

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Your fear of crime

- Although Warwickshire is a low crime county the fear of crime is proportionally much higher. One reason for this can be linked to what people see in their everyday lives including vandalism, graffiti and abandoned cars.

Our response

- Through a new Countywide anti-social behaviour co-ordinator and local project teams we intend to target this issue.

Vehicle crime

- Vehicle crime is the single most expected crime and this is also reflected in reported crime statistics.
- Not all victims of car crime are local residents. A significant proportion are visitors to the county. Likewise many of the perpetrators do not live in Warwickshire and offend cross our borders.

Our response

- This has resulted in a cross-boarder initiative with Solihull and North Warwickshire Borough Councils.

Alcohol related crime

- Over 50% of you also identified alcohol related violence and nuisance as a key issue, especially in our town centres.

Our response

- This is an area we have already started working on, and in partnership with the police we intend to improve the safety of our town centres.
- Trading Standards are also targeting the sale of alcohol to underage young people.

“97% of you are concerned about anti social behaviour and this contributes towards the fear of crime”

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/communitysafety

TRADING STANDARDS

77% of you are worried about doorstep selling

In order to highlight to elderly people the potential dangers associated with buying on the doorstep, the Trading Standards Service put on a series of small playlets with the help of some amateur thespians. These illustrated the ways in which a rogue builder or dubious home security salesman might persuade a consumer to part with their money, but ended with positive messages as to how to deal with such people.

The performances were held in Rugby and Leamington Spa as part of SWOOP (Safety in Warwickshire Opportunities for Older People), a multi agency safety event for older people. The performances were watched by over 150 visitors to the events and were very well received.



Doorstep Selling

Over half of you said you had had unexpected visits from sales people to your home, and almost a quarter of you had ‘cowboy’ builders or rogue tradesmen call at your door.

One in ten of you living in the Nuneaton and Bedworth area see it as a fairly big problem and felt that these traders made them feel uneasy/unsafe in their own home.

The Trading Standards Service used National Consumer Week (18 – 23 October 2004), to warn Warwickshire people about the potential dangers of buying goods and services on the doorstep. The Service also launched a ‘We Don’t Buy from Doorstep Traders’ sticker. Approximately 10,000 have now been distributed to households.

In Citizens’ Panel Wave 15, July 2004, a quarter of you told us you had witnessed the sale of alcohol to underage young people, and almost a third of you see it as a problem in your local area. Over 40% of you said you would be likely to report the problem.

To combat the problem of alcohol related crime and disorder, the Trading Standards Service has, and continues to carry out undercover alcohol test purchase exercises. Child volunteers are asked to enter retail premises and try to purchase an alcoholic drink. Intelligence derived from the Police and local communities is used to target areas of the county where alcohol is being sold to young people under the age of 18.

Between April 2004 and March 2005, 51 attempted test purchases were carried out and 16 sales made. A number of prosecutions followed.

For help and advice on dealing with rogue traders and doorstep sellers, including the latest local information, visit our website: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/latestscams

You can also report a scam, rip-off or rogue trader online at: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/reportscam

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/tradingstandards

Police Authority

In June/July 2001 we asked for your opinions on the Warwickshire Police Authority, you told us you would like to see more information on its achievements, plans and policies and who to contact for complaints/comments. Many of you also said you were unaware of the difference between the Police Force and the Police Authority.

Warwickshire Police Authority acts as a link between the public and Warwickshire Police Force. The Authority gathers your views on policing in Warwickshire and uses this information to give strategic direction, define the budget and set targets for Warwickshire Police Force. Several press releases have been issued to inform the public of the distinction between the Police Force and the Police Authority.

The Police Authority has recently improved its website, which now contains reports on its achievements, plans and policies along with who to contact to make a comment or complaint. This can be found at www.warwickshirepa.gov.uk

www.warwickshirepa.gov.uk

FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES



www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fireandrescue

You have also been asked about your views on the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service (WFRS)

Results show:

80% of you are generally satisfied

- with the service we provide
- with the location of Fire Stations
- with ease of contacting the service
- with speed of response

79% are generally satisfied with performance regarding reducing fires.

“80% of you are satisfied with the service provided by Warwickshire’s Fire and Rescue Service”

The information gained from the survey will help us to improve our services and feed into our Integrated Risk Management Plan – this is an action plan for the forthcoming year. The survey did highlight that people are unaware of the range of services, additional to fire fighting, that we provide.

These include:

- Educating school children about the dangers of fire
- Removing abandoned vehicles through the **Car Clear scheme – 0800 16 999 00**
- Home fire safety checks
- Running youth development programmes – Young Firefighters and Fire Break scheme
- Help on call – help line for the elderly and disabled to summon assistance
- Providing fire safety training for businesses



For more information about Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service contact **01926 423231** or visit www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fireandrescue

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