



Report to Policy Review Scrutiny Committee

Subject: Anti-Social Behaviour

Date: 24th March 2009

Author: The Scrutiny Officer

1. Purpose of the Report

To update Members on the progress of the working group's review into Anti-Social Behaviour.

2. Background

This review commenced in May 2008 and a final report was drafted in February 2009.

3. Proposal

That Committee Members read the attached report and endorse the recommendations made by the Chair of the working group.

4. Recommendations

That this report and its recommendations are passed onto Cabinet for consideration for implementation.



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Author: The Working Group

1.0 Purpose of the report

1.1 To update members on the progress of the scrutiny working group's review into anti social behaviour.

2.0 Background

2.1 This working group comprises of Councillors C. Pratt (Chair), S. Prew-Smith, J. Creamer, T. Barton, M. Shepherd, S. Mason-Kempster and Officers T. Lack (Scrutiny Officer), D. Jayne (Neighbourhoods and Crime Manager) and A. Callingham (Public Protection Manager)

3.0 The Scope of the Review

3.1 This working group was convened to consider the nature and extent of anti social behaviour within the Gedling Borough. In addition the working group sought to identify what is being done by the Council and its partners to tackle Anti Social Behaviour, criminal damage and fear of crime within the Gedling Borough Council area. The working group's scope is attached at Appendix 1.

4.0. Information Gathering

4.1. The working group gathered various information in relation to the issues associated with anti social behaviour. This included exploring how anti social behaviour is defined and action against it is monitored and reported. The working group also analysed public perceptions of anti social behaviour in addition to the statistical information available on incidences of this. The working group examined the resources and policies in place for dealing with anti social behaviour in order to evaluate their effectiveness. The working group scrutinised:

- 4.2. Anti Social Behaviour in Gedling Borough- A summary report by D. Jayne, Gedling Borough Council Neighbourhoods and Crime Manager (Appendix 2)
- 4.3 Defining and measuring anti social behaviour- Home Office Development and Practice Report 2004
- 4.4 List of behaviours included in the Home Office one day count of anti social behaviour 10 September 2003
- 4.5 A question and answer session with P. Gretton- Trading Standards Manager, Communities Department, Nottinghamshire County Council (Appendix 3)
- 4.6 A question and answer session with Inspector M. Towlson, Local Area Commander, Nottinghamshire Police (Appendix 4)
- 4.7 A question and answer session with K. and R. Vaughan-Newton, Chair and Secretary of Arnold Association of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes
- 4.8 Public Protection Section and Anti-Social behaviour- A Power Point presentation by A. Callingham, Public Protection Manager and K. Nealon Community Protection Manager, Gedling Borough Council
- 4.9 Comparative Anti Social Behaviour data for Gedling, Broxtowe and Rushcliffe Borough Councils and Estimates of Unit Costs of Anti-Social Behaviour- a presentation by D. Jayne, Neighbourhoods and Crime Manager, Gedling Borough Council.
- 4.10 Have your Say on Anti-Social Behaviour'- A public consultation forum accessed through a link on Gedling Borough Council's Internet site.
- 4.11 South Nottinghamshire Community Safety Strategy 2008 – 2011
- 4.12 Nottinghamshire Drug and Alcohol Action Team Plan 2008 – 2009
- 4.13 Nottinghamshire Anti Social Behaviour Strategy
- 5.0 **Findings**
- 5.1 The working group are familiar with the contextual information (**Anti Social Behaviour in Gedling Borough- a summary report**) provided by D. Jayne, Gedling Borough Council Neighbourhoods and Crime Manager (Appendix 2). The group acknowledge that this is the most up-to-date data and information available at present. They understand that vehicle nuisance; drug and alcohol related anti social behaviour and general property crime are the community priorities as identified through surveys. The working group note that drug and alcohol related anti social behaviour

in particular are hard to record as these are often perception related. The group are also aware that Carlton, Daybrook and Netherfield are priority areas for addressing anti social behaviour. When reviewing the various statistics the working group appreciate that a percentage of the figures could be taken off some anti social behaviour statistics as these reflect hoax telephone calls to the emergency services. The working group recognise that the recording of anti social behaviour trends on a month-by-month basis, enables multi-agency resources to be allocated according to seasonal trends.

- 5.2 Having reviewed the **‘Defining and measuring anti social behaviour Home Office Development and Practice Report’**, the working group accept a working definition of anti social behaviour for the purpose of this review: -

“Acting in a manner that caused or was likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household (as the defendant).”

[As defined in the Crime & Disorder Act 1998].

The working group acknowledge that this too, is the definition used by Gedling Borough Council and in particular when issuing an Anti Social Behaviour Order (ASBO). The group understand that this is a broad definition of anti social behaviour and it is associated with a more detailed Home Office typology.

- 5.3 The working group understand that the **list of behaviours included in the Home Office one day count of anti social behaviour document** serves as a useful ‘snap shot’ of the problem anti social behaviour represents daily for individuals, communities and businesses and the impact anti social behaviour has on service providers. The group note that this information provides agencies with a starting point to assess what anti social behaviour is reported in their local area, to whom and at what cost.

- 5.4 The working group acknowledge the information provided by **Mr P. Gretton-Trading Standards Manager, Communities Department, Nottinghamshire County Council** (Appendix 3).

The working group recognise that the Trading Standards service covers a wide range of statutory enforcement functions and that its role in terms of preventing and helping address anti social behaviour is a small but significant part of its overall work. The group understand that Trading Standards have many established partnership working arrangements because their remit often overlaps with that of other agencies such as the Police, Environmental Health and Revenue and Customs. The Trading Standards service works closely with Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP’s) and get involved in ‘Weeks of Action’ initiatives. The

working group acknowledge that Trading Standards main role in tackling anti social behaviour is enforcing parts of the 2003 Licensing Act (underage drinking). They note that their remit also involves enforcing age restriction legislation covering the sale of knives, aerosols, fireworks and solvents, all of which impact on anti-social behaviour.

The working group are aware that in terms of underage drinking, Trading Standard's role is quite narrow. Their work involves test purchasing and monitoring underage drinking with the use of shared data, information and intelligence gathered from other agencies and the public. The group understand that the actual power to confiscate alcohol resides with the Police service. The working group note that the Trading Standards service has the equivalent of three full time dedicated officers to address age-restricted sales, with alcohol being the major product covered. The working group recognise that the consumption of alcohol by underage drinkers may be influenced to a significant extent by its low pricing relative to previous years.

The working group acknowledge that Penalty Notice Disorder (PND's) and licence reviews (for rogue traders) are more effective deterrents in combating the sale of underage alcohol than prosecutions. The group are satisfied that whilst licence revocation can be enacted (by the Licensing Authority under the 2003 Licensing Act), this is rarely used and that Trading Standards has a good range of counter measures to invoke. The group note that these can include criminal prosecution, civil undertakings, simple cautions, warnings and advice.

The working group are aware of Trading Standards role in terms of the sale of knives, aerosols and fireworks. These include monitoring (underage) sales and storage inspections (fireworks). The group understand that Trading Standards are working with the CDRP's and other partners to tackle knife and paint aerosol (graffiti) crime.

5.5 The working group acknowledge the information provided by **Inspector M. Towlson, Local Area Commander, Nottinghamshire Police** (Appendix 4).

The working group are aware that the Police have targets to meet in terms of anti social behaviour and that these are premised around customer confidence and satisfaction. The group understand that the Police's main target is to reduce the volume of anti social behaviour (this target being set against an already recorded anti social behaviour problem). The working group are aware that the Police's anti social behaviour targets are set by the either Division or the Local Area Command.

The working group understand that the Police will re-contact any person who reports anti social behaviour to ascertain the extent of the problem and

determine their response. The group note that it is difficult for the Police to define an investigation into an isolated anti social behaviour call, and that the Police will assess a series a calls around anti social behaviour in a particular area. When responding to the publics concerns around anti social behaviour, the Police will look to increase their visibility in an 'identified' area to reassure the community around any concerns they may have. The Police also work with Local Action Groups (LAGS) to take forward any issues that they may articulate and to report back on any actions that the Police may have undertaken to address anti social behaviour. The working group are aware that the Police are not the only service that can respond to anti social behaviour problems (5.4), and note that the Police undertake many joint working initiatives including dual patrols with the Gedling Borough Council's Neighbourhood Wardens.

The working group understand that the Police can use various tactics and sanctions when dealing with known or suspected perpetrators of anti social behaviour. These can include advice and guidance, letters to parents, Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABC's), Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO's) and criminal proceedings. Whilst the group appreciate that an ABC has no legal punishment and that it is issued as a 'contract' to encourage an individual to amend their behaviour, they understand that recourse to ABC's have produced some positive results in terms of anti social behaviour within the Borough. The working group are also aware that a small number of ASBO's have also been issued in varying degrees across the Borough and that these too have proved a useful deterrent in addressing anti social behaviour. The working group recognise that in neighbourhoods where anti social behaviour is seen as an issue, the Police will involve their Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT) and can also utilise other Divisional and Force resources as appropriate to deal with problems.

The working group are aware that Gedling Borough Council works in conjunction with the Police to help gather evidence and prevent anti social behaviour. This includes joint working between the Council's Leisure Services Department and Nottinghamshire County Council's Youth Service to provide various youth activities to divert young people away from anti social behaviour. The Council also collects evidence of anti social behaviour through the use of its diary (recording) sheets, use of technical equipment and Warden patrols.

The working group recognise the role of Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's) in working alongside the Police in various capacities. Their role involves providing an interface with the local community, contributing to intelligence information and carrying out 'lower level' duties in order to free up time Police officer time to pursue more serious matters. The working group acknowledge that PCSO's whilst not as 'empowered' as Police officers, nonetheless provide a valuable adjunct to the Police service and

are well regarded by the public within the Borough

The working group understand that the local Arnold, Carlton and Oxclose Police Stations have different opening times with the latter two Stations being open 11 hours a day to the public. It was noted that these Police Stations have Police working from them 24 hours a day. The working group are satisfied that any call made to a Police Station will be either dealt with by a Police Officer (or their staff) and if this is not possible then the enquiry will be followed up by a home visit.

The working group appreciate that the work of the Police is enhanced by the use of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) surveillance. This resource is useful to them not only in providing evidence of crimes and behaviours that can constitute anti-social behaviour, but also as a proactive tool to monitor the Borough and prevent these incidences.

- 5.6 The working group acknowledge the information sharing that took place with **K. and R. Vaughan-Newton, Chair and Secretary of Arnold Association of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes (AANWS)**. The working group appreciate that the roles carried out by the Vaughan-Newton's' in the AANWS are in voluntary capacity.

The working group are familiar with the AANWS newsletter. This is published four times a year and circulated to almost 6,500 households in the 100 or so Neighbourhood Watch schemes supported by the Association in seven of the Borough's wards. The group acknowledge that this newsletter serves as a useful resource featuring various crime related information and contact details. The working group understand that the Council's Portfolio Holder for Safe and Sustainable Neighbourhoods currently funds the printing of the AANWS newsletter.

The group recognise that from its inception in 1995, the AANWS has grown in terms of the number of schemes it represents. The work of the AANWS is supported by its team of volunteers which visit Arnold Police Station every fortnight to review any crime incidents on-line and report back to the Head Co-ordinator. The group note that individual members of the AANWS also 'feed' information to the Police regarding anti-social behaviour.

The working group are aware that the AANWS utilises the 'Ringmaster' scheme which is funded by Gedling Borough Council. The group understand that this is a comprehensive communication system which sends out messages (usually by email or recorded voice) relaying important information relating to ASB and crime. The group appreciate that the Police provide training so that the AANWS volunteers can use the Ringmaster system.

The working group recognise that through the work of the AANWS there has been a reduction in criminal damage and the number of burglaries in the Woodthorpe area. It was noted that the AANWS Co-ordinators work pro-actively to look for ways to reduce anti-social behaviour and criminal activity.

The working group appreciate that the running of the AANWS is very time intensive and that its successful operation is contingent on the good will and commitment of the AANWS volunteers. The group acknowledge that there is a very dedicated but small committee that organises the AANWS. The working group understand that the AANWS has promoted its work through the Council's community 'Contacts' magazine in order to canvass potential volunteers to come onto the AANWS. The group acknowledge that the AANWS needs some younger members to help fill the roles currently undertaken by older members. The AANWS is affiliated to the Gedling Community for Voluntary Service (GCVS). The working group recognise that the AANWS has useful links with other Neighbourhood Watch Schemes e.g. Netherfield and Ravenshead.

The working group commend the commitment and work that the AANWS volunteers undertake and recognise that the AANWS perceive the role of the Council's Neighbourhood Wardens as being paramount in helping them prevent crime and anti-social behaviour. To this extent, the AANWS recognise that any increase in Warden posts (and the uniformed presence that they bring together with that of PCSO's) would be highly beneficial in preventing and addressing crime related issues. The working group understand that the Neighbourhood Wardens have been instrumental in helping set up new Neighbourhood Watch Schemes. The AANWS recognise the potential for the Council to work more closely with themselves and believe that forging closer links with Neighbourhood Wardens and improving communication by email could help enable this. The working group understand that the Wardens use the AANWS weekly crime reports as a briefing tool.

The working group also acknowledge the important role that the Council's Elected Members have in promoting Neighbourhood Watch Schemes. The working group recognise that not all Members are conversant with the role and work of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes. They believe that there is potential for organising an awareness-raising forum possibly co-facilitated by the Council and the AANWS for the purposes of information sharing.

- 5.7. The working group acknowledge the presentation given by **Gedling Borough Council's Public Protection Manager and Community Protection Manager** which outlined the role of the Public Protection Department and anti-social behaviour. This presentation detailed the work of Gedling Borough Council's Neighbourhood Warden Service, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator and the CCTV scheme.

The working group recognise the varied and important role that the **Council's Neighbourhood Wardens** have in helping prevent and addressing anti-social behaviour. The group understand that the Neighbourhood Warden Service works to reduce crime and improve overall community safety. The working group are aware that the highest areas of public demand for the Warden Service relate to anti-social behaviour, fly tipping, litter, dog related problems, accumulations of rubbish, patrols within the community, advising members of the public about other services and being a visible presence on the streets. Other key areas of the Neighbourhood Wardens work involve 'tackling' graffiti and vandalism, partnership working with the police and PCSO's and the 'Car Crime Initiative'. The group note that the Car Crime Initiative highlights 'problematic' neighbourhoods and areas for the Wardens to patrol i.e. car parks.

The working group appreciate that the Council uses the media (i.e. Nottingham Evening Post) as an educative tool to promote and publicise the work of the Neighbourhood Wardens. The group understand that that the Warden Service is considered to be a successful service through operating a problem solving approach which is well received by the public due to its particular customer focus. The working group recognise the various merits of the Neighbourhood Warden Service in addressing anti-social behaviour as also indicated by the Police and the AANWS in 5.5 and 5.6

The working group are familiar with the role of the Council's **Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator**. They understand that this involves supporting and maintaining the Council's regular monthly Anti-Social Behaviour problem solving meetings. The group note that these meetings are also attended by partner agencies from the South Nottingham Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) of which the Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator is a partnership officer. The working group acknowledge that the Anti-Social Behaviour Officer co-ordinates complex anti-social behaviour cases (i.e. those needing a partnership response) and arranges and supports case conferences, legal cases, ABC's and ASBO's etc. The group understand that other aspects of the Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator's role include developing guidance and liaising and maintaining links with partners especially the Police.

The working group have reviewed and are familiar with the 'Gedling Borough Council Incident Diary Record Sheet' and the 'Gedling Community Safety Partnership Incident Diary'. It was noted that the Neighbourhood Wardens use the Diary Record Sheet and that the Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator uses the more expansive Gedling Community Safety Partnership Incident Diary. The working group understand that the former provides evidence for statements detailing criminal activity and that the latter is utilised for more serious and intractable cases.

The working group are aware of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 section 215 which gives Councils the power in certain circumstances to take steps for land or property to be cleaned up when its condition adversely affects the amenity of the area. The working group acknowledge that Gedling Borough Council has used this Act on a property within the Borough in order to get a considerably overgrown garden cut back in order to prevent anti-social behaviour. In this way, the group understand that stolen goods and equipment associated with illegal drugs was being secreted in the garden's undergrowth and as such this was contributing to anti-social behaviour with associated groups of young people congregating in the area.

The working group recognise the benefits of the Council utilising **CCTV**. They understand that this functions to reduce the fear of crime through improving conditions for local residents and visitors to town centres, supporting business confidence and investment, improving confidence in using car parks, and to help dispel factors that cause people to avoid using town centres. The working group note that the Council's CCTV scheme was set up in 2006 and that currently there are a total of 21 cameras sited in the Borough's main Town Centres and Shopping Areas. The group are aware that the overall CCTV system costs approximately £400,000 and that this is mostly funded from the Greater Nottinghamshire Partnership with the running costs met from the Council's budget.

The working group acknowledge that CCTV enables the Council to assist in the effective policing of areas, deter crime and vandalism, assist in the detection of crime, reduce the level of crime and assist in the police in providing information. The group recognise the benefits afforded by CCTV and co-working with the Police as identified in 5.5.

The working group understand that the current issues being addressed through the use of CCTV can be assigned to one of three categories. 'Level One' includes litter, dog fouling, fly tipping and low level ASB, 'Level Two' includes fights, theft, car crime, public house security, community safety, and 'Level Three' reflects at least three serious incidents involving high ranking officers from the Police and the Council. The group appreciate that Levels One and Two incidents that are the most prevalent within the Borough.

The working group note that the Council's CCTV cameras are monitored from a control room, usually 9.a.m. – 12.p.m. on weekdays and longer at weekends. Incidents are usually identified through systematic camera patrols and through events being reported to the control room by the Police, Wardens and the CDRP. The group are satisfied that the Council's CCTV system works well as it links with the Wardens and PCSO's, the Police, and the Shop and Pub Watch radio systems. The group acknowledge that CCTV allows the Council and partner agencies to 'task' the cameras to identify and

target offenders and locations. The working group are familiar with some typical scenarios recorded on CCTV, these include lower level anti-social behaviour such as young people sitting on the roof of a bus shelter and damaging it and a fight taking place on a recreation ground.

The working group understand that Arnold and Netherfield Town Centres along with other retail areas where anti-social behaviour is especially prevalent are where CCTV cameras are sited to monitor and address any problems arising. The group note that this correlates with the crime information and data referred to at 5.1 and in Appendix 2. The working group understand that there is no CCTV in residential areas. (The exception would be a temporary covert CCTV placed discretely to record an identified problem for a time-limited period of time in order to gather evidence.) The group believe that the Council's CCTV scheme is an important tool in helping address and combating anti-social behaviour.

- 5.8 The working group acknowledge the presentation given by Gedling Borough Council's Neighbourhoods and Crime Manager which outlined **comparative anti-social behaviour data** for Gedling, Broxtowe and Rushcliffe Borough Councils and estimates of unit costs for anti-social behaviour. The group recognise the variety of information and data sources reflected within this detailed presentation (Appendix 5).

The working group understand that 'criminal damage' is seen as a proxy indicator for anti-social behaviour and that it is one of three indicators used within the Local Area Agreement (LAA) to measure National Indicator (NI) 17- 'Perception of Anti-Social Behaviour'. The group note that criminal damage includes the categories criminal damage to a dwelling, criminal damage to a vehicle, criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling, criminal damage other, arson and racially aggravated offence of these types.

When considering comparative anti social behaviour data with Broxtowe and Rushcliffe Borough Councils (who have similar crime recording schemes for benchmarking purposes) the working group acknowledge that criminal damage has followed a general downward trend for all three Councils over the last 3 years. However, the group note that Gedling has had the highest numbers and rates of criminal damage for all three years when compared to the other two boroughs. The working group are aware that the peak age for a victim of criminal damage is 37 - 42 years and that the peak age of criminal damage offenders is 16 years.

Whilst the working group appreciate that criminal damage is currently following a downward trend it is apparent from the data (Appendix 5) that there are links between criminal damage, youth, alcohol and anti-social behaviour and it is possible that any increases in anti-social behaviour in localised areas may lead to increases in criminal damage. The group also note that these links are recognised by the Trading Standards Service who

reported that alcohol is the major product monitored when working to uphold age-restricted sales (5.4).

The working group are aware that over the last three years Gedling has experienced the most anti-social behaviour month-on-month with Rushcliffe suffering the least. The group understand that the peak time for anti-social behaviour is between 8 - 9pm and that in total most anti-social behaviour incidents occur on a Friday and Saturday. The working group also acknowledge that over the last three years 'rowdiness' has accounted for approximately two thirds of all anti-social behaviour.

Having reviewed the data depicting incidences of anti-social behaviour, the working group are aware that there is a disparity in public perceptions around the extent of anti-social behaviour and its actual recorded occurrences (Appendix 5). When looking at the various survey information around public perceptions the group noted that despite national reductions in crime, around two thirds of people think that national crime levels have increased 'a lot' or a 'a little' in the last two years. The working group acknowledge that locally, people have less negative perceptions about crime with only 39% believing that crime levels have increased 'a lot' or 'a little'. The group understand that local perceptions of crime are more likely to be influenced by personal experiences and an area's demographics. In this way, the working group acknowledge 'crime levels' and 'activities for teenagers' are the main things that local people feel need to be improved.

The working group have examined information detailing 'Estimates of Unit Costs for Anti-Social Behaviour' (2003) and understand that these vary according to the type of anti-social behaviour perpetrated and also the complexity of the action or remedy taken to address an act of anti-social behaviour. For example the cost of legal action to a Local Authority is reported as ranging from £142 - £305,000. The working group understand that vehicle nuisance is a particular problem in the Gedling Borough area and that the cost of vehicle theft is detailed at £4,700. The group note that an ASBO is reflected as costing a Local Authority/Police £2,500 – 46,800. The working group appreciate that these figures are retrospective and that these costs will have risen in the last six years subsequent to the unit costs being recorded.

The working group recognise that there are many types of anti-social behaviour and the particular remedies or sanctions employed by Councils and their partner agencies are contingent on what the particular issues are in a given area. The working group are aware that other initiatives used by some Councils include 'Closure' orders (i.e. closing domestic premises if for example drug dealing was taking place) or 'Parenting' orders. The group appreciate that these orders are only used in particular circumstances and when deemed to be appropriate.

The working group believe that the powers brought in by the Government to address anti-social behaviour are effective and are relevant in varying degrees depending on the Local Authority and its particular issues. The group recognise that the use of ABC's are most useful in the Gedling Borough area.

- 5.9 The working group understand that only one member of the public has elected to utilise the '**Have your Say on Anti-Social Behaviour**' link on the Gedling Borough Council Internet site. The group also acknowledge that the comment made did not directly relate to anti-social behaviour and it has therefore been referred to an appropriate department within the Council to be acknowledged and addressed. The working group are disappointed that more residents within the borough have not chosen to comment through this consultative forum as this could have helped inform the group's deliberations around public perception and actual incidents of anti-social behaviour.
- 5.10 The group are familiar with the **South Nottinghamshire Community Safety Strategy 2008 – 2011**, which is a three-year rolling strategy. The working group understand that this Strategic Priorities are reflected in the 'Strategic Action Plan' and include four cross cutting themes; serious acquisitive crime, youth issues, alcohol and drug related crime and safer neighbourhoods. Allied to this, the group acknowledge that Gedling's role within the South Nottinghamshire Community Safety Partnership (at both strategic and operational levels) and is also detailed within the Strategic Action Plan. The working group note that project work associated with the South Nottinghamshire Community Safety Strategy includes diversionary work with young people and education around drug and alcohol issues.
- 5.11 The working group understand that the **Nottinghamshire Drug and Alcohol Action Team Plan 2008 – 2009** is informed by Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets. The group acknowledge that PSA target 23, has been designed to make local agencies more responsible and responsive to their communities, and to enable agencies to develop strategies relevant to their own areas. The working group recognise that the work of the Nottinghamshire Drug and Alcohol Action Team includes working with young people, as their first Police 'caution' is often associated with alcohol and anti-social behaviour.
- 5.12 The working group are aware that there is a **Nottinghamshire Anti Social Behaviour Strategy** but that this is shortly going to be reviewed and revised to reflect new priorities and issues.
- 5.13 Whilst the working group have reviewed a range of overarching anti-social behaviour related strategies (of which many have been jointly informed by Gedling Borough Council and its partner agencies), the group also understand that that Gedling Borough Council has devised its own internal policies to address anti-social behaviour. The working group acknowledge that these corporate policies reflect a more generalist approach to dealing with anti-social behaviour, as many of the anti-social behaviour issues that present are context

specific. Further, the group appreciate that no policy can be written to direct every operational procedure as it is enacted by the Council.

The working group acknowledge the multitude of anti-social behaviour related work carried out by Gedling Borough Council (and in conjunction with its partner agencies). The group have observed how the whole of the Council and its various departments can be considered a resource in dealing with anti-social behaviour. They recognise that the Direct Services Department has a role in dealing with fly tipping and graffiti removal, that the Leisure Services Department has initiatives such as the 'Positive Moves' scheme, the Public Protection section has CCTV, Neighbourhood Wardens, an Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator, Police partnership working and the anti-social behaviour 'Respect' agenda, and that the Community Safety Partnership has a 'safe and sustainable neighbourhoods budget' to organise diversionary activities away from anti-social behaviour.

6.0 **Recommendations**

- 6.1 That the Council seeks to promote and publicise all the work it undertakes (and in conjunction with partner agencies) to address anti-social behaviour to try to counter the mismatch in public perception regarding levels of anti-social behaviour and its actual occurrence. That such publicity should be co-ordinated through the Council's Communications Section and to include a prominent display of the anti-social behaviour reporting contact details.
- 6.2 That the Council seeks to engage more actively with young people to help prevent and address the negative perceptions that are sometimes associated with young people. That the Council build on existing links with schools and the youth services to organise a Youth Conference for young people.
- 6.3 That the council and its partner agencies explore opportunities to organise inter-generational events, bringing together young and older people in order to foster greater community cohesion and to help change people's perceptions.
- 6.4 That Leisure Services extends further its use of leisure facilities during school holiday periods in and around neighbourhoods where anti-social behaviour is deemed to be a problem and investigate the inclusion, where possible, of any identified perpetrators of anti-social behaviour.
- 6.5 That the Council in conjunction with Nottinghamshire County Council, consider providing a greater variety of youth activities e.g. the 'arts' (i.e. music and dance), in addition to sports type activities to help divert young people away from anti-social behaviour.

- 6.6 That the Public Protection Section extends the Council's CCTV scheme throughout all areas of the Borough (including rural areas) where anti-social behaviour is identified as being problematical.
- 6.7 That when any major Capital developments are planned in the Borough i.e. shopping developments or licensed premises- that the implementation of CCTV is considered to help prevent and address any potential anti-social behaviour.
- 6.8 To raise the profile of the Neighbourhood Warden scheme and to maintain or extend the number of Neighbourhood Wardens.
- 6.9 That all Neighbourhood Wardens continue to receive specialist training to enable them to have a dedicated remit in compiling and presenting evidence in terms of anti-social behaviour.
- 6.10 That all Gedling Borough Council Elected Members are offered a briefing session about work and role of the local Neighbourhood Watch and that the Chair and Secretary of the AANWS are invited to assist with this awareness raising event.
- 6.11 That Elected Members receive a regular quarterly up-date on anti-social behaviour within the Borough and that feedback on any schemes initiated to address anti-social behaviour is also reported. That in addition, an annual report outlining the cost to the borough of anti-social behaviour be circulated.
- 6.12 That the Council works more closely with neighbouring authorities to help facilitate a greater sharing of information about the parameters of ASBO's and to encourage liaison about dispersal areas especially when these occur on and around the borders of the various local authorities

7.0 **Acknowledgment**

The Working Group wishes to thank everyone who made themselves available to provide information and support this review.



Scope

Scrutiny committee: Policy Review

Working Group: Anti-Social Behaviour

Chair of group: C. Pratt

Working group members: T. Barton, M. Shepherd, S. Prew-Smith, J. Creamer, S. Mason-Kempster

Portfolio holder/s: Councillors R. Spencer and G. Clarke

(1) Scope

Why this review is being undertaken.....

(list the specific outcomes)

- To establish the nature and extent of Anti Social Behaviour in the Gedling Borough (including the cost)
- To establish what the Councils policies are in relation to Anti Social Behaviour and to determine how these are developed, delivered and reviewed through working in conjunction with partners and how these link to the Local Area Agreement, specifically NI 17- Perceptions of Anti Social Behaviour.
- To record the perception of the public on the issues of Anti Social Behaviour and criminal damage in the Gedling Borough Council area (LAA Indicator)
- To identify any further actions and/or policy directions which might be explored to further reduce the incidence of Anti Social Behaviour in the Gedling Borough area

Aims

The specific issues to consider/examine are...

- To determine how Anti Social Behaviour is defined and action against it is monitored and reported
- explore the gap between the perception of Anti Social Behaviour and statistical information available on incidences of Anti Social Behaviour (i.e. routes to crime)
- To consider how the Council and its partners interact to deliver a cohesive response to anti social behaviour
- To identify and examine the resources and policies in place, and proposed, for dealing with Anti Social Behaviour and to review their effectiveness
- To scrutinise the measures which are available to Gedling Borough Council and its partners which reduce the likelihood that an individual will become a perpetrator of Anti Social Behaviour
- To examine any successful initiatives taken elsewhere to address Anti Social Behaviour and crime related to Anti Social Behaviour and the reasons for their success.

(2) Timetable

The review will commence in: May 2008

Milestones: N/A

The review will report in: April 2009

Committee dates: 20th May, 22nd July, 16th October, 25th November.

Frequency of meetings: Monthly

(3) Information gathering and consultees

The working group has requested the following information:

- A definition for Anti Social Behaviour
- A definition for Criminal Damage
- Anti Social Behaviour survey/statistical information including the cost of Anti Social Behaviour

- Comparative Anti Social Behaviour data with Broxtowe and Rushcliffe Borough Councils (they have similar crime recording schemes for benchmarking purposes)
- Any information given out to the public by Gedling Borough Council in relation to Anti Social Behaviour
- Anti Social Behaviour legislation
- Police list of what constitutes Anti-Social Behaviour
- Home Office Typology of what constitutes Anti-Social Behaviour
- The role of Gedling Community Safety Partnership its Strategic and Tactical Groups
- South Notts Community Safety Strategy 2008 - 2011
- Nottinghamshire Drug and Alcohol Action Team Plan 2008 - 2009
- Nottinghamshire Anti Social Behaviour Strategy (in development)
- Gedling Borough Council Anti Social Behaviour reporting protocol/chart
- Role of Anti Social Behaviour Co-ordinator and Diary Sheets
- Role of Neighbourhood Wardens
- The Neighbourhood Watch (Ringmaster Scheme)

The working group will be inviting the following persons/organisations to one or more meetings to help with the review:

The Police – Inspector Mark Towlson – Local Area Commander Gedling South
 Trading Standards – Paul Gretton – Manager
 Arnold Neighbourhood Watch Association

Visits

The working group might need to consider a visit to:

N/A

(4) How the community will be consulted, informed and involved

The working group wishes to consult through:

Contacts magazine- Scrutiny update column
Gedling Community Safety Partnership / Local Strategic Partnership
The Councils Intranet site

5) Resources

The working group is supported by:

Tracy Lack - Scrutiny Officer (For Project Management)
David Jayne - Neighbourhoods and Crime Manager (For Technical Support)
Andy Callingham - Public Protection Manager (For Technical Support)

(6) How the effectiveness of the review will be measured

After the initial review the working group will...

Identify any further actions and/or policy directions which might be explored to further reduce the incidence of Anti Social Behaviour in the Gedling Borough area

To examine whether conclusions and recommendations have addressed the scope?

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN GEDLING BOROUGH A SUMMARY REPORT

Utilising a range of data and information including the MORI Survey, local community consultation and the local priorities from the Police Safer Neighbourhoods Teams the following priorities were identified reflecting local needs within South Nottinghamshire (Broxtowe, Gedling & Rushcliffe)

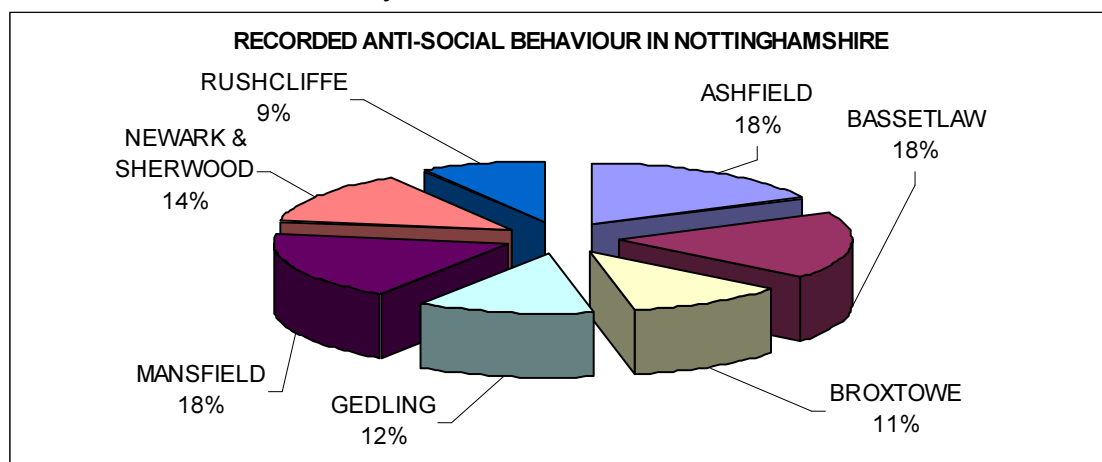
- Alcohol/Drugs and related Anti-social Behaviour
- Vehicle related nuisance/Anti-social Behaviour
- Domestic Burglary/Property crime
- Rowdiness

Current monitoring of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) recording is categorised by individual incidents grouped together to provide a detailed breakdown of ASB as defined by the Home Office. The categories do include hoax phone calls to the police service and further, incidents that do not require attendance. For the purpose of this report, the tables will show the areas that suffer the most incidents.

Nottinghamshire Comparison

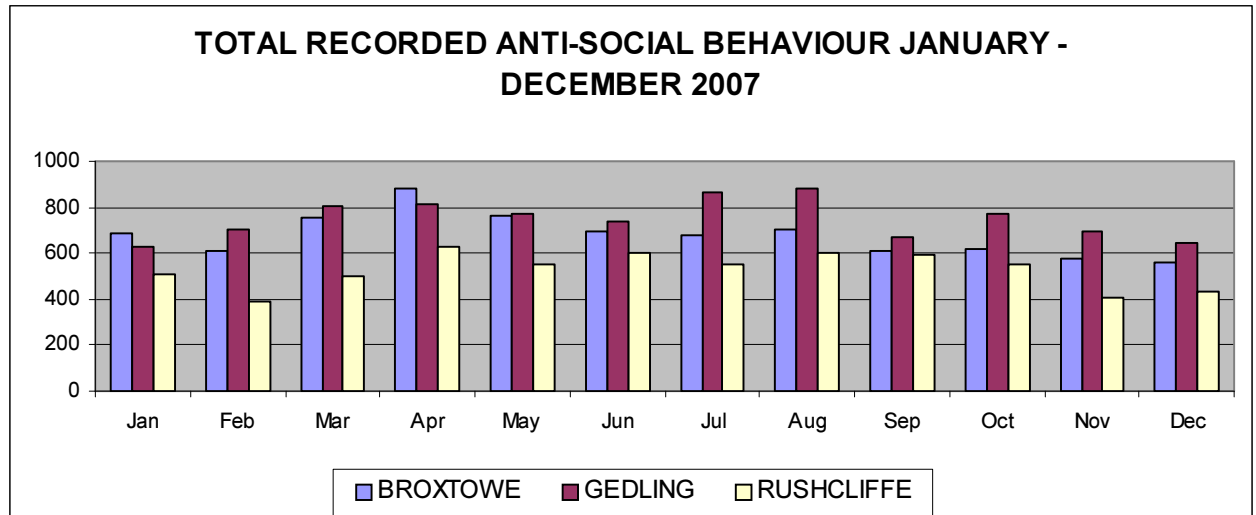
The chart below highlights the total number of recorded anti-social behaviour incidents. The information has been provided by Jupiter in Nottinghamshire (JiN) for the period January to December 2007.

This chart below shows the total number of incidents included for the period January to December 2007 as a percentage of the total incidents in Nottinghamshire recorded in each of the seven districts / boroughs. As the chart indicates, anti-social behaviour recorded within the South Nottinghamshire area is significantly lower than the numbers for other districts / boroughs. However anti-social behaviour remains a major concern for the local community and is a significant contributing factor in the fear of crime in the community.



South Nottinghamshire Comparison

The chart below shows recorded incidents of anti-social behaviour by month as a comparison for the 3 Borough of South Nottinghamshire.



Incident Attendance and Hoax Calls

The chart below shows, by Borough, in South Nottinghamshire the total number of incidents recorded as ASB by category and further shows the number of incidents not attended. Of a total of 15746 incidents recorded, 5266, (33.4%) were not attended. However it should be noted that 2064 (13.1%) of incidents were recorded as Hoax Calls.

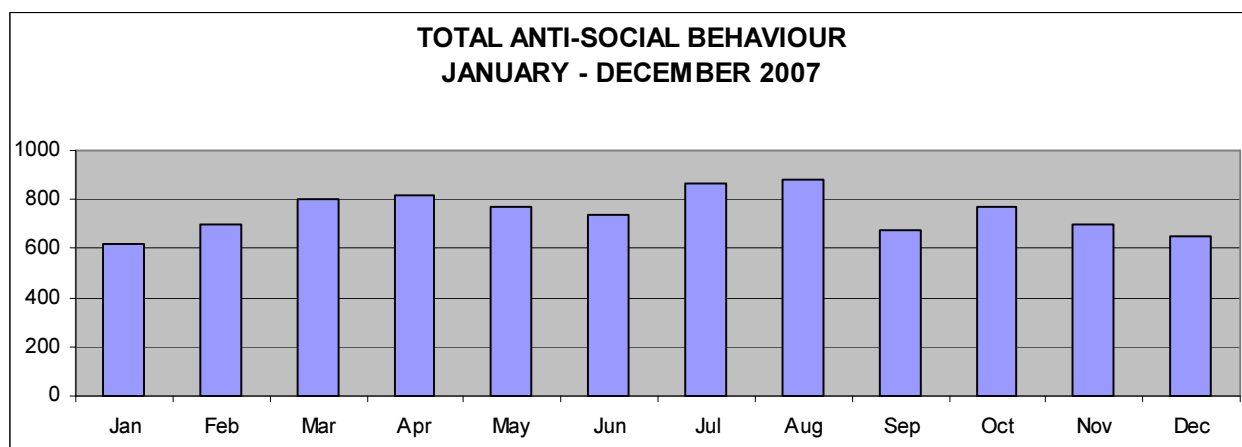
In considering the South Nottinghamshire Community Priorities, rowdiness and vehicle related nuisance were seen as two of the four top priorities. The pie chart above and chart below highlights that these two categories account for the largest percentage of calls to the Police and partners.

Current Incident Type	Broxtowe			Gedling			Rushcliffe		
	Attend	Non Attend	Total	Attend	Non Attend	Total	Attend	Non Attend	Total
Rowdy Inconsiderate Behaviour	2413	203	2616	2857	206	3063	1954	178	2132
Hoax Calls To Emergency Service	42	363	405	63	1117	1180	41	438	479
Vehicle Related Nuisance	361	71	432	417	90	507	247	66	313
Abandoned Vehicle Not Stolen/Obstructing	195	170	365	179	159	338	121	131	252

Rowdy/Nuisance Behaviour		273	273		318	318		269	269
Malicious Communications	154	42	196	162	79	241	163	43	206
Pets/Domestic Animals	28	132	160	22	229	251	14	64	78
Animal Problems	98	64	162	64	29	93	116	49	165
Noise	36	67	103	31	54	85	39	58	97
Neighbours	70	11	81	79	15	94	56	16	72
Street Drinking	74	13	87	46	9	55	53	15	68
Fireworks	26	13	39	69	28	97	23	10	33
Stolen Found/ Abandoned Vehicle	46	19	65	38	8	46	14	8	22
Found/Abandoned Vehicle		43	43		31	31		26	26
Trespass	8	4	12	14		14	8	3	11
Wildlife	4	3	7	6	5	11	3	4	7
Environmental Damage/Litter	4	1	5	6	5	11	4	1	5
Begging/Vagrancy	2		2	4	1	5	2	1	3
Hate Incident		3	3		4	4		1	1
Substance Misuse	2	1	3	2	1	3		1	1

Gedling

The chart below shows recorded incidents of anti-social behaviour in Gedling Borough for the period January to December 2007 by month. As the chart shows the period July and August accounts for the highest number by month with a further spike in March and April. Such information will be used by the Partnership to determine allocation of resources, however further information is required for such resource allocation i.e. hot spot areas and this can be seen in further charts.



The chart below shows anti-social behaviour recorded by beat area for the period April to December 2007 in Gedling. The table highlights the top 4 beat areas, 2 for each Police Local Area Command, for anti-social behaviour incidents with 1872 (29%) of all incidents recorded in the Borough being within the 4 beat areas and 842, (13%) of all incidents being recorded in Netherfield. The chart suggest that targeted activity should be undertaken in the Bonington and Daybrook wards for Gedling North and Netherfield and Carlton wards for Gedling South. However close monitoring of Phoenix and Gedling wards are required as the number of incidents are high.

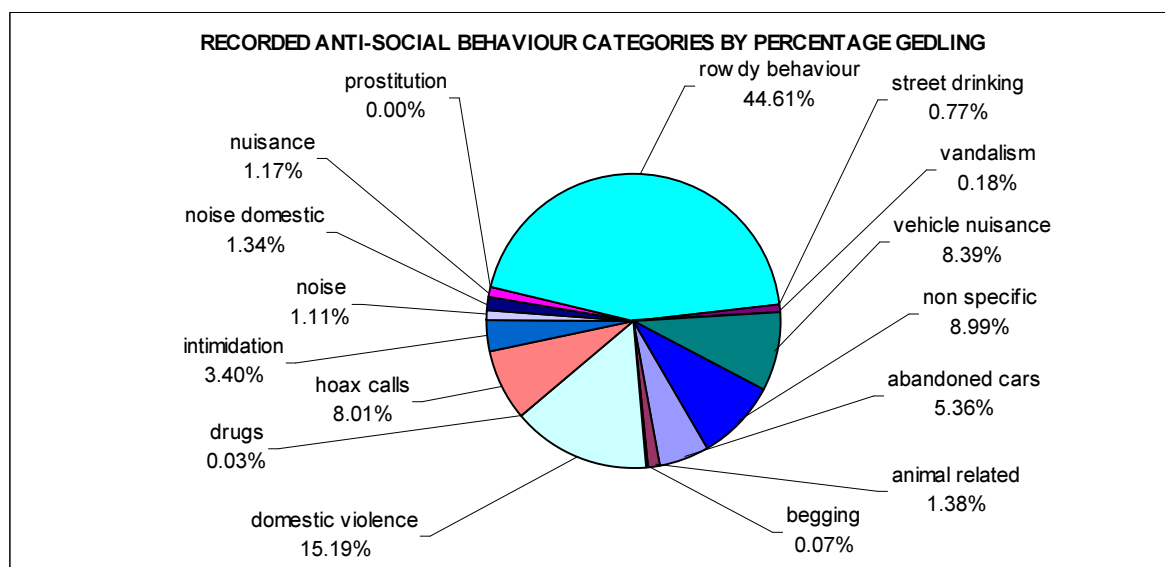
Gedling	ASB Incidents Attended	ASB Incidents Total
Arnold Town Centre	222	286
Bestwood Village	56	89
Bonington	215	305
Burton Joyce	61	98
Calverton	175	234
Carlton	272	397
Carlton Hill	217	293
Colwick	83	111
Daybrook	243	328
Gedling	308	393
Killisick	160	188
Kingswell	145	193
Lambley	14	25
Linby And Papplewick	27	725
Mapperley Plains	191	252
Netherfield	462	842
Newstead	72	102
Phoenix	312	393
Porchester	179	285
Ravenshead	34	64
St. James	77	103
St. Mary's	164	214

Stoke Bardolph	7	15
Valley	235	319
Woodborough	14	29
Woodthorpe	114	164
Total	4059	6447

The chart below shows the total number of recorded anti-social behaviour incidents in Gedling by percentage. The chart shows that 44.61% of all recorded incidents in Gedling Borough are Rowdy Behaviour. Rowdiness is a priority identified by the local community.

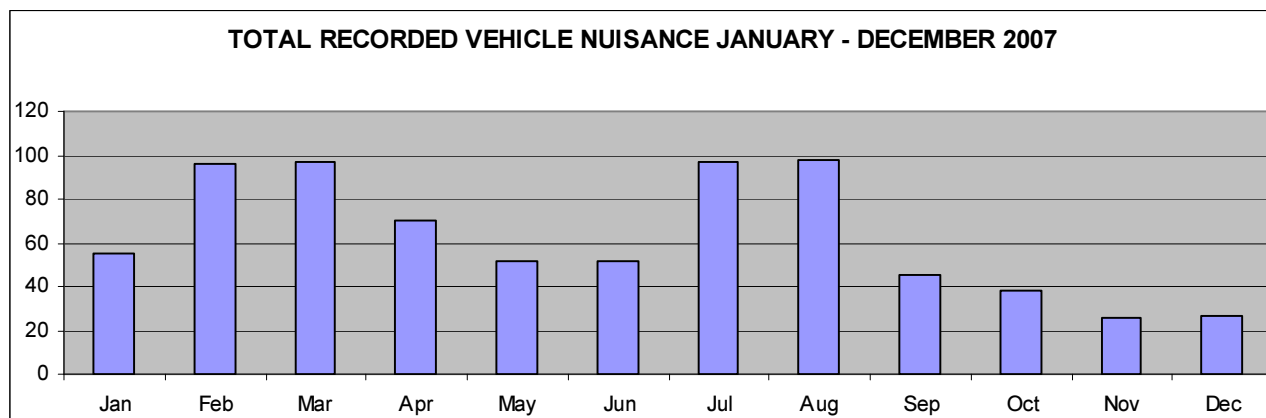
Vehicle Nuisance and Abandoned Vehicles account for 13.75% of the total incidents in the Borough and this is again further supported as an issue in Broxtowe given that the local community priorities identify vehicle related nuisance as a priority to be addressed.

Relating recorded anti-social behaviour to the violent crime priority, it can be seen that 15.2% of anti-social behaviour incidents relate to domestic violence and as such domestic violence can be seen as a priority for the Partnership.



Vehicle Related Nuisance

The chart below shows recorded incidents of vehicle related nuisance in Gedling Borough for the period January to December 2007 by month. As the chart shows the period February and March accounts for the highest number by month with a decreasing number of incidents during the period until July and August when incident increase and then this is followed by a further decrease. Such information will be used by the Partnership to determine allocation of resources, however further information is required for such resource allocation i.e. hot spot areas and this can be seen in further charts.

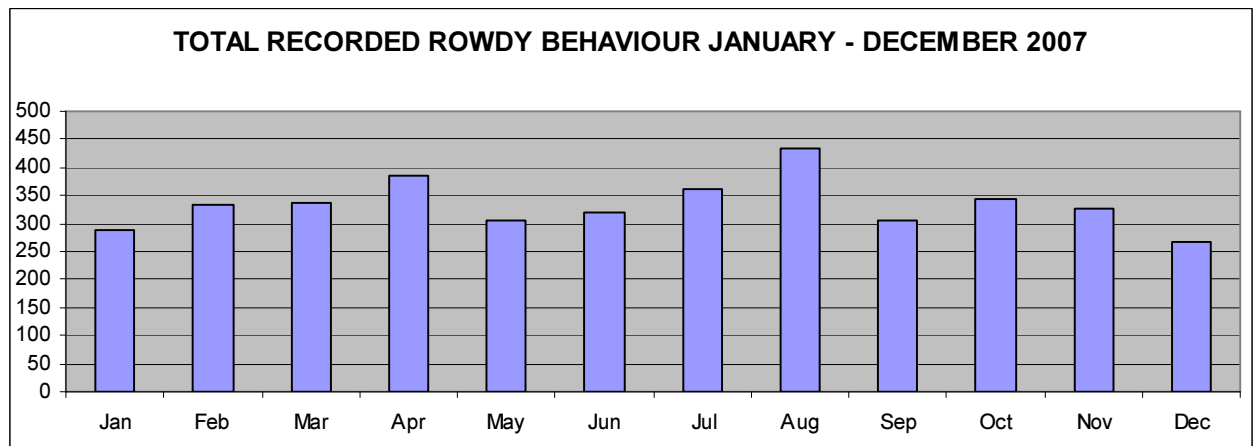


The chart below shows vehicle related nuisance recorded by beat area for the period April to December 2007 in Gedling. The table highlights the top 4 beat areas for vehicle related nuisance incidents with 281 (37.3%) of all incidents recorded in the Borough being within the 4 beat areas and 99, (13.1%) of all incidents being recorded in the Netherfield and Colwick ward. The chart suggest that targeted activity should be undertaken in the top 4 ward areas of Bonington, Kingswell and Daybrook wards in the Gedling North Local Area Command and in Netherfield and Colwick ward for Gedling South and Eastwood North and with an additional focus on Carlton ward for Gedling South.

WARD AREA	INCIDENTS	
	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS	PER 1000 POPULATION
Bestwood Village Ward	36	22
Bonington Ward	64	9
Burton Joyce and Stoke Bardolph Ward	13	4
Calverton Ward	48	7
Carlton Hill Ward	21	3
Carlton Ward	49	7
Daybrook Ward	48	10
Gedling Ward	49	7
Killisick Ward	30	11
Kingswell Ward	22	5
Lambley Ward	3	2
Mapperley Plains Ward	44	6
Netherfield and Colwick Ward	99	14
Newstead Ward	37	18
Phoenix Ward	32	6
Porchester Ward	22	3
Ravenshead Ward	9	2
St. James Ward	14	3
St. Mary's Ward	70	10
Valley Ward	27	7
Woodborough Ward	2	1
Woodthorpe Ward	14	2

Rowdy Behaviour

The chart below shows recorded incidents of rowdy behaviour in Gedling Borough for the period January to December 2007 by month. As the chart shows the level of incidents throughout the year remains consistently high with peak months being February to April and the peak month of August. Such information will be used by the Partnership to determine allocation of resources, however further information is required for such resource allocation i.e. hot spot areas and this can be seen in further charts.



The chart below shows rowdy behaviour recorded by beat area for the period April to December 2007 in Gedling. The table highlights the top 4 beat areas for rowdy behaviour incidents with 1479 (39.9%) of all incidents recorded in the Borough being within the 4 beat areas and 555, (13.9%) of all incidents being recorded in Netherfield & Colwick ward. The chart suggest that targeted activity should be undertaken in the Netherfield and Colwick ward for Gedling South and Daybrook, Bonington and St Mary's ward for Gedling North with additional focus upon Gedling and Phoenix ward for Gedling South.

WARD AREA	INCIDENTS	
	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS	PER 1000 POPULATION
Bestwood Village Ward	44	26
Bonington Ward	222	32
Burton Joyce and Stoke Bardolph Ward	72	20
Calverton Ward	162	24
Carlton Hill Ward	195	27
Carlton Ward	310	45
Daybrook Ward	274	55
Gedling Ward	294	44
Killisick Ward	169	62

Kingswell Ward	141	30
Lambley Ward	8	4
Mapperley Plains Ward	236	34
Netherfield and Colwick Ward	555	79
Newstead Ward	73	35
Phoenix Ward	305	61
Porchester Ward	172	25
Ravenshead Ward	37	7
St. James Ward	67	15
St. Mary's Ward	340	50
Valley Ward	199	50
Woodborough Ward	10	5
Woodthorpe Ward	119	17
	4004	

DEFINITIONS

Criminal damage refers to crimes where a person intentionally or recklessly destroys or causes damage to another person's property. Criminal damage, often referred to as vandalism, includes graffiti, arson and other forms of damage to property, including vehicles.

It accounts for just under a quarter of all British Crime Survey (BCS) offences, and just over a fifth of recorded crime. Criminal damage is frequently seen as a minor crime, but neglected physical environments are unsafe, cause fear and undermine pride in the local community. Criminal damage can also be seen as a catalyst to other forms of anti-social behaviour and crime.

Source Home Office Crime Reduction Website

www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/criminaldamage/criminaldamage001.htm

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) includes a variety of behaviour covering a whole complex of selfish and unacceptable activity that can blight the quality of community life.

Examples include:

- nuisance neighbours
- rowdy and nuisance behaviour
- yobbish behaviour and intimidating groups taking over public spaces
- vandalism, graffiti and fly-posting
- people dealing and buying drugs on the street
- people dumping rubbish and abandoning cars
- begging and anti-social drinking

- the misuse of fireworks

Anti-social behaviour doesn't just make life unpleasant. It holds back the regeneration of disadvantaged areas and creates an environment where more serious crime can take hold.

On any measure of polling or survey, anti-social behaviour matters - it has a negative effect on far too many people's quality of life. We are committed to tackling this problem.

To put this into context for Gedling Borough, the Council's Direct Services Department estimates that the costs of dealing with Criminal Damage is as follows:

Approximately £60,000 on fly tipping

More than £20,000 on vandalism in the parks, pavilions etc

More than £15-20,000 on removing graffiti.

Source Home Office Crime Reduction Website

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/anti-social-behaviour/what-is-asb

Questions for Mr P. Gretton
Trading Standards Manager Nottinghamshire County Council

1. What is Trading Standard's role and how do you work with partners to tackle anti-social behaviour?

Trading Standards covers a wide range of statutory enforcement functions. These concern the regulation of business and retailers covering such issues as weights and measures, product safety, food safety, animal health, petroleum storage, fireworks, consumer credit and counterfeiting. In all we enforce around seventy major pieces of legislation and hundreds of subordinate regulations. Our remit overlaps with many other bodies and we have established partnership arrangements with agencies such as Environmental Health, Police and HMR&C. In recent years we have engaged with CDRP's to make a contribution to tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.

Our main role in tackling anti-social behaviour is in enforcing parts of the 2003 Licensing Act. By agreement with the Police we concentrate on "off" sales, they on "on" sales. Our role is to enforce measures on underage sales and to provide advice and support to retailers in complying with the law. We exchange intelligence with the police and support each other by providing officers on joint exercises. The police issue "PNDs" (fixed penalties) to sellers of alcohol to under- 18's on our behalf. We also support CDRPs by targeting test purchasing according to their information and wishes. We are a major participant in Weeks of Action across the county.

Trading Standards also enforce age restriction legislation covering knives, aerosols, fireworks and solvents, all of which has an impact on anti-social behaviour.

2. What powers do Trading Standards have to control underage drinking? What penalties are available? How do you monitor the problem, e.g. observation, public reporting, dummy purchasing, liaison with Police?

We have no powers to tackle underage drinking, e.g. confiscation of alcohol, these lie with the police. Our role is actually quite narrow. We are empowered to make test purchases, as stated above, by agreement with the Police; we concentrate on off license sales.

The problem is monitored in several ways;

- Collection of intelligence; main sources are complaints from the public, elected members, crimestoppers and the police.

- Information from other partners, usually in the CDRP context.
- Test purchasing using volunteers under 18 in accordance with strict national guidelines.
- Use of data from “JIN”

Elected Members also bring valuable information to help Trading Standards with the collection of intelligence. When young people volunteer to test purchase they are interviewed and so are their parents to check suitability. Volunteers like a testimonial written by Trading Standards to put on their C.V.

Garages can be weak spots as they sell petrol, food and offer a variety of services so the staff can be easily distracted. Supermarkets can also be weak spots as they can employ a lot of under eighteen year olds on the tills. Shopping on the ‘net’ can also be abused by underage drinkers, as Trading Standards are not going to know the delivery address in advance.

3. What proportion of Trading Standards work load (costs and staff time) is concerned with monitoring alcohol sales, especially to young people?

We are only concerned with the direct sale of alcohol to young people. We adjust our resources constantly to meet the various demands on our service. We currently have two full time officers devoted to age restricted sales, including alcohol. Other officers are deployed to support them on test purchase exercises (each exercise uses four officers). Overall the equivalent of three full time officers are devoted to age-restricted sales at an approximate cost of £150k p.a., including “on costs” and management overheads. The service deploys around 40 full time front-line enforcement officers to cover its full remit.

In 2007/8 we almost exclusively concentrated on alcohol sales. This year we have consciously diversified to redress the relative neglect of other products, although alcohol is still the major product covered. In 2007/8 we carried out over 800 alcohol test purchases. To put this in context the next most active Trading Standards Service in the East Midlands only did 500 in the same period. Of our 800, around 70 failed the test.

In Nottinghamshire the various Councils liase with each other and Trading Standards as there can be problems of displacement when underage drinkers travel to other localities when are deterred from congregating in a particular area.

Trading Standards will target shops and businesses specifically, randomly and during ‘Week’s of Action.’

4. How many prosecutions were undertaken during the last period

**that figures were available for? How many were successful?
What penalties were imposed by the courts? How many licenses
were withdrawn?**

We tend to use PNDs and license reviews rather than prosecutions as we feel this gives a better outcome. In 2007/8 only two prosecutions were taken. 60 £85 PNDs were issued. Typical fines imposed were £100-£200. Licenses cannot be removed by Trading Standards or the Courts. To pursue this outcome we have to use the license review provisions in the 2003 Act. This involves using our status as a "responsible body" to trigger a review with the District Council as the Licensing Authority. This can only be done in certain prescribed circumstances, in broad terms the same premises has to have made a sale on three separate occasions over a three month period. License revocation is an option but seldom used in Trading Standards cases as it is considered the most draconian sanction. We were the first east midlands authority to bring a license review and have now taken five across the county. Measures imposed varied from additional staff training to temporary suspension of license.

Trading Standards have found that prosecutions and fines are not a disincentive to rogue traders, whereas removing a licence or restricting it can have greater impacts. This is a time consuming process though.

5. Can licenses be withdrawn from licensed premises in areas with high anti-social behaviour or would there be a requirement of proof of underage purchasing of drinks?

The withdrawal or variation of licenses is under the control of District Councils as the Licensing Authority under the 2003 Act. This question would be best directed to them. My understanding is that licenses can be withdrawn for a variety of reasons providing this can be shown to be necessary to promote one of the aims of the Act. Underage sales would certainly provide a potential reason for this but is not in itself needed for license withdrawal.

Nottinghamshire County Council could become accredited to issue fixed penalty notices as opposed to the Police. On the whole Trading Standards have a good range of measures.

6. Do you have a view on the potential impact of increasing the cost of alcohol at off licenses?

I understand that recent research carried out as part of the Government's consultation on further restrictions on alcohol sales has established a link between the price of alcohol and its consumption by different groups. Essentially young drinkers and very heavy drinkers of all ages are influenced by price. Moderate and occasional drinkers are not. Alcohol is also twice as affordable, in general terms,

than it was in 1970. My personal view is that low pricing of alcohol is clearly a factor in its consumption by young people of limited means.

The Government may choose to legislate around 'BOGOF' offers and 'Happy Hour' promotions as opposed to implementing across the board price increases on alcoholic drinks. The Government are carrying out a 'Safe, Sensible and Social' consultation and both organisations and individuals can contribute to this and make their own submission.

The link for working group members to contribute to this is should they wish is-
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_086412

7. Does the Trading Standards Office monitor the selling of knives to under 21's? Do you make test purchases in respect of knives and have these resulted in any successful prosecutions of shops or commercial concerns within the borough?

We monitor the sales of knives to under 18's, that being the age restriction. This has been a small part of our work until recently. We are increasing our activity in this area and working in partnership with the Police on the Government's knife crime strategy. No prosecutions have been brought in Gedling.

Nottingham City is currently one of the Government's knife crime action areas. This is one of ten cities nationally.

8. Please explain the actions which are available to Trading Standards to take action against rogue traders and how can Trading Standards minimise the impact of rogue traders and keep members of the public aware?

The main activity of Trading Standards is aimed at the identification and regulation of rogue traders and the support of legitimate traders. We have a variety of measures at our disposal consisting of criminal prosecution, civil undertakings, simple cautions, warnings and advice. We also seek to educate consumers and provide an advice service in conjunction with the regional Consumer Direct service. We provide mediation between consumers and businesses where disputes have arisen. We use publicity campaigns and the media to keep consumers and businesses aware of rogue traders. We provide advice and support to legitimate traders to enable them to comply with often complex legislation. We run an "Approved Traders" scheme, which gives our endorsement to businesses that meet high standards of service and complaint resolution. We also support a regional Loan Shark Enforcement team and regional "Scambusters" team that are designed to tackle cross border crime beyond the scope of locally based Trading Standards services.

Nottinghamshire County Council's Trading Standard's Department has a good relationship with the media.

The proceeds of the Crime Act will enable more effective prosecutions of counterfeiters. Counterfeiting is often used to launder money used in organised crime.

9. Computer based scams are increasing, how do Trading Standards monitor these and how are reported sites investigated? What level of success has been achieved?

This is a challenging area for Trading Standards as our traditional structures and boundaries are not best designed to tackle it. We are presently working with Nottinghamshire Police to set up a joint team to target Internet crime. The expertise needed to effectively regulate this growing area of crime is in short supply and we are investing in training some of our staff at the moment.

Trading Standards are talking to Nottingham Police about developing an E Crime Internet investigators resource. Also 'Scam Busters' is being developed.

10. Graffiti is an expensive nuisance. Could you please explain if and how the sale of aerosols is controlled?

It is controlled by the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003, as amended by the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. This places an age restriction of 16 on the purchase of paint aerosols. The Trading Standards Service can carry out test-purchases to test the retailers' compliance with this. The Trading Standards Service has a duty to consider annually what level of activity is appropriate in its area. It is not presently a major area of activity for the service, if there was a good case for us increasing our work in this area; we would either require additional resources or would have to reduce our work in another area.

Trading Standards need to link in with the CDRP (with its data) to develop ways to tackle graffiti more effectively. Also greater partnership working is the way forward in tackling knife crime. The Nottingham Accident and Emergency Departments have reported that 'Stanley' and pen knives are responsible for a lot of injuries.

Fireworks

Trading Standards licence for the safe storage of fireworks. They also inspect this. Trading Standards are also the enforcement authority for underage sales and do test purchasing for fireworks. Commercial companies will safely dispose of confiscated fireworks. There is a black market in fireworks- they are imported from China.

Consumer Direct

Consumer Direct deals with a lot of front line simple advice which previously went to Trading Standards directly. This may stay with Consumer Direct or be brought back in house.

Questions for Inspector M. Towlson
Local Area Commander Nottinghamshire Police

- 1. What targets or priorities are set for dealing with Antisocial Behaviour (ASB)? How is it defined? Are any targets set centrally (i.e., for the entire Nottinghamshire force) or locally by Area Commanders in response to local conditions? If so, how local is local? How does the resources available to tackle ASB compare with those to say, tackle Burglary or Car Crime?**

Targets for ASB are set around customer confidence and satisfaction. This has been the first year with any hard targets set and that is to reduce the % of residents with a high perception of ASB to 16% (Not sure what the baseline for that is!). We currently audit ourselves against ASB by recontacting victims to measure their value of our service.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 defines ASB as 'acting in a manner that caused or was likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household'

It is clearly difficult to set hard targets around ASB. The main target set is to reduce the volume of ASB, set against a recorded problem evidenced by an increase in calls from a local community.

These targets are set through either Divisional or LAC tasking.

ASB tends to fall into the remit of the SNT (Safer Neighbourhood Team) who will directly look to deal with local problems supported by the response model and other internal and external agencies.

M.T. outlined that ASB is not a crime but aspects of this behaviour could become a crime. He reported that ASB is recorded by volume (there is a police target to reduce this and to give the community reassurance and manage peoples expectations) and by various categories.

J.C. asked about Local Action Groups (LAG's)?

M.T reported that LAG's are effective as they formalise contact with community groups and focus an area's priorities.

- 2. Given that ASB makes a considerable demand on Police time and yet is generally considered a 'low-level' crime, how can the public be assured that it receives an adequate consideration or response? Is this response resource bound? Are there some incidents that are viewed as being too trivial or it is likely to be too difficult to identify a perpetrator that no investigation is carried out?**

We re-contact all ASB callers to confirm our attendance and the extent of their problem. Our increased visibility in the area is the best way to reassure a community of our response to their concerns. We will also feedback through the LAG's (Local Action Groups) of our actions against issues that they have raised. Response to calls about ASB are sometimes resource bound but frequently the police aren't the only agency that can respond to an ASB problem. To define an investigation into an isolated ASB caller would be impossible. We would however assess or analysis (SARA and LOV) a series of calls in an area about a particular problem to see what the best response was.

M.T. outlined how the Police undertake joint patrols with GBC Neighbourhood Wardens and that there is a lot of joined up working. He suggested that the LAG's can act as a barometer for the community in how they are feeling and what the police and others can do.

- 3. Can you outline how the force responds to a single report of ASB and several reports over a period of time in a particular location? Do you target known or suspected perpetrators of ASB? Are certain geographical locations more prone to ASB? How does Nottinghamshire Police respond to this challenge? Are resources channelled into areas of particular challenge?**

All calls are taken on face value. However clearly where there is evidence of previous calls of a similar nature there may already be a planned response in place. Local teams will receive feedback from the community of problems (I personally check all calls coming in on my area to give me an early guide to emerging trends). The Divisions analysts also include ASB measurement within their monthly review of the Division.

Known or suspected ASB perpetrators are targeted with words of advice, letters to parents, ABC contracts, ASBO's or criminal proceedings.

Demographics will play a part in the potential for greater incidents of ASB.

Where ASB is indicated as a problem affecting a community the LAC Insp will direct his/her SNT at the problem with the potential to use other Divisional and Force resources as deemed necessary.

M.T. Reported that with regard to known or suspected perpetrators- the Police tend to know the ringleaders. He added that the Police need to be robust in gaining evidence to corroborate any wrongdoing of any known or suspected perpetrators.

- 4. What alternatives to prosecution does Nottinghamshire Police employ when dealing with ASB? Is there a role for Councils like Gedling to play in providing alternatives for young people to prevent them engaging in ASB? What other functions can Gedling fill in the prevention and/or detection of ASB? How effective is CCTV in dealing with ASB?**

Local authorities are also empowered to pursue both the above. GBC play a large part in the gathering of evidence of ASB through the use of diary sheets, use of technical equipment, warden patrols (alone or joint patrols with PCSO's). Through Leisure Services they can work with the Youth service to provide alternative or organised youth activity.

CCTV can be very effective in retail shopping areas. However the most recent trends on GS have been based around residential areas that don't have CCTV.

C.P. asked M.T. if there was anything GBC could do more to assist the police? M.T. commented that additional Neighbourhood Warden staffing would be helpful.

The working group then discussed ASBO's and the tenancies with the newly formed Gedling Homes –it was noted that the legal powers (i.e. CCTV) are not as clear as they were when housing was in-house with GBC. A.C. commented that GBC is trying to recreate with Gedling Homes the same relationship and good working practices that the Council had when this was in house M.T. reported that CCTV had proved to be very useful in the Netherfield area of the Borough as there was a quick arrest after a recent murder. M.T. added that this had demonstrated the effectiveness of CCTV to the Netherfield community.

5. How effective has the Nottinghamshire Police found Anti-social Behaviour Orders (ASBO's) to be? How many have been issued in the South Notts area? Have you any evidence (either hard or anecdotal) that they are regarded as a 'Badge of Honour' amongst particular groups likely to engage in ASB?

ASBO's have been issued in varying degrees across the Division. There are 2 formats. One is applied for by ourselves on the back of a criminal conviction and the other can be applied through the Legal Services Dept of the local authority. The latter is sometimes a quicker process as criminal proceedings are prone to lengthy adjournments.

GS has recorded 9 ASBO's in the last 2 years.

There is no local evidence of them regarded as 'badges of honour'.

M.T reported that there was not much evidence of massive (only minor) breaches of ASBO contracts. It was noted that an 'ABC' has no legal punishment- it is just a contract for an individual to amend their behaviour. M.T. added that an ABC is a proportionate response compared to an ASBO. M.T. reported that ABC's had been effective on the Phoenix Estate in curtailing behaviours. M.T. added that 9 ASBO's is not a massive amount and that ASB is being addressed in the Gedling Borough by other measures.

5. Has the re-organised local set-up made an operational difference to the detection & prevention of ASB? How effective have Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's) proved to be? Does the Nottinghamshire Police regard them as a valuable additional resource or are they viewed as 'policing on the cheap'? What powers do the PCSO's have? Can those powers be increased by the Chief Constable or would this require legislation?

PCSO's have been tremendously effective in carrying out the role that were introduced to do. They have built up great working relationships with local community groups, residents groups, school, etc. They are known by name by many of the youths that they deal with on their areas. The organisation has taken a couple of years to fully understand their role and use them to their best. This is now happening with them being tasked into lower level matters that will release a Regular to deal with other Policing matters.

PCSO powers are many I will bring a current list. Each Chief Constable can enable their PCSO's to carry out these powers.

M.T. commented that PCSO's work well in dropping into youth clubs and old age people's complexes and junior schools etc. He reported that they can free up Police Officers time so that they can pursue more serious matters. He added that their role is like that of the older type Community Police Officers. M.T. outlined how PCSO's roles have evolved since their posts were created and that they engage well with communities and are a good source of intelligence. He suggested that their rapport with young people helps prevent and address ASB. It was noted that PCSO's powers are limited and that there is a desire for them all to be empowered the same across the Country, as this tends to be variable at the moment.

7. What is the role of the Police Stations (Arnold, Carlton and Oxclose Lane) nowadays in the public's contact with the Police? When are they open and how are they able to respond to complaints and concerns of the public?

Carlton Police Station is the Divisional HQ's. Also housing a custody suite. The front counter is open from 0800-2300.

Arnold is a satellite station with more restricted opening hours.

Oxclose Lane is technically on the City and is open the same as Carlton PS.

All of the above have Police officers working from them 24 hours a day.

Any call to the station will be dealt with by the enquiry staff or an officer. If the enquiry officer cannot deal and there is no officer available in the station a message will be created to visit that person at their home address.

There was a short discussion about the cross border working of the Police i.e. the Carlton Police Station with the Sneinton Police station.

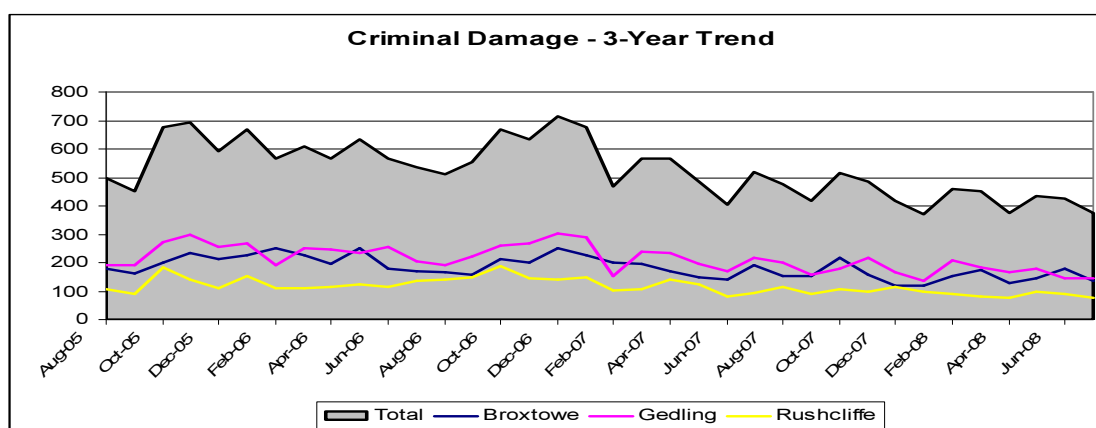
8. How valuable is the link between Gedling CCTV and the Police?

CCTV and Policing are effective and necessary partners. This partnership on Gedling is an evolving one. As the CCTV staff have become more pro-active and the Police service has been getting used to this extra tool protocols have been put in place to secure the best use of the technology. Evidence was crucial in the murder enquiry in Netherfield 2007. There are continuing moves to improve contact between the Police and the CCTV staff with the introduction of Airwave radio in the CCTV control room.

M.T. clarified that the Police can use a homeowners CCTV as evidence i.e. it has been used on the Phoenix Estate. A.C. added that GBC has four pieces of covert CCTV.

Broxtowe, Gedling & Rushcliffe ASB Comparison

Criminal Damage – is seen as a proxy indicator for ASB and is one of the 3 indicators used within the LAA to measure NI17 Perception of Anti-social Behaviour. Criminal damage includes the categories Criminal damage to a dwelling, criminal damage to a vehicle, criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling, criminal damage other, arson and racially aggravated offences of these types.



- Criminal Damage has followed a general downward trend over the last 3 years.
- Rushcliffe had the lowest levels of criminal damage over the 3 years.
- The different boroughs have followed different trends in terms of criminal damage.

Below the chart shows the volume and rates of criminal damage over the last three years and also the contribution of each borough to the overall criminal damage in South Nottinghamshire. (rate refers to number of offences per 1000 population)

	Broxtowe			Gedling			Rushcliffe		
	Number	Rate	Contribution	Number	Rate	Contribution	Number	Rate	Contribution
Year 1	2482	22.8	36%	2863	25.7	42%	1496	14.0	22%
Year 2	2197	20.2	33%	2658	23.9	40%	1745	16.3	26%
Year 3	1618	14.9	32%	2172	19.5	43%	1294	12.1	25%

- The numbers and rates of criminal damage offences have reduced year on year for Broxtowe and Gedling.
- Rushcliffe had the lowest rate in all three years it did experience an increase in the second year.

- The chart also shows that Gedling had the highest numbers and rates of criminal damage for all three years when compared to the other boroughs.
- Approximately 2 in every 5 criminal damage offences took place in Gedling, approximately a third took place in Broxtowe and only a quarter took place in Rushcliffe.
- The chart also reflects that over the 3 years criminal damage reduced by 24.1% in Gedling whilst Broxtowe reflects a 34.8% reduction and Rushcliffe a 13.5% reduction.

Most common type of criminal damage offence were

- Criminal Damage to a Vehicle - (40%)
- Criminal damage to a dwelling - 24%

NB It should be noted that all types of criminal damage have followed a downward trend over the last 3 years.

Victims & Offenders

The peak age of the victim of criminal damage is 37-42 years, after this point the volume of victims reduce with age.

- In 91% of the offences, the offender and victim were strangers.
- In 4.5% of the 'criminal damage to a dwelling' offences, the victim and offender were partners or ex-partners.
- The same relationship was only true in just over 1% of the criminal damage to a vehicle offences.

Less than 10% of criminal damage offences have been detected and so it is difficult to build up an offender profile.

- The peak age of criminal damage offenders is 16 years.
- 35% of all detected criminal damage offences were committed by under 18's.
- A further 20% were committed by those aged 18-20 years and 14% by those aged 21-26 years.
- For those crimes that haven't been detected but a suspect exists, the main suspect age group was 14-20 years old.

NB. Nearly 3% of the criminal damage offences were domestic related and less than 1% were categorised as Racist Crimes.

Alcohol related criminal damage

- In just under 3% of the criminal damage offences, alcohol was recorded as a factor.
- The majority of offences took place between 5pm and 1am on a Friday and Saturday.

- Over the 3-year period there were more incidents from October to January.

Trends, Risk and Threats

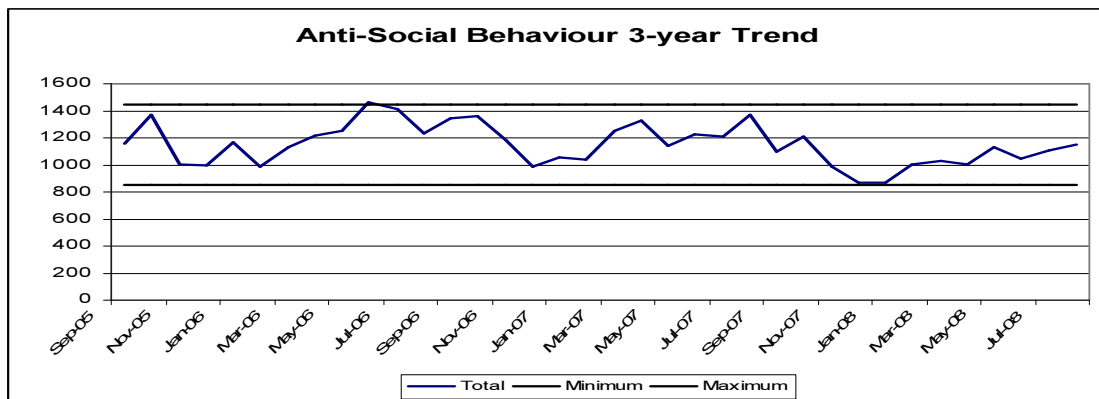
Although Criminal Damage is currently following a downward trend it is clear that there are links between criminal damage, youth, alcohol and ASB and it is possible that any increases in ASB in localised areas may lead to increases in criminal damage.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Current Picture

In the last three years across South Notts there has been a total of 41,390 ASB incidents (NB There were 55,245 before repeat calls and non-attends were removed).

From September 2005-August 2006 there were 14,395 incidents, in the same period the following year there were slightly more incidents (14,401) and in the last 12 months there have been approximately 13% less ASB incidents than in the previous two years (12,503).



- The ASB trend chart shows that in any month over the last three years there have been between 800 and 1500 incidents.
- The highest volume of Incidents occurred in June 2006 and the lowest in December 2007.
- There have been periods of peaks and troughs over the last three years.
- More recently there was a peak in August 2007, followed by five months of a lesser volume of incidents.
- From February 2008 to August 2008 there has been an increasing trend in the volume of incidents, however there have been less incidents in the first 5 months of 2008-09 than over the same period in the previous year 2007-08.
- Gedling suffers from the most Anti-Social Behaviour month-on-month and Rushcliffe suffers the least.

- All three of the boroughs follow the same trend pattern and all have experienced an increasing trend in ASB incidents at the start of 2008-09.

Types of ASB:

There are many different categories of ASB incidents.

Over the past three years;

- Rowdy/ Inconsiderate accounted for two thirds of all ASB incidents
- vehicle nuisance accounted for 11%
- Abandoned Vehicles accounted for 5%.
- Malicious Communications accounted for 4% of the incidents,
- Animals accounted for 2%
- 1.5% of the incidents were street drinking.

There was an increase in the number of Rowdy Inconsiderate in the second year but this reduced in the last 12 months. Vehicle related nuisance has reduced year-on-year, as has the number of abandoned vehicles.

Borough Differences:

- Broxtowe had proportionately more complaints for street drinking over the last three years. (Broxtowe 229, Gedling 116 and Rushcliffe 105).
- All boroughs have had a reduction in the amount of complaints for vehicle nuisance over the last three years.
- Over the last twelve months Broxtowe and Gedling had large percentage reductions of 39% and 33%, respectively, whereas Rushcliffe had a more modest reduction of 9%.

Top 5 Parishes (table can be seen in the appendix):

- Eastwood South (Broxtowe), Netherfield (Gedling) and Cotgrave (Rushcliffe) have been top locations for ASB for the last three years, these three wards are Area-Based Initiatives (ABI) for ASB.
- Trent Bridge (Rushcliffe) is also an ABI for Anti-Social Behaviour but has not been in the 'Top 5' since 2006.
- Beeston Town Centre (Broxtowe), Daybrook and Bonington (Gedling) are ABI's for Anti-Social Behaviour, however they have not appeared in the 'Top 5' in the last three years. The Wards, Phoenix and St.Mary's (Gedling) have been in the top 5 wards for ASB in the first 5 months of 2008-09.
- The issues of ASB in the Phoenix ward were initially addressed through the 'Week of Action' programme in October.

NB Incidents are recorded by beat and these population figures are not available so it is not possible to provide rates per 1000 population for ASB incidents.

Temporal:

- The peak time for Anti-Social Behaviour was between 8pm and 9pm.
- Prior to this time ASB volume increased up until this point and then started to decrease after this point.

- In total the most ASB incidents occurred on Friday's and Saturday's

Alcohol Related ASB – South Notts Picture

- Alcohol related ASB started to be recorded from August 2007 so no data prior to this point is available.
- In August 2007 there were 256 recorded incidents of Alcohol-related ASB, this had reduced greatly by October 2007 and remained constant for seven months, then there was there an increase in May 2008.
- There has also been a recent peak in August with 211 incidents.
- In the last 13 months, alcohol-related ASB has accounted for 17% of all ASB. 87% of the Alcohol related ASB offences were categorised as Rowdiness.

Boroughs:

Over the last 13 months (since alcohol-related was recorded), almost two in every five (39%) alcohol-related ASB incidents have occurred in Gedling, just over a third (34%) have occurred in Broxtowe and just over a quarter (26%) have occurred in Rushcliffe.

In the beginning of the financial year 2008-09 (April – August), Rushcliffe still accounts for 26% of all alcohol-related ASB but Broxtowe's contribution has increased to 38% and Gedling's contribution has reduced to 36%.

Parishes:

- The highest levels of Alcohol-related ASB have occurred at the following locations:
 - Eastwood South (157 Incidents);
 - Arnold Town Centre (125 incidents);
 - Cotgrave (131 incidents);
 - Beeston Town Centre (118 Incidents)
 - and
 - Trent Bridge (98 Incidents).
- Incidents are recorded by parish and these population figures are not available so it is not possible to provide rates per 1000 population.

Temporal:

- The volume of alcohol-related incidents reached a peak at between 10pm and 11pm.
- Nearly two thirds of alcohol related ASB took place between 7pm and 1am. Nearly half of all alcohol related ASB took place on Fridays and Saturdays.

Drug related ASB

- Drug related ASB recording started in August 2007.
- From this point they accounted for 1% of all ASB incidents.
- Of the Drug-related ASB incidents, 116 were also tagged as youth-related which equates to 57%.

Youth related ASB

- Similarly to Alcohol and Drugs, Youth-related ASB was only recorded from August 2007. From this point to the end of August 2008, youth related ASB accounted for nearly half (48%) of all ASB.
- The majority (84%) of Youth-related ASB is categorised as Rowdiness,
- 10% as Vehicle Nuisance
- 2% as street drinking.
- 17% of the Youth-related ASB incidents were also Alcohol related.
- 43% of this type of incident occurred in Gedling, 30% in Broxtowe and 27% in Rushcliffe.

Parishes

Cotgrave has the highest volume of youth related ASB.

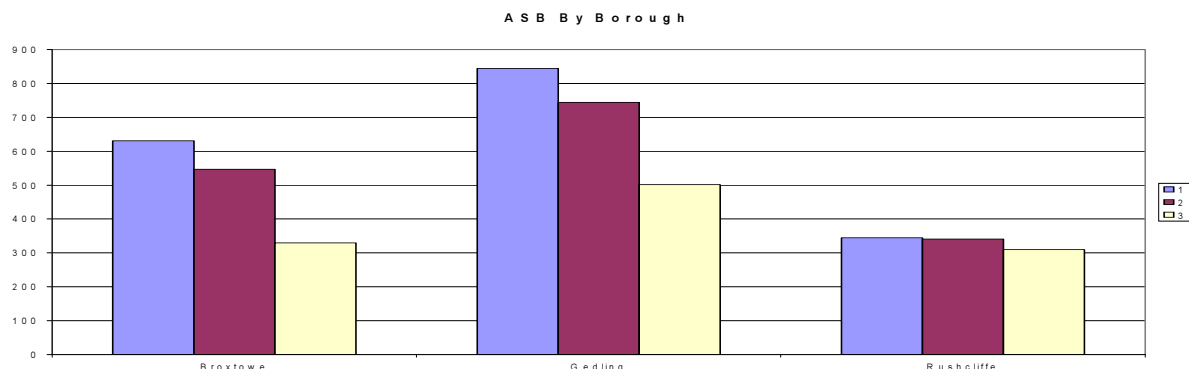
In the last 12 months, 65% of Cotgrave's ASB has been attributed to Youths.

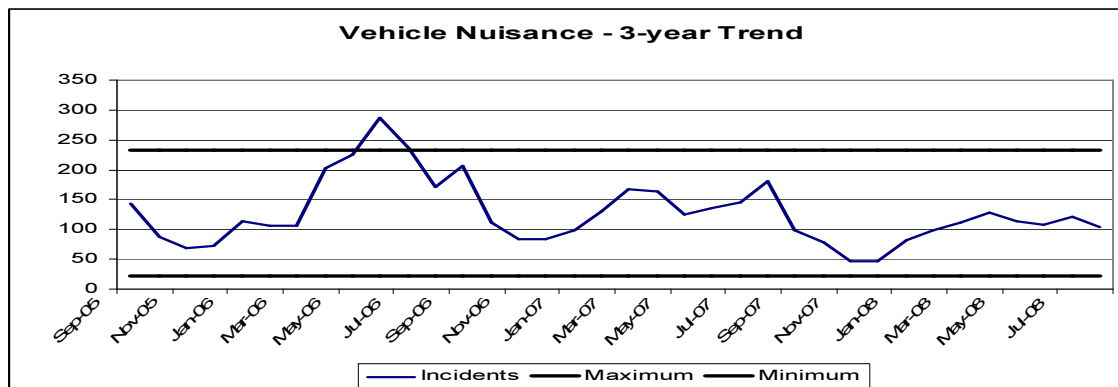
Incidents are recorded by beat and these population figures are not available so it is not possible to provide rates per 1000 population.

Vehicle Related Nuisance / Anti-Social Behaviour

Current Picture

Vehicle Nuisance includes incidents such as, mini-motorbikes, and groups of people in cars making noise and speeding. Vehicle Nuisance accounts for just over one in ten (11%) of all ASB incidents. The chart to the right shows the 3-year trend of vehicle related nuisance incidents. There were a significantly high amount of incidents from May 2006 – July 2006. Following this peak there was then a steep reduction in the number of offences until February 2007 when the volume of incidents started to increase. More recently, in January 2008 vehicle nuisance complaints were at the lowest level in 3 years. The number of offences then started to increase until May 2008 and since then there has been a slight downward trend.





The chart to the right shows that levels of vehicle-related nuisance have reduced year on year across all boroughs. All boroughs experienced a greater reduction from the second year to the third year than from the first year to the second year.

Types of Vehicle-related nuisance:

- Approximately 62% of all vehicle related nuisance complaints over the last three years are concerning a motorbike or a Mini Moto, however, it is estimated that in the last twelve months there has been nearly a 40% reduction in the number of complaints of this type (1166 in year 1, 1048 in year 2 and 638 in the last year).
- In the first five months of the financial year 2008-09 there have been 354 offences which is a 26% reduction on the same period last year.

Locations of Vehicle-related Nuisance:

- There have been a large number of complaints around vehicle nuisance on the recreation ground on Church Lane in Arnold / Redhill, however, out of the 163 calls in the last 3 years, 128 of them have been from the same telephone number.
- Other locations with a high number of complaints include Bestwood Country Park, Ring Leas (Cotgrave), and more recently Burton Road Cricket ground (Gedling), Ellington Road (Arnold) and Victoria Road, Netherfield.

Parishes:

- Eastwood South, Bonington, Netherfield and Cotgrave have previously been identified as ABI's for Vehicle related Nuisance.
- St. Mary's is persistently the highest / second highest parish for vehicle-related nuisance offences and has the highest number of offences so far this financial year.

Youth related:

From the start of August 2007 (when youth related ASB was tagged), it is known that 56% of all vehicle related nuisance was youth related.

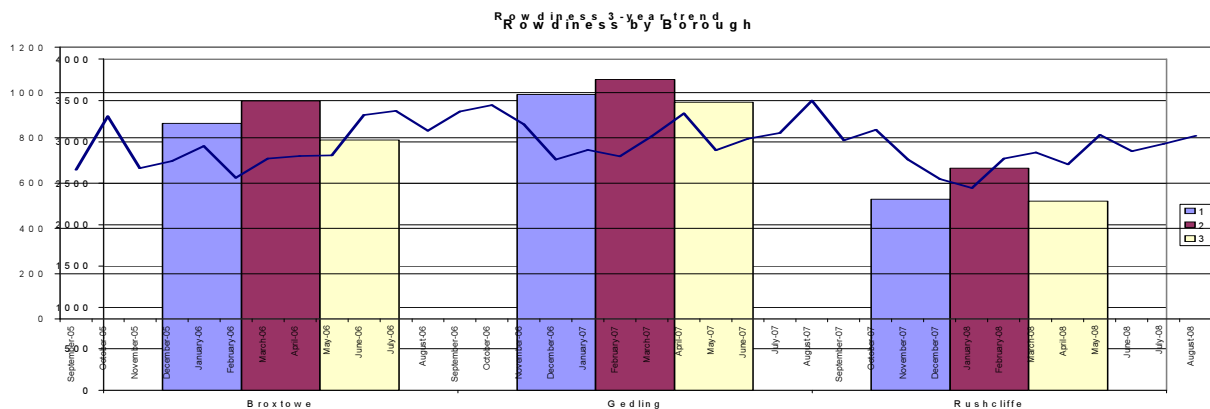
Temporal:

- The peak time for vehicle nuisance is between 3pm and 4pm.
- 60% of all vehicle-related nuisance was reported between 1pm and 8pm.
- Furthermore, 40% of all vehicle related nuisance calls were made between 3pm and 7pm.
- Over the 3-years there were more reports on a Sunday. April – September was when the most reports were made, there was a 38% decrease from September to October in the number of reports of vehicle nuisance.

Rowdiness

Current Picture

This type of ASB accounts for approximately two thirds of all ASB. The 3-year trend chart can be seen below and to the left; it follows the same trend as ‘all ASB’. There have been between 700 and 1000 incidents of Rowdiness every month for the last 3 years. The chart shows an increasing trend in the first five months of 2008-09. The chart to below and the right shows the levels of Rowdiness by Borough. All Boroughs experienced an increase in the levels of Rowdiness from year 1 to year 2 and subsequently all had a decrease in the following year.



Parishes:

Eastwood South is persistently the worst parish for Rowdiness, however, it does have a higher population than many other parishes. Incidents are recorded by beat and these population figures are not available so it is not possible to provide rates per 1000 population.

Temporal:

The peak time for Rowdiness is the same time as ‘all ASB’, which is between 8pm and 9pm and occurs on all days of the week with more incidents on a Saturday and a Sunday.

Local Emerging Issues

Perceptions of crime and ASB

This section includes perception information from the following Sources:

- British Crime Survey 2007-08
- Ipsos Mori – BVPI General survey (January 2008)
- Nottinghamshire Listens Panel (August 2008)
- Local Area Group Priorities (Priorities with Review dates in August / September 2008)
- Tellus3 Survey (April – June 2008)

British Crime Survey 2007-08

Despite national reductions in crime, around two thirds of people think that national crime levels have increased ‘a lot’ or ‘a little’ in the last two years.

Locally, people have less negative perceptions about crime with only 39% believing that crime levels have increased ‘a lot’ or ‘a little’ in the last two years.

Since 2004/05 the perceptions of local and national crime levels have continued to widen.

Women, the elderly and those who read tabloid newspapers are more likely to think that crime levels have increased on a national level.

Local perceptions are more likely to be influenced by personal experiences and area demographics whereas national perceptions are likely to be more influenced by socio-demographics.

Approximately one in six people had a high level of perceived ASB in their area, this has improved slightly on the previous year.

In 2007/08, 12% of people had high levels of worry about burglary and car crime and 15% had high levels of worry about violent crime (BCS). There is clearly a problem with perception both locally and nationally. The BCS 2007-08 found that the two main issues that people think are the main causes of Crime in Britain today are drugs and lack of discipline from parents. 19% of Nottinghamshire residents perceive ASB to be a problem, this compares to the MSG average of 17.1%. (results from iQuanta)

Public Confidence Levels in the Police / local council

- The BCS 2007-08 found that across England and Wales, 53% of the sample felt that the police do a good or excellent job; this is up 2% on the previous year.
- 64% of people felt that the police treated people fairly and 83% felt that the police treated people with respect.
- 41% of people felt that the police and the local council seek people's views about the Anti-Social Behaviour and crime issues that matter in their local area.
- Slightly more think that the Police and Local Council are dealing with the issues (45%).
- 43% of people felt that the Criminal Justice system was effective at bringing people to justice, this was up 3% on the previous year.
- The BCS found that only 42% of crimes are reported to the police or the police become aware of the crime. It is therefore estimated that 58% of all crime is not reported to the police.
- The chart to the right shows the estimated percentages of crime types that are reported to the police.
- The most likely crime to be reported is theft of a vehicle (93%) and less than a third of people report theft from person (32%).
- Reasons for not reporting incidents included; too trivial, no loss and that the police would do nothing about it.
- Reasons for not reporting violent crime were that the victims felt that it was a private matter that was best dealt with by themselves.
- The BCS (2007-08) found that 59% of victims of crime were fairly or very satisfied with the way that the police dealt with the incident.
- Victim satisfaction with the police fell in the 1990's but from 2000 to now it has remained stable between 58 and 60%.

Crime Type	% of crime that is reported to the police
Theft of Vehicle	93%
Burglary with loss	76%
Burglary no loss	54%
Theft from vehicle	44%
Robbery	43%
All comparable crime	42%
Bicycle theft	41%
Attempted vehicle theft	40%
Vandalism	35%
Assault no injury	34%
Theft from person	32%

Repeat Victimisation

- Repeat victimisation is where somebody is a victim of crime more than once in a 12-month period.
- The percentage of repeat victims varies by crime type.
- The BCS 2007-08 found that Domestic Violence victims are more at risk of becoming repeat victims than any other crime type victim and that 27% of Domestic Violence victims had been a victim 3 or more times.
- The table shows that the top 3 repeat victim types are victims domestic violence crimes, vandalism and Acquaintance violence.

Crime Type	% of victims who were repeat victims
Domestic violence	45%
Vandalism	30%
Acquaintance Violence	29%
Other household theft	18%
Vehicle-related theft	17%
Stranger Violence	17%
Burglary	15%
Bicycle Theft	11%
Other Thefts of personal Property	10%
Theft from a person	6%

Ipsos Mori BVPI General Survey

The local survey found that people are generally satisfied with the area in which they live and feel that crime levels are the most important factor in making somewhere a good place to live.

People felt that 'crime levels' and 'activities for teenagers' were the main things that needed to be improved locally. Residents of all boroughs agreed that people from different backgrounds generally get on well together.

Anti-Social Behaviour:

Residents' perceptions of Anti-Social Behaviour types locally are generally considerably worse than on a national level. Across the 3 South Nottinghamshire boroughs, teens hanging around on the streets are considered a problem amongst six in ten residents; this contrasts greatly to the national perception, which is only three in ten. Residents of all 3 Boroughs think that all types of Anti-Social Behaviour (except abandoned cars) have deteriorated in the last 12 months.

Perceptions of Young People:

Around half of the residents of the 3 Boroughs believe that young people are well behaved and do not cause any problems. The vast majority of residents believe that the local Council and its partners need to provide good facilities for young people and similar percentages agree that the Council should provide suitable places for young people to meet and socialise.

Perceptions of Safety:

Almost all residents feel safe walking outside alone in their local area during the daytime and being in their home during the day. Most residents feel safe in their home after dark but less feel safe walking outside alone after dark (Broxtowe; 50%, Gedling; 50% and Rushcliffe; 64%). In general women feel more unsafe than

men. Rushcliffe residents feel slightly safer than Broxtowe and Gedling residents when travelling on public transport and feel a lot safer when in public parks and play areas.

Nottingham Listens Consultation

The general views about satisfaction and crime levels being the most important factor are reflected in this follow-up survey. Factors that were not displayed in the Ipsos Mori survey include the following:

- Half surveyed think that 'Burglary in homes' should be made priority in their local area in terms of being tackled by the police, local councils and other local partners. The second highest crime was Drug Dealing and the third was vandalism.
- An average of 35% of residents (Broxtowe and Gedling) believe that CCTV helps to reduce crime and disorder (either a little or a lot) and just over half of the residents of Broxtowe and Gedling feel safer with CCTV
- Two thirds of residents agree that if more resources were to be invested in reducing crime and disorder then the money should be put into employing more police officers. Residents also agreed that Additional projects/ activities for young people would be an important resource (Broxtowe 33%, Gedling 39%, Rushcliffe 42%)
- Confidence in the police is slightly higher in Broxtowe (42%) than in Gedling (35%) and Rushcliffe (38%). These are amongst the highest confidence levels in the county.
- A high percentage of residents are not confident that the police will catch people who commit minor crimes, deal with teenagers hanging around on the street and deal with local neighbourhood problems
- Residents feel that the following factors undermine the work of the police: Not having enough Officers; having to do paperwork, political correctness, people not having respect for the police, the way the court deals with offenders, government targets and statistics, lack of parental control and stability, lack of support from the local community, lack of support from the local council and other agencies, not having enough powers, having to be concerned with human rights
- Residents feel that police need to do the following in the community: Getting to know and understand the problems faced by local communities, Working together with other agencies to solve problems in local neighbourhoods, Keeping people informed about what they are doing about crime and other problems, Patrolling the streets on foot or bicycle, Patrolling the streets in a car, Respond quickly to emergency calls, Talking to and getting to know

young people, Talking to and getting to know people from minority groups, Working to prevent crime and other problems from occurring, Solving crimes and helping bring offenders to justice, Enforcing road traffic law, including speeding.

- Around two thirds of Rushcliffe residents think their local police understand the issues that matter to people in the area where they live. This is slightly lower in Broxtowe (61%) and Gedling (60%).
-
- Just over half of South Nottinghamshire residents think that their local police are tackling the issues that matter to people in their area.
- The majority of residents do not know their local police officer / PCSO and do not feel that they are being informed about local policing. Four in five residents surveyed would like to know more about policing in their local area and they feel that the best ways to do this would be through Leaflets/ publications/ newsletters delivered to their door, the local media and local council magazine

Local Area Groups

Every 12 weeks Local Area Groups (LAGs) meet. These groups tend to be comprised of local residents, housing, councillors, local police (neighbourhood team), Youth workers, shopkeepers and publicans. The aim of LAG's are to resolve local issues using local resources. The LAG's have identified between 1-5 local priorities for the area that they serve. These have been based on questionnaires, surveys, local resident concerns and beat surgeries. During a meeting all members will offer ideas on what they can do to improve an issue and actions are set. At the following meeting the actions will be reviewed and the priority will remain or be removed depending on if the issue has been resolved. The information below relates to priorities that are due to be reviewed in August / September.

Broxtowe

The main current issues in Broxtowe are around Rowdiness/nuisance behaviour, vehicle related nuisance and Alcohol / drug related ASB. Of the 25 LAG's, 20 had Rowdiness/nuisance behaviour as a priority and 2 LAG's had 2 separate issues of this type as their priority. The majority of these issues are related to groups of youths and specific locations have been identified. 4 of these priorities have mentioned that alcohol has been involved.

Vehicle related nuisance

This has been identified as a priority for by 17 of the LAGs, with 3 LAGS having 2 priorities relating to this issue. Of the 20 priorities, 11 are relating to speeding traffic, 3 relate to parking problems and 3 to off-road motorcycles.

Alcohol/ Drug related ASB are priorities of 9 LAG's with one LAG having 2 separate issues of this type as a priority. The issues are around youths congregating and drinking and a few priorities relate to street drinking. Most of the reports are concerned with groups that have males that are older than the females. It may be that the males that are

above 18 years are able to access alcohol easily and supply it to those that are below 18 years old.

Gedling

The main issues in Gedling are around Rowdiness/nuisance behaviour and vehicle related nuisance. Eighteen of the LAG's had vehicle related nuisance as a priority, with 5 of the LAG's having 2 priorities around this topic. 11 of these related to *speeding traffic*, 6 were concerning *parking issues* in specific locations and 6 were relating to *motorcycles/off road motorcycles* involving youths.

Rowdiness/nuisance behaviour was a priority for 18 of the LAG's with 4 of the LAG's having two priorities of this type. This type of behaviour has been attributed to youths and is concerned with groups hanging around, drinking alcohol, which is leading to criminal damage to property and vehicles and sometimes being abusive to local residents.

Rushcliffe

Main issues in Rushcliffe are around vehicle related nuisance, Rowdiness / nuisance behaviour and Alcohol / drug related ASB. 13 of the LAG's set Vehicle related nuisance as a priority, with one LAG setting 3 priorities around the same topic. Of these 15 priorities, 9 were relating to *speeding traffic*, 4 to parking problems and 2 to youths with motorcycles.

Rowdiness / nuisance behaviour: 10 of the LAG's set this as a priority, with one LAG setting 2 priorities around the same topic. The majority of these priorities are in place due to youths gathering in specific locations causing noise and criminal damage. It is thought that alcohol (underage drinking) may be a contributing factor in this type of behaviour.

Alcohol / drug related ASB: Six of the LAG'S set this as a priority and two of the LAG's set 2 priorities around this topic. The priorities are set due to known underage drinking by youths and the use of cannabis in specific locations. In some locations this is thought to fuel ASB, criminal damage and intimidation.

Tellus3 Survey (methodology can be found in the appendix)

Summary

To summarise the results of the Tellus3 survey in relation to Nottinghamshire children it has been shown that the main issues highlighted are that children feel less safe in their communities, have a more responsible attitude towards drinking, since fewer have been drunk, report lower incidence of illegal-drug use and have had less opportunity to express their views.

Although this is not specific to the children of South Nottinghamshire, the survey does include a representative sample of South Nottinghamshire and gives some indication as to the views of young people. It is important that the views of young people, as well as adults, are taken into account.