the mismatch between the fear of crime and the actual risk of being a victim.

- Changes to street lights have not had as significant an impact on fear of crime and behaviour as respondents anticipated they might before the scheme started.

- Residents in this part of Rugby have continued to improve their home security measures since the street lighting improvements were implemented. However, there is still reluctance, or naivety, among older residents to install-extra security.

- Levels of nuisance youth behaviour do not appear to have changed much since the street lights have been improved. There is a danger that the lights might attract more youths later at night as their own feelings of safety are increased.

- The fear of crime is slightly less for those people that are aware of Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnerships. There is clearly a need to raise awareness of what activity is taking place to prevent crime, particularly perhaps among the older age groups.
Coverage

All 1,056 addresses in the lighting improvement area were surveyed, as identified here.

Response rates

Of the 1,056 follow-up surveys sent out, a total of 228 were completed and returned, representing a 22% response rate. Of the respondents to the second survey, 137 had also replied to the first survey. The gender breakdown of the respondents was 47% male and 53% female. Respondents were also asked to state what age group they are in.

Figure 1: Number of respondents by age group and gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60 plus</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-59</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-44</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of respondents
Awareness of improvements to street lighting

Respondents were asked whether they had noticed the improvements to street lighting in their area and whether they were satisfied with the changes.

- Only 64% of respondents noticed improvements in the street lighting in their neighbourhood in the last twelve months. 79% of respondents in the oldest age group noticed the improvements, whilst only 45% of respondents in the youngest age group noticed the changes.

- There appear to be differences between the percentage of respondents who have noticed improvements in the street lighting in their neighbourhood, and the street they live in. All of the respondents within Charlotte Street and Cross Street have noticed the improvements, whilst less than one half of respondents within Sandown Road, Market Street and Bath Street have noticed the improvements.

- 78% of respondents were satisfied with the new colour of light emitted from the street lights. Only 7% were dissatisfied with the new colour.

Figure 2: Satisfaction with the new colour of light emitted from the street lights

- Of the respondents that noticed changes, those within Charlotte Street, Oxford Street and Claremont Road appear to be most satisfied with the new colour of light emitted.
Fear of crime levels

Both surveys asked respondents how worried they are about a number of crime scenarios. Their options were very worried, fairly worried (grouped together as 'worried' for the purposes of this analysis), not very worried and not at all worried (grouped together as 'not worried' for this analysis).

- 86% of respondents to the second survey are worried about having their home broken into and having something stolen, compared to 80% of respondents to the first survey. There are no significant variations between age and gender of respondents.

- 66% of respondents to the second survey are worried about being mugged and robbed in their area, compared to 58% of respondents to the first survey. Fear is slightly higher for female respondents, 69% compared to 61% of male respondents. Fear is also higher for respondents from the oldest age group (81%).

- 69% of respondents to the second survey are worried about having their car stolen from their street/driveway, compared to 71% of respondents to the first survey.

- 68% of respondents to the second survey are worried about having items stolen from their car whilst it is parked in the street/driveway, compared to 72% of respondents to the first survey.

- 61% of respondents to the second survey are worried about being physically attacked by strangers in their area. Respondents in the youngest age group are significantly less worried (31%) than those in other age groups (64%). Females were also slightly more worried than males, 64% compared to 56% of males.

Figure 3: Fear of crime of respondents who responded to both questionnaires

![Bar chart showing fear of crime levels before and after the improvement scheme for various scenarios.]

Generally, fear of crime levels have not reduced since the street lighting improvement scheme. There could be several reasons for this, although the most likely is that improvements to lighting are not sufficient in isolation to reduce crime. It is likely that a combination of improvements are required, some of which are mentioned later in the report.
Quality of Life

Respondents were asked to indicate how much their own quality of life is affected by crime and the fear of crime on a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 is no effect and 10 is a total effect.

- When categorised into little effect (scales 1 to 3), medium effect (scales 4 to 7) and significant effect (scales 8 to 10) the results for each are 39%, 43% and 18% respectively. These figures represent a slight improvement on figures from before the lighting scheme when the figures were 32%, 48% and 20% respectively.

![Figure 4: Fear of crime and quality of life](image)

- 21% of females feel that fear of crime has a significant effect on their lives, compared to 16% of males.

- The youngest age group has the strongest opinions, either way, on fear of crime and their quality of life. 58% of respondents in the 18-29 age group state that their fear of crime has little effect on their quality of life, whilst 25% think that it has a significant effect.

- When comparing the results with last year, respondents’ quality of life increased in 40% of cases, decreased in 39% of cases, and remained the same in 22% of cases.

![Figure 5: Fear of crime and quality of life after the improvement scheme](image)

Quality of life ‘scores’ have not changed significantly since the lights have been improved.
The impact of improved street lighting

- Of those respondents that replied to both surveys, 52% agreed that the improved street lighting has reduced the chance of vehicle crime in their street. However, prior to the scheme taking place, 79% of these same people thought that improved street lighting would reduce the chance of vehicle crime in their street.

- Similarly, 47% of respondents agreed that improved street lighting has reduced the chance of their home being burgled. However, before the improvement scheme, 74% thought that improved street lighting would reduce the chance of their home being burgled.

- 47% of respondents agreed that improved street lighting has reduced the chance of being physically attacked in the local area. However, initially, 77% of respondents thought that improved street lighting would reduce their chance of being physically attacked in the area.

- Of those respondents that replied to both surveys, 34% agreed that improved street lighting has made the area less attractive to youths after dark. However, initially, 37% of respondents agreed with this statement.

- 32% agreed that improved street lighting has made them more likely to walk out alone after dark. However, 46% of respondents thought this would be the case before the improvements were made.

- 27% of respondents agreed that improved street lighting has made them more likely to leave their home uninhabited after dark. However, initially 34% of respondents to both surveys agreed with this statement.

Figure 6: Respondents agreeing that street lighting will reduce risk of crime

Changes to street lights have not had as significant an impact on fear of crime and behaviour as respondents anticipated before the scheme started.
Practical Implications of the Fear of Crime

This section considers what the practical implications of residents’ fear of crime are. All respondents to either questionnaire are included here, rather than just those that answered both surveys.

• Respondents were asked whether they had, or would consider having, a number of measures to help prevent crime. On average, households had approximately two or three of the measures mentioned and they would consider a further two or three to help prevent crime. These figures are similar to the findings of the first questionnaire.

• Window locks have remained the most popular form of home security; the percentage of households with them has increased from 62% to 75% since the first survey. A further 13% would consider installing them.

• Other popular forms of security were double locks or deadlocks on outside doors (56% already have) and security chains on doors into their home (39% already have). Fitting bars and grilles to the windows was the least popular form of crime preventative measure with 21% of respondents saying they would consider them.

• Of those that do not already have them, many respondents would consider installing a burglar alarm (48%), fitting window locks (49%) and fitting security chains on into their home (46%).

• As expected, the percentage of respondents who already have crime prevention measures has increased for all of the measures listed.

Figure 7: Percentage of respondents who already have or would consider some crime preventative measures

- Already have (after improvement scheme)
- Would consider (after improvement scheme)
- Already have (before improvement scheme)
- Would consider (before improvement scheme)
Respondents were asked to list any other security measures that might help reduce the fear of crime. Suggestions included the installation of alley gates, the installation of CCTV cameras and getting a guard dog.

- As with the first survey, older respondents are less likely to consider any of the security measures listed.

- 21% of respondents reported that they never go out after dark, compared with 18% before the improvement scheme.

- Approximately 78% of respondents own a vehicle, compared to 74% of respondents to the initial survey.

- Those respondents who own a vehicle were asked where they kept the vehicle overnight. Approximately 84% of respondents kept their vehicle on the street, the remainder were split between their driveway and/or garage.

- Approximately 23% of respondents reported that they had their car broken into within the last twelve months, compared to 25% before the street lighting scheme had been implemented. Those respondents that kept their vehicles on the street were more likely to have them broken into, although this figure has also decreased since the improved street lighting, from 27% to 26%.

Residents in this part of Rugby have continued to improve their home security measures since the street lighting improvements were implemented. However, there is still reluctance, or naivety, among older residents to install extra security.
Nuisance Youths

- Respondents were asked whether they ever saw children or young people causing a nuisance in their street. The majority of respondents (65%) stated that they had observed youths causing a nuisance, compared to 64% before the street light improvements.

- Awareness of nuisance behaviour has changed slightly since the implementation of improved street lighting. There has been a slight increase in the percentage of respondents reporting nuisance youths late at night. This highlights a potential disadvantage with the improvement scheme, implying that the improved lights may be attracting youths later at night.

![Figure 8: Percentage of respondents stating that they had observed nuisance youth behaviour, before and after the street light improvements](image)

- Respondents were asked what type of nuisance behaviour they had witnessed in their neighbourhood. The most frequently mentioned nuisance types are listed below.

![Figure 8: Types of nuisance behaviour](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nuisance behaviour type</th>
<th>Number of respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Noise / loud music</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loitering in crowds / intimidating behaviour</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drunkenness / underage drinking</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vandalising property / vehicles</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verbal abuse / swearing</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Throwing items at windows</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug abuse</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playing games / sport</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skateboarding</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vandalising public property (eg lights, parks)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fighting</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Levels of nuisance youth behaviour do not appear to have changed much since the street lights have been improved. There is a danger that the lights might attract more youths later at night as their own feelings of safety are increased.
Defining Nuisance Behaviour

One recurring theme was the variation in what residents defined as 'nuisance behaviour'. It is clear that activity one person would describe as a nuisance could easily be described as 'kids playing' or 'harmless fun' by another.

"Children at play are not a nuisance and it is good to see."

"General kids play - can sometimes be a little annoying. Not complaining, just commenting."

"We were all young once."

"Children playing are not a nuisance!"

"Kids are just hanging around; nothing incriminating when I see them."

This raises the issue of tolerance levels, and how they vary from individual to individual. There may be some strength in the view that general tolerance levels have decreased over time and that what is categorised as nuisance now would not have been twenty or thirty years ago. However, other changes in society such as increased car ownership also influence what is deemed to be acceptable behaviour (i.e. it isn't safe for children to play in the street any more).
Actual Crime & Disorder Levels

Clearly, it is of interest to compare the actual changes in crime and disorder levels with the perceptions of change. This section provides an overview of recent crime and disorder statistics for the area covered by the street lighting improvement scheme.

- Apart from a 'blip' during April 2003, crime and disorder levels have remained relatively static during the past eighteen months, at around two incidents per day.

- However, street lighting improvements will obviously aim to reduce crime and disorder at night rather than during daylight hours. The graph below illustrates how night time crime and disorder has altered since January 2002. Although street lights operate at different times of the day depending on the time of the year, the time period 9pm till 4am has been used here for consistency reasons.
Incidents reported between 9pm and 4am account for approximately 25% of all incidents that take place in the area covered by the street lighting improvement scheme. Since the scheme was implemented, this figure has actually dropped from around 30% before the scheme began, indicating that night-time incidents now account for a slightly smaller proportion of all crime and disorder in this area.

Street lighting has the potential to impact on different types of crime and disorder in different ways. The table below illustrates changes in different categories of incident during the periods before and after the scheme was implemented. The same length of time has been compared, January — August in each of the past two years, for consistency. Again, night-time incidents are used.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Incident Type</th>
<th>Incidents 9pm — 4am</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan - Aug 2002 (before the scheme)</td>
<td>Jan - Aug 2003 (after the scheme)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violent Incidents</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>+ 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Burglary</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>- 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle Crime</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>- 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Damage</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>+ 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disturbances</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>- 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuisance Youths</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>- 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other incident types</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>+ 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AN Incidents</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>- 17 (-13%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overall, night-time crime and disorder incident levels have fallen by 13% since the street lighting improvements were put in place. In particular, there has been a significant reduction in domestic burglary incidents and vehicle crimes.

It is interesting to compare these results with the perceptions of crime and disorder displayed elsewhere in the report. There is clearly some disparity between the fear of crime and the actual recorded incidents. However, it is worth noting that the Benn area of Rugby continues to have above-average levels of recorded crime and disorder.

Since the street lights have been improved, there has been a small overall reduction in actual night-time crime and disorder levels, although there has been a significant reduction in vehicle crimes and burglaries. The fact that this is not wholly reflected in the perceptions of crime in the area underlines the mismatch between the fear of crime and the actual risk of being a victim.
Alley Gates

Parts of this area of Benn have benefited from the Alleygator scheme, where alleyways running behind rows of terraced housing are gated at each end for security reasons. This prevents potential criminals from obtaining rear access to houses, as well as removing a potential meeting place for other types of criminal behaviour, for example drug dealing.

Those residents that had benefited from the scheme spoke highly of it, whilst many of those that had not received alley gates stated that they hoped gates would be installed in the future. Some of the quotes on this issue included;

"More difficult to get up alleyways to backs of houses for burglars since Alleygates were installed."

"Gates being put in alleyways (have also affected crime levels)."

"Attempted break-ins via rear alleyways.
Told by Council that insufficient funds to put gates in."

"Alleygates have only been put up along half the street - what about the rest of us?"

"Other factors like the Fitting of Alleygate have affected my perception (of crime)."

"The main threat to my property is from the rear where there are no lights."

"The openness of the back entries (affects my fear of crime). We were supposed to have alley gates with locks that have never materialised."

"Alleygates scheme has reduced my concerns for burglary and theft from washing line."

The responses to the survey suggested that the alley gate scheme was at least as important to residents, if not more so.

The differences between crime, disorder and nuisance

Residents were asked whether they felt crime levels in their neighbourhood had increased or reduced in the past year. It was interesting to note that many respondents who felt crime levels had increased in the past year then went on to explain their answer by quoting instances of nuisance behaviour or disorder. For example, the quotes below were all from residents describing why they felt crime had increased in the past year.

'Teenagers misbehaving themselves."

"Our street is a rat run for traffic."

"The playground in Craven Road is attracting youths again.
Anything up to 20 on bicycles."

"Too many young people hang around."

These are all examples of nuisance behaviour or low level disorder, yet are being quoted as reasons for believing that crime levels have increased recently. Clearly, the boundaries between crime, disorder and nuisance tend to blur and it all becomes regarded as anti-social behaviour. It could be argued that experience of disorder and nuisance behaviour has at least as significant an impact on fear of crime levels as crime itself.
Combining Crime Reduction Measures

Perhaps the strongest message of all to emerge from this survey is that a single crime prevention measure in isolation will probably not have a significant impact on the fear or perception of crime in a given area. Rather, a combination of measures is needed to improve feelings of safety. In the example of Benn in Rugby, it is quite clear that although the improved street lights are welcomed, they need to be combined with alley gates and, as expected, increased police presence. Below are a few quotes that help illustrate this point.

"There appears to be less crime, especially to cars but there will always be a doubt in the mind that lighting is the total answer."

"Until Police presence is increased and gates are on all the alley ways you will still get crime."

"While street lighting is now much better, there is no lighting for the back alley running behind my property; this area remains vulnerable to theft and vandalism."

"I would be a lot happier and feel safer if I saw a Policeman on the streets, the Police are not visible enough."

"The fact that more recently I see 'bobbies on the beat' as well as more police cars around the area may be why I think crime has reduced."

"My area has been affected by drug crime over the last twelve months. Don't think lighting has really had any impact on these type of people."

This message reinforces the principles behind Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnerships. Only by combining the activity of different agencies would the fear of crime be reduced in Benn. The County Council can improve street lighting, the Borough Council can implement the alleygate scheme and the Police can increase their visibility. Together, these measures would combine to make a noticeable difference to the feelings of security in Benn.
Awareness of Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnerships

Residents were asked if they were aware of the existence of a local crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP), involving local councils, the police and other organisations.

- The percentage of respondents that were aware of the CDRP was disappointingly low, with only 16% of those that answered the second survey stating that they had heard of the partnership.

- Although this figure is up slightly on the first survey (14%), the low awareness levels highlight the need to further publicise the work of the CDRP. This may well be an issue across other Districts in the County.

- Importantly, those residents that had heard of the CDRP tended to have lower fear of crime levels.

Figure 12: Percentage of respondents worried about different crime types, split by those who have and have not heard of the local CDRP

![Graph showing percentage of respondents worried about different crime types, split by those who have and have not heard of the local CDRP.]

- Although the differences are not huge, for every type of crime residents were questioned on, fear of crime levels were lower for those that were aware of their local CDRP and the work it carries out. Publicising the role of the CDRP could be a useful tool in reducing the fear of the crime across Warwickshire.

- Awareness levels do not vary much with age, with the highest awareness levels (19%) recorded in the 30 - 44 age band. The oldest age group, those aged sixty plus, has the lowest awareness levels (14%). Again, this could help prioritise how and where publicity should be concentrated.

The fear of crime is slightly less for those people that are aware of Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnerships. There is clearly a need to raise awareness of what activity is taking place to prevent crime, particularly perhaps among the older age groups.
Media Coverage

A number of respondents commented on the fact that their knowledge or awareness of local crime is significantly influenced by reports in the local press.

"I thought there had been an improvement until I read of gardens being wrecked at the back of old people's flats."

"I do not see crimes and only read about them in the local newspaper."

"Am mostly aware of crime levels from papers."

Several respondents indicated that their perception of crime is affected by what they read in the papers, and these perceptions are usually affected in an adverse manner. Another area for attention might be the way crime and disorder continues to be reported in the local media.

Conflicting Views

It was interesting to note that a number of residents thought that the Benn area does not suffer from crime, in direct contrast to the majority of respondents.

"This area is quite a reasonable area as far as crime levels go."

"There has never been much crime on the streets in this area."

"Crime has never been high in the area although I appreciate perceptions may be different."

"I have personally witnessed or know of very little crime in this area."

This reinforces the fact that perceptions of crime can alter significantly across small areas, even within streets. Personal experiences, those of friends and family and coverage in the media can all combine to shape an individual's perception of disorder levels, and these influences can vary greatly even between next door neighbours.

The Local Environment

One recurring theme was that of a general dissatisfaction with the appearance of the area. Many respondents made reference to levels of litter, vandalism and a lack of respect for both public and private property. It is clear that these types of factors have an influence on fear of crime levels and a general uneasiness with the neighbourhood as a place to live.

In particular, a number of respondents mentioned that building work was taking place in a couple of roads in the improvement area. Building materials (bricks, mortar, rubbish etc.) were being used as 'tools' for vandalism, for example being thrown at cars and windows. Skips containing building waste were providing ammunition for youths.

"Too many rubbish skips outside flats also so youths throw stones/bricks/polystyrene. We have the dirtiest street in Rugby."

This type of incident compounds fear of crime, but could be reduced via environmental audits. Such audits help identify issues that add to a community's dissatisfaction with an area and should prompt environmental improvements.
Use of Local Knowledge

Many respondents stated that they knew of specific houses or even individuals (not named) that were involved in criminal activity, particularly drug dealing.

"One particular house is rented out to known drug dealers."

"Suspected use of a house for dealing drugs."

"Lot of drug addicts living in the area,"

"We still have drug abuse going on in broad daylight at the back of Uoyds chemist."

Very few people mentioned that they report this type of information to the Police. This could be for a number of reasons; they have reported it but did not mention this in their response to the survey; they feel nothing will be done if they do report it; or perhaps they fear reprisals. Whatever the reason, there may be a need to better publicise alternative methods of reporting crime and disorder. A good example would be the Crimestoppers service, which offers an anonymous freephone number (0800 555 111) for people with information they would rather not provide directly to the Police. There could be an untapped resource existing in the community that has the potential to help reduce crime and disorder if approached in the right way.

Policing by the Community

Residents were asked if anything is ever done to discourage nuisance youth behaviour in their community. A number of different types of response emerged, ranging from those who said there was 'no point' to those who were fearful of retaliation. Typical quotes included;

"What would happen if I did anything? Either I would be assaulted or I would be prosecuted for defending myself."

"Hanging around cars and using bad language. I don't want to be the target for discouraging them."

"One neighbour tried to sort problem out but was arrested trying to protect his property."

"Nothing is done to discourage them because they turn against you by throwing stones and being generally abusive."

"Not worth saying anything as aggravation from parents."

"Nothing is ever done for fear of reprisals to property or car."

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Appendix - The Survey

Rugby Street Lighting Improvement Scheme

Residents Survey

This time last year, Warwickshire County Council began improving the quality of street lighting in your area. You may remember that we asked you to complete a survey, letting us know how you thought the new lighting might improve safety and reduce crime in your neighbourhood. It is now time for us to carry out the second survey, twelve months after the project was started, to gauge the impact the changes in lighting have actually had on the quality of life of residents in your area.

We would be extremely grateful if you could take a few minutes to complete this questionnaire. All of the information you provide will be treated in the strictest confidence.

It is important to us that the people who provide this extremely important information - you - get the chance to see the results. If you are interested in the results of this survey take a look at our website - www.warwickshire.gov.uk/research - in November to see the final report. The report from the first survey is already on that website if you would like to have a read.

Please return the survey in the attached pre-paid envelope by Friday 19th September so that your views can be counted. If you have any queries regarding this survey, please contact Spencer Payne in the Research Unit on 01926 418645 or email research(at)warwickshire.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Spencer Payne
Research Unit
Warwickshire County Council
Improvements to street lighting in your neighbourhood

1. Have you noticed improvements in the street lighting in your neighbourhood in the last twelve months? Yes  No

2. Have you noticed changes in the colour of light emitted from the street lights in your neighbourhood in the last twelve months? Yes (If No, go to Question 4) No

3. How satisfied are you with the new colour of light emitted from the street lights in your neighbourhood?
   - Very satisfied
   - Fairly satisfied
   - Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
   - Fairly dissatisfied
   - Very dissatisfied

   H D D

Your Concerns about Local Crime

4. Most of us worry at some time or other about being the victim of a crime. Could you say how worried you are about the following (please tick boxes):

   - Very worried
   - Fairly worried
   - Not very worried
   - Not at all worried

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Very worried</th>
<th>Fairly worried</th>
<th>Not very worried</th>
<th>Not at all worried</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Having your home broken into and something stolen</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being mugged and robbed in your area</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having your car stolen from your street/driveway</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having items stolen from your car whilst parked in your street/driveway</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being physically attacked by strangers in your area</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. How much is your own quality of life affected by crime and the fear of crime on a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 is no effect and 10 is a total effect on your quality of life?

6. Below are a series of statements about street lighting and crime. Please state how much you agree or disagree with the statements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Agree strongly</th>
<th>Agree slightly</th>
<th>Neither agree nor disagree</th>
<th>Disagree slightly</th>
<th>Disagree strongly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improved street lighting has reduced the chance of vehicle crime in this street</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved street lighting has reduced the chance of my home being burgled</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved street lighting has reduced the chance of being physically attacked in this area</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Improved street lighting has made the area less attractive to youths after dark</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Improved street lighting has made me more likely to walk out alone after dark</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved street lighting has made me more likely to leave my home uninhabited after dark</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved street lighting has reduced my overall fear of crime</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved street lighting has reduced actual levels of crime and disorder</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7. Please state how much you agree or disagree with the next statement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>On the whole, crime levels have reduced in your neighbourhood in the last year</th>
<th>Agree strongly</th>
<th>Agree slightly</th>
<th>Neither agree nor disagree</th>
<th>Disagree slightly</th>
<th>Disagree strongly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

8. Can you explain why you have ticked the box you have in Question 7: (for example, have other factors apart from street lighting affected your perception of crime levels?)

---

The Impact of Fear of Crime

9. During the past twelve months have you done, or in the next twelve months would you consider doing, any of the following?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Install a burglar alarm</th>
<th>Install a dummy alarm</th>
<th>Fit window locks</th>
<th>Fit security chains on the doors into your home</th>
<th>Fit double locks or deadlocks on outside doors into your home</th>
<th>Fit indoor timer or sensor lights</th>
<th>Fit outdoor timer or sensor lights</th>
<th>Fit bars or grilles to window</th>
<th>Security mark household property</th>
<th>None of these</th>
<th>Other (please specify)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Already Have</th>
<th>Would Consider</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

10. When you go out after dark, how often do you carry a personal alarm, whistle or other noise-making instrument to attract attention in case you are attacked?

Always [ ] Usually [ ] Sometimes [ ]
Rarely [ ] Never [ ] Never go out after dark [ ]

11. Does anyone in your household have a car? Yes [ ] No [ ]
(If No, go to Question 16)

12. Where is your vehicle kept overnight? (Please tick all that apply)
Garage [ ] Driveway [ ] Street [ ]

13. Has your vehicle been broken into within the last twelve months? Yes [ ] No [ ]
(If No, go to Question 16)
14. Have you taken any extra security measures since this happened?  
   Yes ☐ (if No, go to Question 16)  
   No ☐  

15. If yes, please give some details  

16. Do you ever see children/young people outside your home causing a nuisance?  
   During the day (term-time) ☐  
   During the day (holiday time) ☐  
   In the early evening ☐  
   Late at night ☐  
   Not at all ☐ (If not at all, go to Question 18)  

17. If yes, can you give some details, including what type of nuisance they are causing,  
   and if anything has been done to discourage them?  

About You  

18. What is your age?  18-29 ☐  30-44 ☐  45-59 ☐  60 plus ☐  

19. Are you male or female?  Male ☐  Female ☐  

20. Do you have any long-standing illness, disability or infirmity?  Yes ☐ No ☐  

21. In 1998 there was a new initiative which set up crime and disorder  
   partnerships for each district of the country. These partnerships, involving  
   local councils, the police and other organisations, were set up to reduce  
   crime and disorder in their area. Are you aware that there is a local  
   partnership covering your area?  

22. Which road do you live in?  
   William Street ☐  Tom Brown Street ☐  Charlotte Street ☐  
   Arnold Street ☐  Sandown Road ☐  Spring Street ☐  
   Market Street ☐  Grosvenor Road ☐  Bath Street ☐  
   Craven Road ☐  Graham Road ☐  Oxford Street ☐  
   Wells Street ☐  Cross Street ☐  Welford Road ☐  
   Claremont Road ☐  

23. Have you lived in this road for more than one year?  Yes ☐ No ☐  

Thank you for taking the time to answer these questions.
Further Information

For further information on this report or the surveys, please contact Spencer Payne or David Gardiner or in the Research Unit.

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