

Salehurst & Robertsbridge Safer Villages Forum

Crime Survey Report 2003

Background

This report is a summary of the views of the people of Salehurst & Robertsbridge given in response to the Crime Survey completed during Summer 2003. This survey was organised and managed by the Salehurst & Robertsbridge Safer Village Forum (SRSVF).

The SRSVF was set up in September 2002 as a sub-committee of Salehurst Parish Council. This followed a public meeting in July 2002, which more than 400 people attended to express their concerns and frustrations at the level of crime and police response. The SRSVF is made up of members of the Parish & Rother District council, Police representatives and local people.

The purpose of the SRSVF is to bring volunteer villagers and supporting groups together to improve village life.

461 completed surveys were returned, representing more than half of households in Salehurst & Robertsbridge.

Summary of results

A complete set of the survey results, including comments, is available to view at the parish office and on the parish web site (www.salehurst-pc.org.uk).

Feeling of Safety

- Over 90% of respondents feel very or fairly safe in the village during the day.
- Over a third feel fairly or very unsafe in the village at night.
- The major reason for people feeling unsafe was given as “youths”, both by day and by night.
- The other leading reasons given for feeling unsafe were poor lighting, graffiti/vandalism and street drinking.

Levels of Concern

- Respondents were most concerned that there were not enough Police.
- This was followed by Youths, Burglary and Damage to Cars.

Locations & Safety

- The High Street, Station Road and the area around the pubs & club were considered unsafe by the largest proportion of respondents.
- The main reasons for feeling unsafe in specific locations were given as “Youths” or “Drunk Youths present”

Crimes Perceived Likely

- Vehicle damage, burglary and damage were considered to be the most likely crimes.
- Least likely were robbery or mugging and physical/sexual assault.

Change in Crime

- 57% of respondents felt that there was more (little or a lot) crime than 3 years ago.

Police Presence

- 63% of respondents said that they had never seen a police officer on foot in their area.
- 28% of respondents said that they had never seen a police officer in a car in their area.

Measures to Reduce Crime

- At least 2/3rds of respondents were aware of the following police/community initiatives – Victim Support Scheme, Neighbourhood Watch e-mails, Crime Stoppers and Closed Circuit Television.
- More than 50% of respondents thought the following measures would help reduce crime – more police in cars & on foot, more for young people and dealing with anti-social behaviour.

Receipt of Information about Community Safety & Crime Matters

- The top 3 ways of receiving information about Community Safety & Crime were currently the local paper, friends/family and television.
- The top 3 preferred ways of receiving that information were given as the local paper, parish magazine and through the police.

Reasons for not Reporting Crime

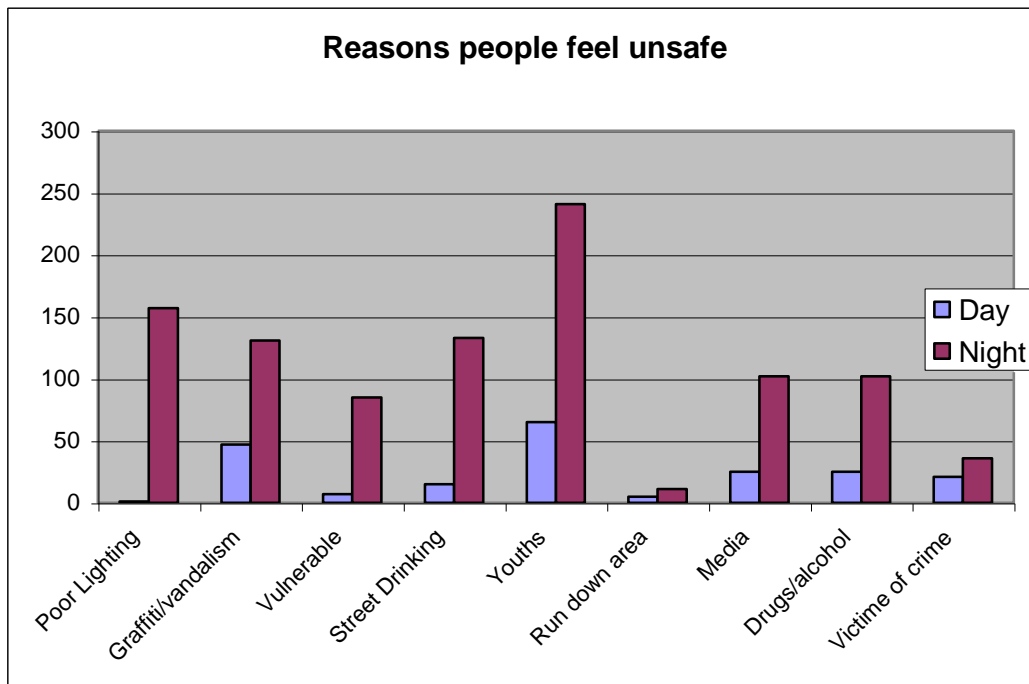
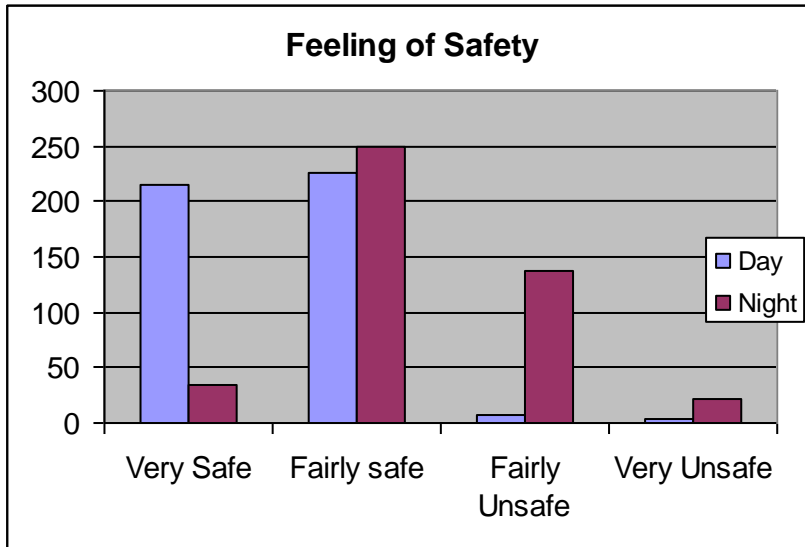
- 51% of those who had not reported a crime they knew of, gave their reason as a lack of confidence in the police or other authorities.

Willingness to Pay Increased Council Tax towards Safety Measures

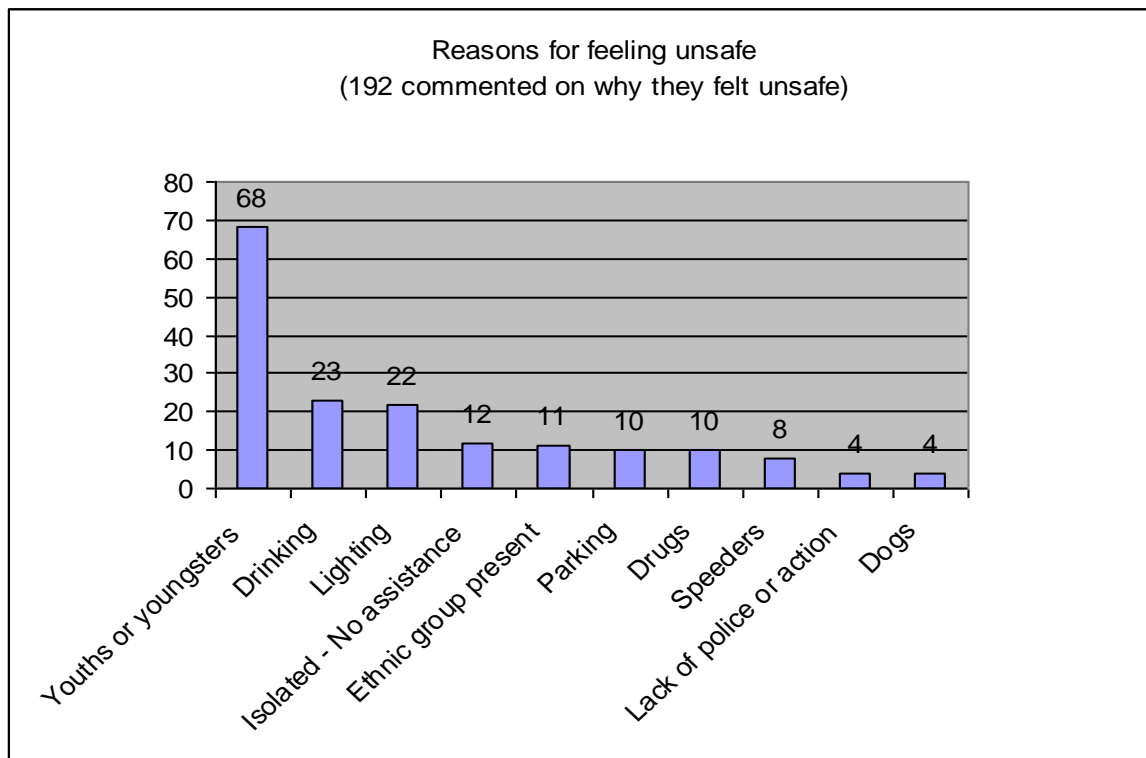
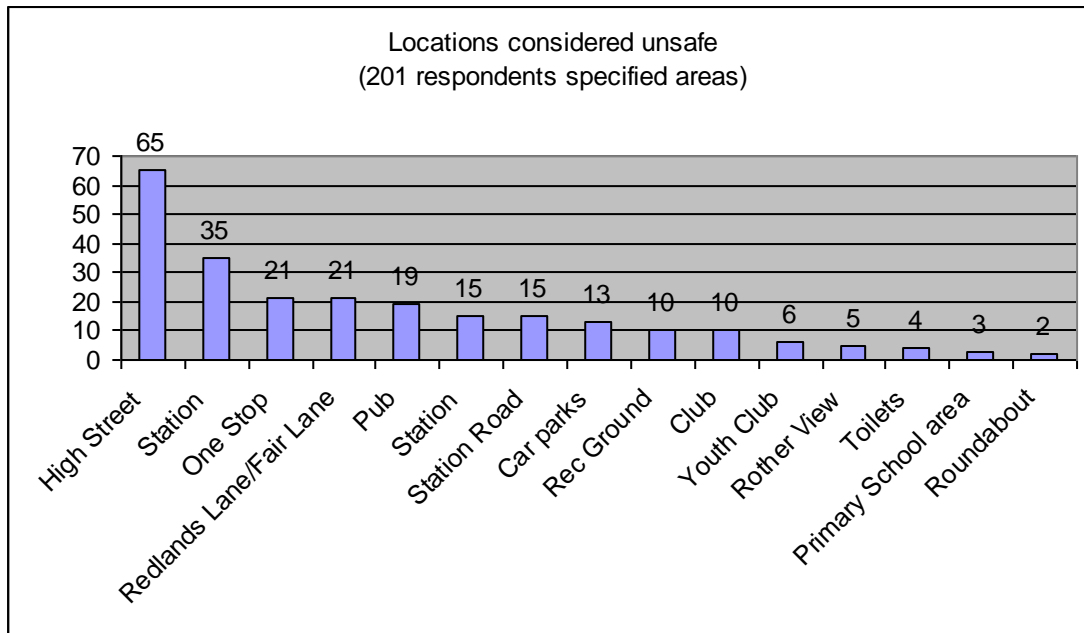
- More than half of the respondents indicated that they were prepared to an increase in council tax towards safety measures. With many commenting that any additional money should go directly to crime prevention/reduction measures.
- 47% of those were prepared to pay an extra £10 per year.
- More than 10% of respondents were strongly against paying more.

Detailed Findings of the Survey

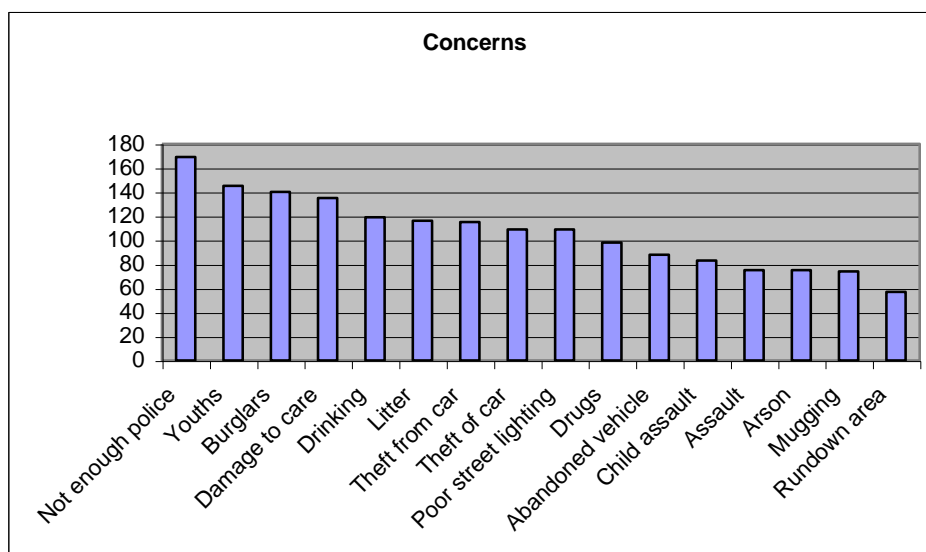
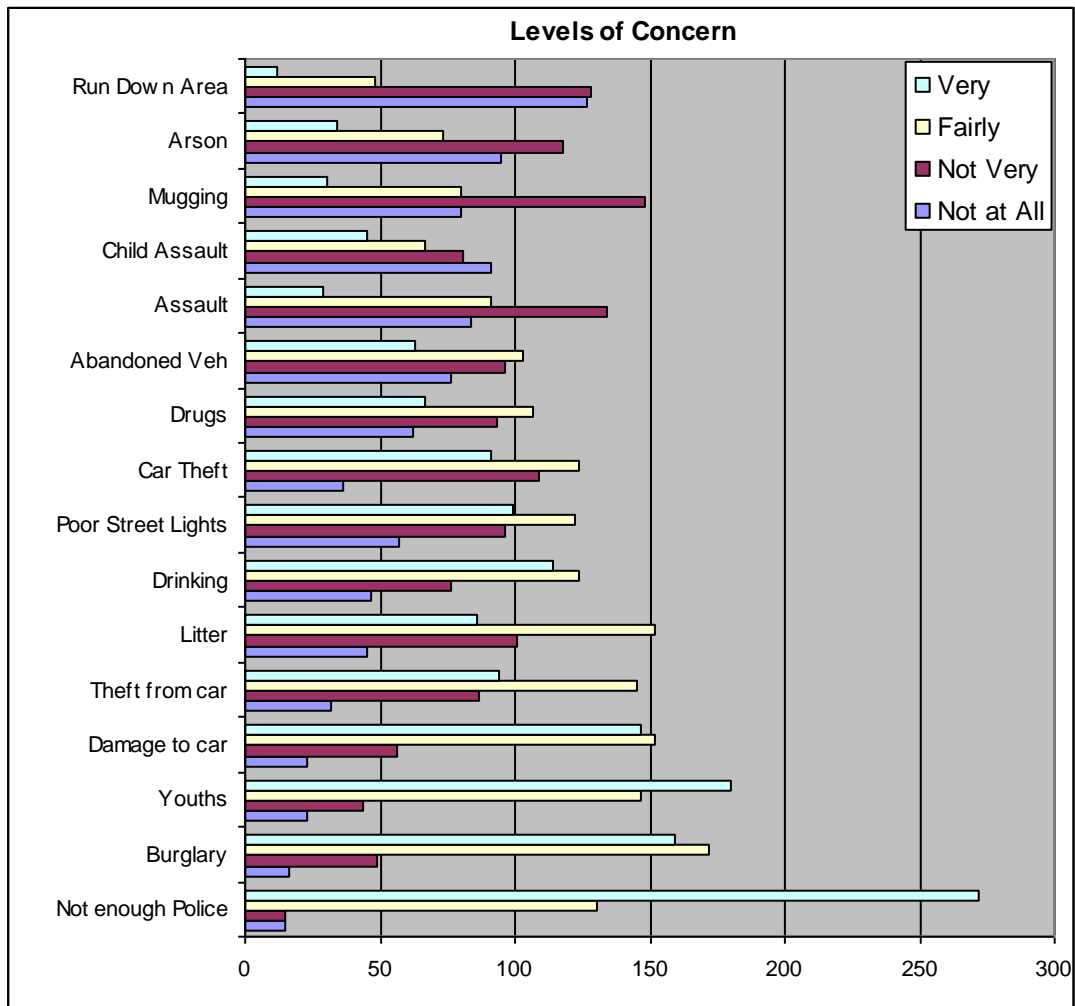
Feelings of Safety



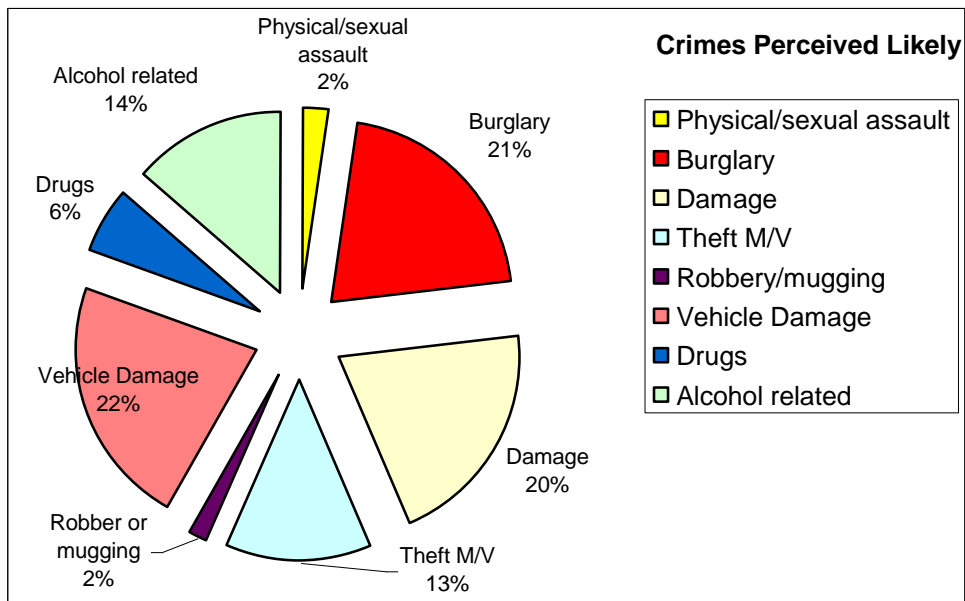
Locations & Safety



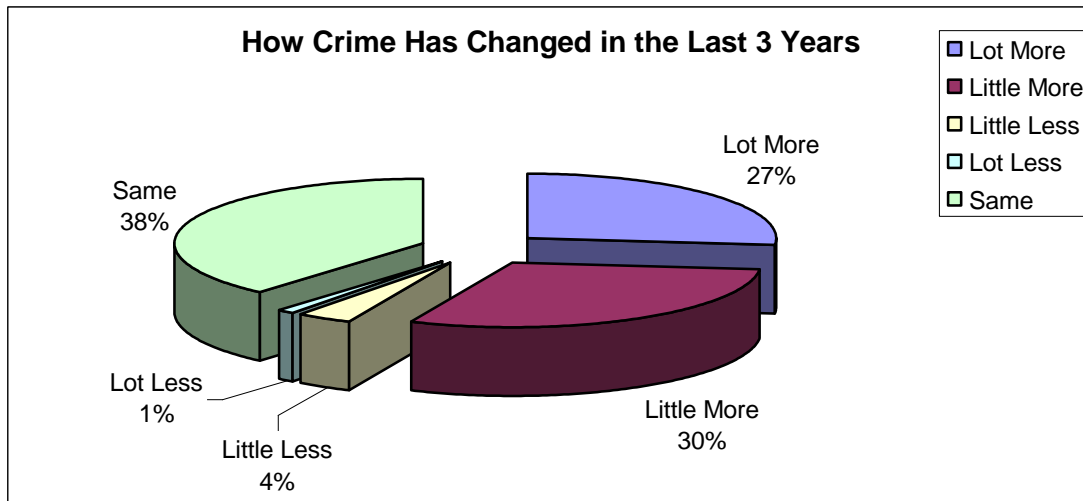
Levels of Concern



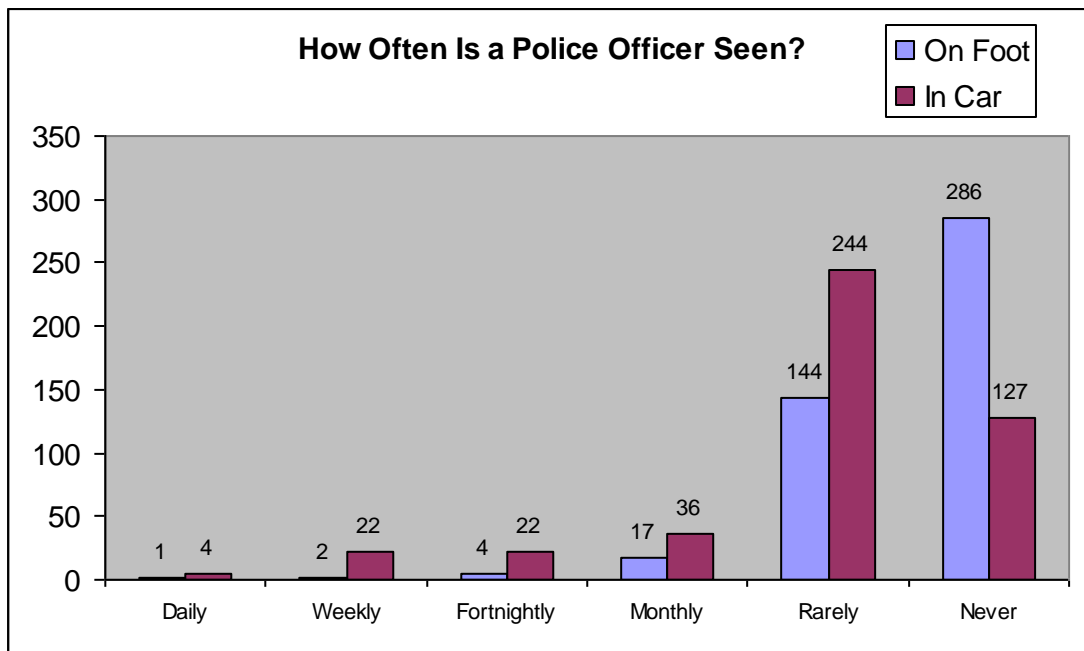
Crimes Perceived Likely



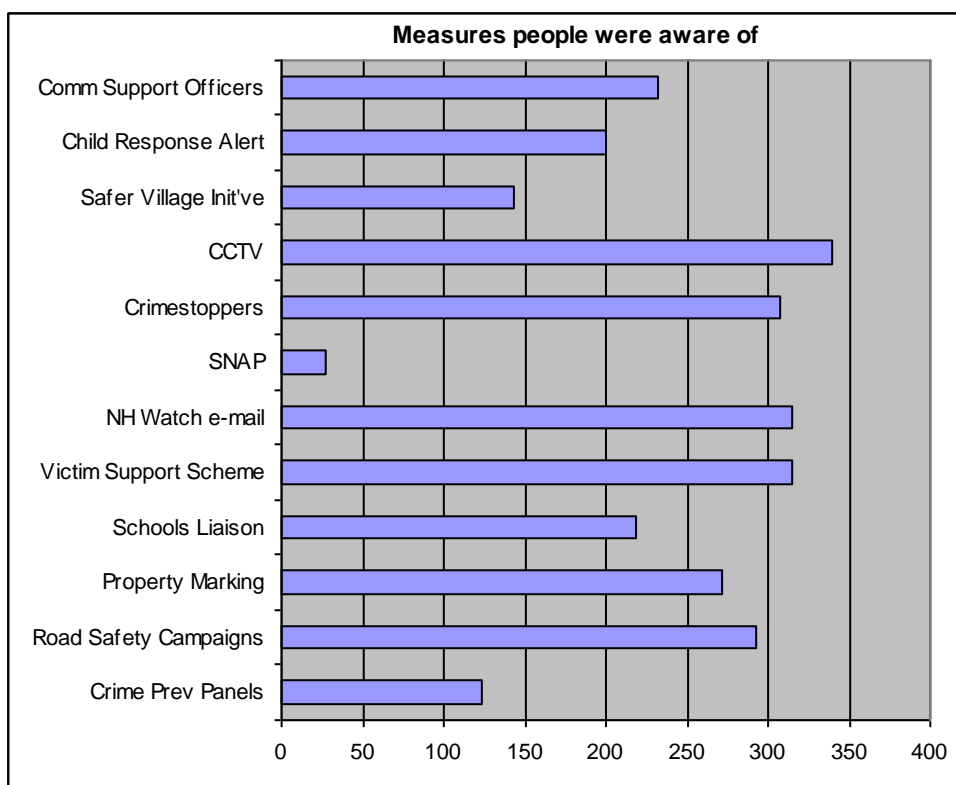
Change in Crime

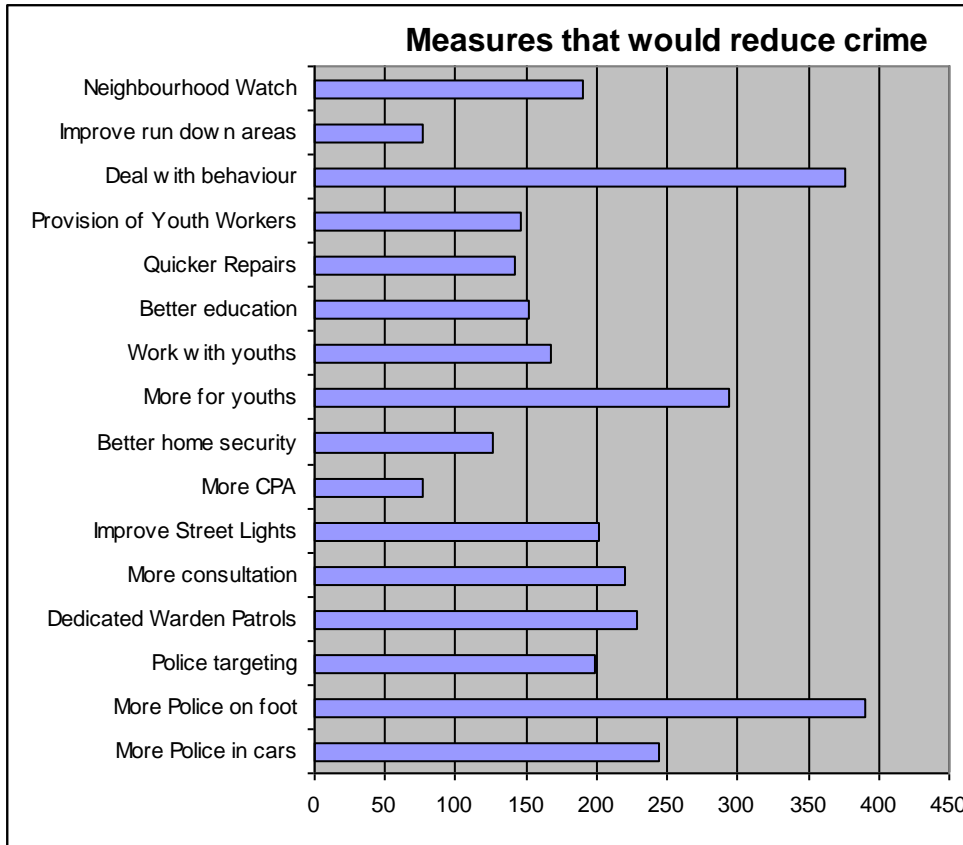


Police Presence

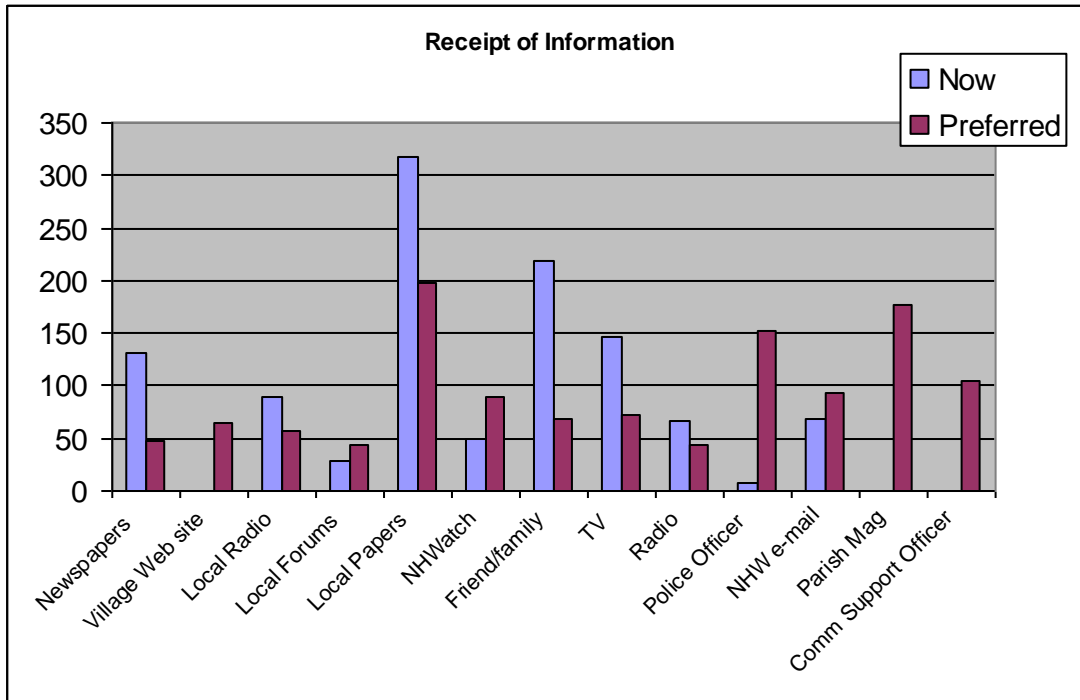


Measures to Reduce Crime

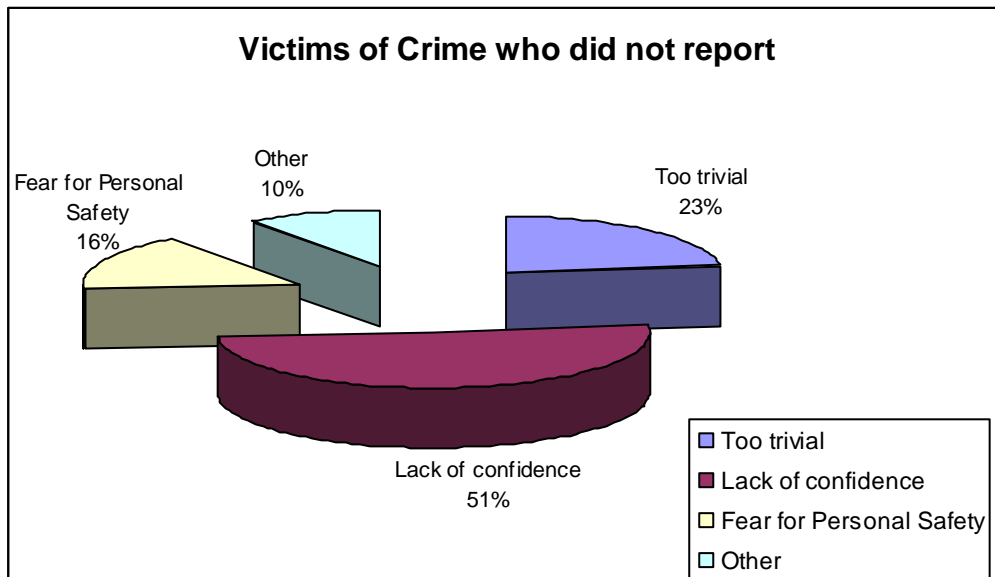




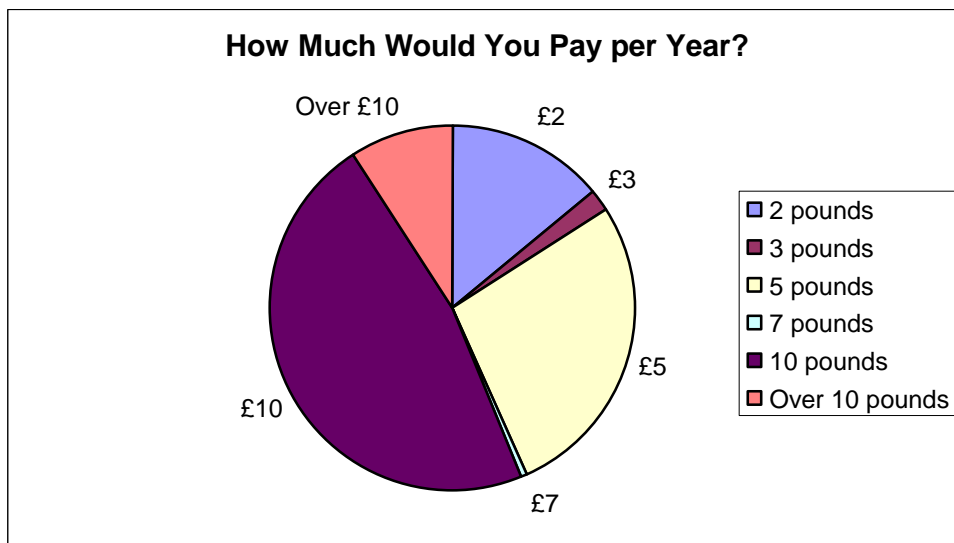
Receipt of Information about Community Safety & Crime Matters



Reasons for not Reporting Crime



Willingness to Pay Increased Council Tax towards Safety Measures



Age Profile of Respondents

