

# TILLEY AWARD 2002

## **The Project is Kessingland Youth Project 2000**

In the category - Crime Reduction, and in particular anti social behaviour and fear of crime.

Submitted by Suffolk Constabulary as part of it's Suffolk First Programme.

Endorsed by ACC Langham-Fitt, and supported by Christine LAVEROCK, Chair of Suffolk Police Authority and Bob BLIZZARD, Member of Parliament - Waveney

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## **SUMMARY KESSINGLAND YOUTH PROJECT 2000**

### **TILLEY AWARD 2002**

In May 2000 as the direct result of numerous complaints from residents of Kessingland regarding the lack of Policing and the increase in crime and disorder a Community Safety Seminar was held.

The meeting was extremely well attended and attendees made their feelings known both verbally and through inter-active voting. It was clear that the public were dissatisfied with Police but also that they were prepared to do something to affect their quality of life.

From this the Kessingland Parish Team was born with the Police and a few local residents meeting to discuss what really was the problem and what could/would be done to address these problems.

It was clear from a very early time that young people in Kessingland were either to blame for every crime and nuisance or were believed to be responsible and that if something could be done to positively affect their lives then everyone's quality of life would be improved. And so the Kessingland Youth Project 2000 was formed.

The first meeting was well attended and a good deal of ideas were aired on how to reduce youth crime in Kessingland. One essential ingredient to this early work was the presence of young people, it was clear that the involvement and participation of this group was essential.

The services of Community Education were sought in order to bring some expertise to the project, and to engage with young people. Two workers carried out some most comprehensive research in the village which clearly identified a need for some enhanced youth facilities to get bored young people off the streets.

Another Youth Club was not required but more of a drop-in centre, a place they could call 'theirs'. Suffolk County Council - Education provided the project with a double mobile classroom and the local Parish Council gave over a piece of land adjacent to the Community Centre for the building to be sited. A great deal of scrounging, fund seeking and voluntary effort ensued in order to deliver the resource to, it must be said, some local resistance.

Once the building was sited there were no funds to equip it or provide utilities. Because of this the building was vandalised and local complaints grew. The project went through a very difficult time but the building was repaired, decorated and refurbished due to the efforts of a dedicated few people, young and not so young. Once in a good state of repair the project has progressed to be a well accepted, much used facility which has positively affected crime and disorder statistics and improved the quality of life of ALL in Kessingland.

# KESSINGLAND YOUTH PROJECT 2000

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# DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

## KESSINGLAND YOUTH PROJECT 2000

### TILLEY AWARD 2002

#### 1 THE OBJECTIVES

1.1 The objectives of the Project are:-

1.2

- a) to reduce crime in the Ward of Kessingland especially those categories which are Community based and so could be dealt with within the Community
- b) to enhance the quality of life of all residents and those visiting the area on business and holiday.

1.2 The need to address these issues was clearly identified at the Kessingland Community Safety meeting in May 2000. This meeting was held jointly by Suffolk Constabulary and Waveney District Council. The aim being to identify policing problems in Kessingland with the help of local people. The major concerns were youth and lack of policing, to tackle this both a short term and long term strategy would be needed.

1.3 This was the first Community Safety Forum of it's type held in Suffolk, (Lowestoft Sector) and was in response to the level of crime. Kessingland was a community that was self contained with it's own infra-structure and so lent itself to initiatives under the Crime and Disorder Act and so Crime Reduction in Kessingland was given top priority by the Rural Policing Team which consisted of 1 dedicated Constable, a Sergeant who was also responsible for 3 other Officers and 12 other Parishes and an Inspector who had a dual role, that of the policing of the Sector plus special responsibility for the Rural Officers/Parishes.

1.4 Success of this project would be measured by the amount of crime recorded, (real) and the enhanced quality of life, (perceived).

#### 2 WHAT IS THE PROBLEM

2.1 **During 1999/2000 some 365** crimes were recorded in the Parish of Kessingland, best described as a large village or small town. Kessingland is situated just off the A12 south of Lowestoft. It has a population of some 4,000 who live and work locally, there are local businesses, shops and schools, and holiday camps with a large number of visitors every summer. Kessingland is well served by public amenities, pubs, restaurants and hosts the Suffolk Wildlife Centre. Kessingland is the largest village in the Lowestoft Sector and has had a resident Police Officer in the past, a resource the people would clearly like to return. Failing that, what was the next best thing to regain the respect of the local communities.

- 2.2 At the Community Safety Forum the inter-active voting facility was employed to record people's views, (appendix A). Generally people were very dissatisfied with the Policing of Kessingland but were prepared to play some part in making Kessingland a safer community.
- 2.3 The general public feelings appeared to be accurately reflected by the figures and so local Beat Officers and Sector Officers were engaged to increase high profile Policing in the Parish. Whilst this is acknowledged as a short term solution the people who attended the seminar certainly felt that they had achieved something by an increase in Police presence.
- 2.4 Patrols needed to be targeted and so the services of a Crime Pattern Analyst was employed and through her work local target areas were visited. It was quite apparent during this exercise that young people figured very highly both by location and offence
- 2.5 Our attention focussed on community based crime, burglaries, motor vehicle and damage and a correlation with young people again surfaced, but it was also clear that a good deal of crime was opportunist and as such was preventable.
- 2.6 In July 2000 Kessingland had a designated 'Day of Action' during which Police Officers and Special Constabulary visited domestic and business premises, set up displays in public places and so engaged the public again and encouraged them to participate in finding solutions.
- 2.7 From this early work it was clear from both the youth and more mature members of the community that Kessingland did not have a great deal to offer and local minor crime resulted.
- 2.8 To address the issues of crime and disorder the Kessingland Parish Team was created, which consisted of Police, Parish, District and County Councillors, Neighbourhood Watch members, schoolteachers and local residents. This group were to meet regularly to discuss solutions to local crime problems and one project would be the Kessingland Youth Project 2000.

### **3 DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM**

- 3.1 All the research, which involved crime pattern analysis, researching incidents/events, custody records for persons arrested, Assessing Seasonal Trends, particularly the summer months when there was a large influx of holiday guests. Inter-active voting at Community Safety Seminars and one to one contact with local people more than suggested there was a problem with crime and disorder and particularly with young people.
- 3.2 The Parish Team considered all the available information and decided that a Youth Club that was open more than one night a week was the answer. This would get the young people off the streets and we, (the Police) would know

where they were. This, the team thought would work and was achievable, however, what did the young people want and who would lead this Youth Project?

- 3.3 It was necessary to co-opt some more members particularly Community Education and the young people themselves. Surprisingly it proved easier to involve the youth than Community Education and considerable pressure had to be brought to bear in the early stages. Until Community Education fully participated it would prove extremely difficult to progress a Youth project. But the team continued to meet and talk, fortunately the short term initiative of putting more Police Officers, (particularly Special Constables) in the Parish was being acknowledged, but the youth now had expectations of a much improved Youth Resource, but not a youth club.
- 3.4 Due to the efforts of Councillors, the local Member of Parliament would show an active interest in the Project and would address one of the meetings shortly after Community Education came on board.
- 3.5 With Community Education involved the Project could move forward, a constitution was raised and a Management Committee established. Minutes would be taken at subsequent meetings.

The Kessingland Youth Project 2000 was now put on a professional footing and a general feeling of 'something is happening' emanated and people re-discovered their enthusiasm.

- 3.6 Two Community Youth Workers were engaged in November 2000 to research the needs of young people especially those who were socially excluded. During their research they would speak to some 132 young people and 55 adults. They would also employ a number of other contact methods in order to gain information as to what was needed to provide a sustainable provision in Kessingland, see Appendix B
- 3.7 The work of the Youth Workers provided a 'shopping list', a wish list of provisions which would improve everybody's quality of life.

The Youth Project Committee then decided that the next step would be to provide a base, somewhere that young people could call their own, where they could be engaged in activities, where they could be reached by community groups, (drugs education, career advice, etc) and also to be a focal point, a success story to build upon for future initiatives if appropriate.

- 3.8 It was necessary to show that 'something was being done', especially as some considerable opposition from residents near to the proposed site was being exhibited. This opposition was clearly as a result of engaging with people and being open as to what was proposed. At the Annual Parish meeting, the Local Police Inspector was taken to task and told that he would be held personally responsible for all the problems that would be brought to the area.

- 3.9 Courtesy of Suffolk County Education a twin mobile classroom was donated to the project, unfortunately ahead of any funding. Funding raised it's ugly head for the first time and would prove to be difficult throughout. However, in true Dunkirk spirit members of the Management Committee, local Councillors, District and County Councillors plus the Police found enough money to collect and deliver the mobile classroom to it's site at the Community Centre. Planning permission had to be obtained and this arrived with the mobile.
- 3.10 Once the mobile had arrived it had to be insured which proved problematic as not too many companies entertain such risks, but insurance was found. This was most apt as the mobile would be subject to considerable damage/vandalism.
- 3.11 The mobile later to be named The 'Village Hang-out; came in for unwanted attention, mainly because once it arrived on site nothing happened to it. There was no money to decorate or furnish it, it just stood there, doing nothing. Local youths whose expectations had been raised became frustrated and duly sent out a message by breaking into the building and damaging the exterior.
- 3.12 The vandalism had a catastrophic effect on the young people who were members of the Committee, but did serve notice that you cannot just provide one bit of the jig-saw. There was a lot more to a youth resource than just a building, it was necessary to re-engage with the young people to give them some ownership and responsibility to get them more involved.
- 3.13 More money needed to be raised and the youth organised discos and sponsored rides. The Council provided money for security and individuals sought furniture and equipment. The local Prison inmates at HMP BLUNDESTON made security grilles and the Youth Millennium Volunteers and others gave the Hang-Out a coat of paint.
- 3.14 Now people could see something was really happening and an explosion of drugs crime and violence in the area did not happen. There were no further complaints from local residents and they were more conciliatory in their attitude and were now ready to give the resource a chance.

Increased Policing presence due to being part of the Youth Project gave reassurance and reminded people of the Police commitment to the area.

- 3.15 Now a centre had been established, (2002) it would be necessary to get people to use it, to supervise their activities and to deliver some sort of youth service which would reduce crime and disorder. Volunteers were not easy to find and Community Education funding had all dried up, well nearly.
- 3.16 The local Youth Club, (housed in the Community Centre next door) was only open one night, (3 hours) a week, employed one youth worker, funds were found to extend her work to three nights a week so with some volunteers the 'Hang-out' could open.

- 3.17 There had been no further incidents of vandalism at the premises, there had not been a deluge of complaints from local residents as the local youth were impatient for the 'Hang-Out' to open. So in March 2002 the doors were opened with an initial registration of 41 young people which has now risen to 63 and is expected to increase from here. The ages range from 12 years, (12) to 21 years, (1) with senior members expressing an interest in youth work and so doubling as volunteers.
- 3.18 The 'Village Hang-Out' will be officially opened on Saturday 25 May 2002 and the Kessingland Youth Project 2000 is to be the first recipient of the Pathway Partnership Award.

#### **4 HAS IT BEEN A SUCCESS?**

- 4.1 For many reasons this project has been a tremendous success and it has also shown that things could have been done better.
- 4.2 To begin with the project emanated from complaints concerning lack of Police and youth offending - nothing new there. A situation that can be well anticipated as occurring anywhere in the country be that in a Rural or Urban environment. So nothing clever in tackling this problem, so why hadn't it been done before
- 4.3 But what this project has achieved by creating a Parish Team and a Youth Project has enabled the Community to resolve their own problems within the Community. Not doing it in isolation, but in consultation with the Police and other agencies, who are fully committed to the concept of making partnerships work.
- 4.4 This all started by the Police engaging with the Public at large in a variety of ways but most importantly by listening to their criticisms and doing something about the situation. People were very critical of Police and both the crime figures and the perception of crime, with gangs of youths on street corners and **NO** likelihood of anything changing, gave them good reason.
- 4.5 Crime has been significantly reduced from **365** recorded crimes in 1999/2000 to 216 2001/2002, some 149 crimes in all categories 40.82% reduction. See Appendix C
- 4.6 Local residents are now more aware of what the true situation is and do appreciate what has been done, but of course, it's never good enough and they still say they never see a Police Officer.
- 4.7 Feedback to the Police from the Parish Council acknowledges the efforts made and recognises the positive effect that this additional resource has made to Kessingland. Because of this they are supportive of the current project which will establish a skateboard park in the village.
- 4.8 The Parish Team is still very active and provides a method of evaluation as members reflect residents' views. Encouragingly the success of the Youth Project 2000 has led to a new initiative called, 'Kessingland United Wins', the



objective being to galvanise young and old into an ageless community.

- 4.9 Crime Pattern Analysis is carried out on both an annual and need basis and provides good information. As a result of this and other work a dedicated Officer for Kessingland is to be appointed this year, (2002).
- 4.10 The coupling of crime pattern analysis and local knowledge has enabled the Local Beat Officer to be in a better position to be in the right place at the right time. The setting up of the 'Village Hang-out' has put him in a great position to be where the young people are.
- 4.11 It has taken 2 years to get here and if only 'professionals' had been involved things would have been in place a lot sooner. But there would not have been the involvement of local people of all ages, they would not have contributed from cradle to grave, they would have had no ownership or responsibility. They would have allowed the 'experts' to provide a building but there would have been nothing to go with it.
- 4.12 Crime has been significantly reduced, the engagement of Officers with the public has been greatly increased. There is both statistical and anecdotal evidence to support this. And most importantly everyone knows Kessingland is a better place now than it was 2 years ago.

## **5 IS THIS THE END, OR IS THERE MORE?**

- 5.1 The Kessingland Youth Project 2000 was designed to reduce crime in Kessingland by providing better youth resources. This has been achieved and the resulting 40.82% reduction in crime complements the initiative.
- 5.2 As important as the statistics the community feel they have achieved something and more importantly, they want to do more to improve the quality of life.
- 5.3 The community has been well supported and guided by Councillors from Parish District and County Councils. They have been guided and assisted by Community Education who have provided expertise and funding. Suffolk Constabulary have led the way and made this happen by bringing people together.
- 5.4 This project has tackled an age old problem, there is a lot more to be done to keep the momentum going but success breeds success so Kessingland United Wins

# TILLEY AWARD 2002

## APPENDICES.

- A. Inter-active Voting Record — Community Safety Seminar — May 2000
- B. Research Community Education Youth Workers — November 2000
- C. Crime statistics years 1999/2000, 2000/2002, 2001/2002 Kessingland Ward

# KESSINGLAND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

## Background

This T.E.C. funded project was started in early November 2000 and finished at the end of March 2001. Funding was made available to research the needs of young people in Kessingland, especially those who are socially excluded.

Alongside this, the project would enable members of the local community to identify how they themselves might become involved in providing social and recreational opportunities for young people, and in so doing, help them to become more integrated and play a more positive role in their community.

The main target group were those in the age range 13- 18 although it was recognised that the needs of younger children should also be identified.

From a local population of between 5000 and 5500, 130 young people in the age range 13- 18 attend Sir John Leman High School. There are a small number attending other State and Independent Schools.

Two experienced Youth Workers, Lorraine Coe and Tina Roberts were appointed at the beginning of the project. An additional Youth Worker, Sonya Farrell was appointed from early February until the end of the project.

The project was initially line managed by Steve Robinson (Community Education Officer). Vince Prank (C.E.O.) took over this role when Steve Robinson left the service.

It needs to be emphasised that the role of the workers throughout the project was to identify the possibilities for future provision, not to set it up. It was agreed that sustainable provision could only be provided, with support, from within the community.

## Work undertaken

The main focus of the work was to make contact with as many individuals, groups and organisations as possible to gain an accurate account of local opinion, needs, ideas and current provision.

Direct contact was made with local people in businesses, holiday parks, shops, restaurants, public houses, clubs and out on the street.

The Project Workers talked with:

- Kessingland Youth Club
- Gisleham Middle School
- Kessingland Primary School
- Sir John Leman High School
- Detached — young people on the streets
- Young people at home
- Scouts
- Brownies/Guides
- Shops
- Holiday Parks
- Public Houses
- Library
- Police
- Church & Church groups
- Play groups
- Local Media
- Clubs
- Parents & Adults in the community

**In total 132 young people and 55 adults were contacted**

The Project workers employed a variety of contact methods including:

- Posters/flyers -
- Direct contact — door to door
- Surveys — on the street, businesses etc.
- Surveys in schools
- Local newspaper
- Detached work

However, the most appropriate method was inevitably through informal contact.

All information gained **was** recorded on sessional sheets.

Most contact with young people was undertaken on the streets because they were able to talk to the main target group. The main surveys were delivered in schools.

Even though the main purpose of the project **was** to gain information, the project workers spent a lot of time supporting, empowering and encouraging young people to take part in the process through forums etc.

**As a result of the research, the following information was gathered:**

**Current Facilities (that people are aware of)**

- Angling Club
- Badminton
- Football 16+
- Squash
- Youth Club

**Adults comments**

- Nothing for young people to do
- They are abusive to older people
- They drink a lot and vandalise peoples property
- They need a free bus to take them somewhere else.
- More authority from the police and parents
- Parents need to be educated to look after their kids.
- More access to the community centre for activity
- More for them to do in the evenings and at weekends
- Youth club more evenings a week
- They are a nuisance because they are bored
- They need more sports facilities
- They need more activities
- They need a way to let off steam that does not annoy us.
- They need a youth club
- Their parents should take more responsibility for them
- Their parents should assist them more..
- They destroy things

<p>Activities requested by young people:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult's ideas and suggestions.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Skate Park,</b></li> <li>• <b>Swimming Pool</b></li> <li>• <b>Off road Cycling track</b></li> <li>• <b>More activities near the beach</b></li> <li>• <b>Music and DJing activity</b></li> <li>• Sports Centre</li> <li>• Arcade</li> <li>• Pool competitions</li> <li>• Cinema</li> <li>• Paintball</li> <li>• Aerobics</li> <li>• Sports</li> <li>• Graffiti boards</li> <li>• Gym</li> <li>• Skating</li> <li>• Fishing</li> <li>• Computer Club</li> <li>• Mobile Van</li> <li>• Bus shelter, which is lit up.</li> <li>• Coffee shop</li> <li>• Venture Scouts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drop in centre</li> <li>• <b>Coffee shop</b></li> <li>• <b>Cyber cafe</b></li> <li>• <b>More organised sports facilities</b></li> <li>• Organised clubs for younger children</li> <li>• More organised youth club for older young people</li> <li>• Skate park</li> <li>• Holiday play scheme</li> <li>• Something constructive for them to do</li> <li>• Regular monthly discos</li> <li>• Music and drama clubs</li> <li>• More organised early evening activities</li> <li>• Swimming pool</li> <li>• Indoor activities</li> <li>• Adventure play-park</li> <li>• Organised fairs</li> <li>• Anything to keep them off the streets and off drugs.</li> </ul>

The most requested activities by young people and adults are highlighted  
As can be seen in the table, both groups have similar ideas.

### Outcomes

- A small but significant number of young people and adults offered to help this initiative by volunteering their services to run some youth provision. A list of people who volunteered their services is held by Community Education, including two young volunteers who are currently helping at the Youth Club in Kessingland and have completed the S.C.C. Education training course.
- An important part of the project was to support the young people with any immediate needs or information requested. Some young people have been referred on to other agencies.
- The 'Millennium Volunteer' services provided leaflets and information on their packages for young people, which were given out in Kessingland and at the Sir John Leman High School for the sixth form students only. 'IS' leaflets were also distributed.
- Karen Saunders (Kessingland project committee chair person) suggested having an open session on a regular basis regarding issues affecting young people.

- One of the questions on the high school survey, how to source information on specific issues, was answered by some as the local library and Internet source. After talking to the Library assistant it became apparent that the Internet is scarcely used.
- Haven Holiday Village will be introducing a day pass in the summer holidays only for local people to use all their facilities. They will be implementing a zero tolerance approach to disruptive or unacceptable behaviour.
- An article was published in the Kessingland Times in January regarding the 'Kessingland Project'.
- Young people from the Youth Club are busy designing a logo for the 'Kessingland Project' to use.

## Conclusions

:Everyone (all ages) was very helpful and friendly during this project, which lightened the atmosphere of an initially large and daunting task for the project workers.

- Young people do not have enough opportunities to occupy themselves. They want to pursue activities, but may need support in making these non-threatening to older members of the community.
- There are very few social events and clubs for any ages in Kessingland.
- There are few opportunities for young people to find support and information within the community.
- There are still "two communities" in Kessingland. The Beach and the Village. Current provision does not cater for this anomaly
- There are a lot more young people in Kessingland than those who are seen on the streets.
- There are young people have the ability to play a major part in delivering activities for younger children in Kessingland.
- The community has started to accept that it has a role in the provision of facilities and activities.
- There are enough skills within the community to provide a variety of new activities.
- There needs to be a "community leader" for this initiative to drive it forward.

## Recommendations

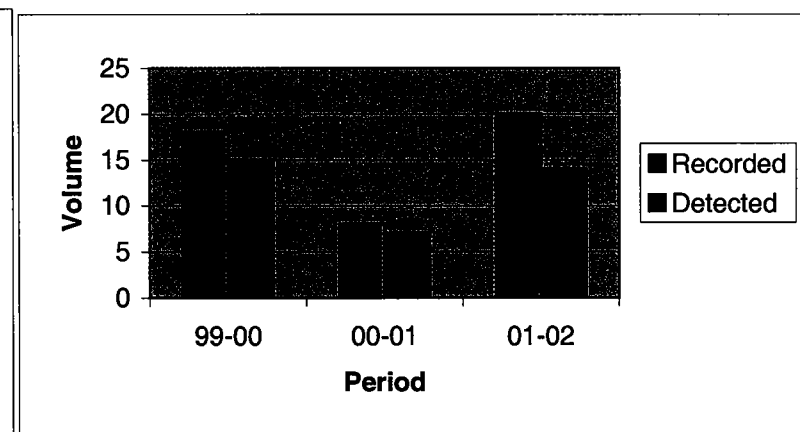
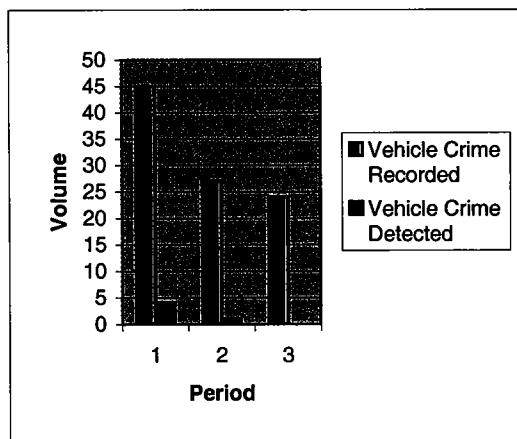
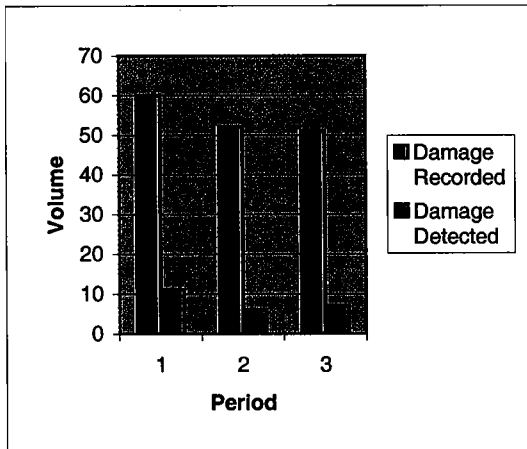
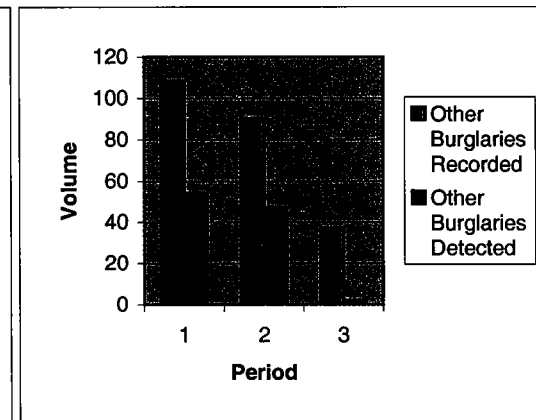
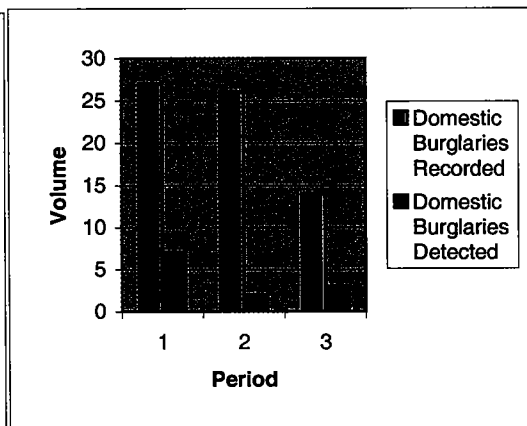
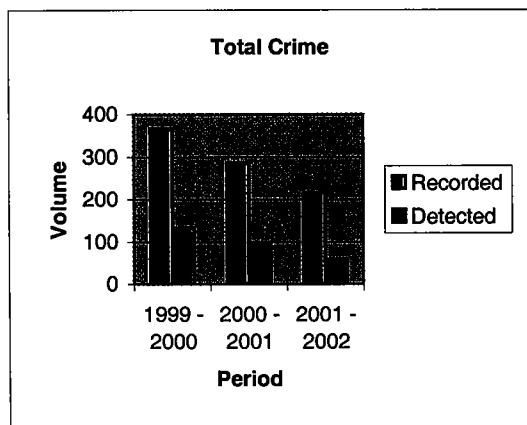
To continue with the dialogue with young people by creating a youth forum, which could look at the wider needs of young people in the community. This could involve young people in planning their own provision.

The forum would need to include representatives of the wider youth community not just those that appear at the youth club.

**The project file for the work is available for viewing on request from John Grant (01502 538038)**

1999-2000	365	133	21	7	108	54	60	11	45	4
2000-2001	<b>286</b>	<b>98</b>	26	2	90	47	52	6	27	1
2001-2002	216	58	14	3	37	2	51	7	24	0

			Domestic	Domestic	Other	Other	Criminal	Criminal	Vehicle	Vehicle
	Total Crimes	Total Crimes	Burglaries	Burglaries	Burglaries	Burglaries	Damage	Damage	Crime	Crime
	Recorded	Detected	Recorded	Detected	Recorded	Detected	Recorded	Detected	Recorded	Detected



99-00	18	15
00-01	8	7
01-02	20	14
	Recorded	Detected