Welcome...

to the third Talkback newsletter of 2008 reporting the results of the survey you received in July. The survey concerned crime and personal safety and most of the questions were a repeat of an earlier survey. This offered us a chance to see whether you felt that the changes the Council and the Police have been making over the past year are having an effect.

539 responses were received by the deadline of 11th August representing a response rate of 54%. Once again we thank you for your valuable input.

One survey respondent was selected at random to receive a £30 high street shopping voucher. The winner was Mr Ben Thomas. Make sure you put your name on the front of your survey in order to be entered for the draw.

Do you know of anybody else that would like to become a member of Talkback?

Talkback helps us find out what residents views and opinions are on a range of services and issues. The views of panel members are important in helping us improve local areas and the way we deliver our services. Every effort is made to ensure the panel mirrors the population of the city. Panel members are selected on the basis of where they live, age, ethnicity etc. The results of all surveys are examined by officers in the Council who, together with your elected Councillors, use the panel's views to help develop local policies and improve services.

Anybody interested in joining Talkback can do so by calling 01865 252057 or going to www.oxford.gov.uk/talkback
Safety and Security

● The proportions of respondents who feel safe walking alone in their local area or the city centre during the day has decreased slightly since last year’s survey (97% and 96% respectively). There has also been a decrease in the proportion of people feeling safe after dark in the city centre (51%). However, there has been an increase in people feeling safe in their local area after dark (72%).

● As with last year, the “Top 3” crime types which worry you the most are domestic burglary (52.8% of you were very worried or fairly worried), theft from a vehicle (42.3% were very worried or fairly worried) and being pestered / insulted in a public place (38.7% were very worried or fairly worried).

● However, with the exception of theft from a vehicle and being mugged, it seems that worry about crime in Oxford has decreased since 2007’s Talkback survey was undertaken, and this year a larger proportion of the panel felt that crime had decreased in their area over the last 12 months, compared to in 2007 (19% and 7% respectively).

What we are doing to tackle your concerns:

● We are trialling a new PCSO shift pattern in 2 areas in Oxford, to give greater coverage throughout the week. In addition, Street wardens are now briefed with the PCSOs so they are aware of the same issues as the PCSOs and can patrol accordingly.

● Although domestic burglary and theft from a vehicle are still a worry for Oxford residents, Oxford Safer Communities Partnership continues to work with partners to reduce these crimes. The public perception of these crimes is not reflected in the levels of victimisation - since the partnership started in 1998, domestic burglaries and thefts from vehicles have both decreased by 70%. This equates to 1814 less burglaries and 2983 less thefts from vehicles across the city.

For further information about how we are tackling burglary and car crime, see our web pages: www.saferoxford.org.uk/bd.asp and www.saferoxford.org.uk/carcrime.asp

Anti Social Behaviour

● The “Top 3” types of antisocial behaviour that you think are the biggest problems in your area are the same as last year, and are: rubbish and litter on the street (53% feeling this was a very or fairly big problem), cars parked illegally (45% feeling this was a very or fairly big problem) and speeding vehicles (52% feeling this was a very or fairly big problem).

● When asked whether you thought antisocial behaviour had got better, worse or stayed the same over the last 12 months in your area, fewer respondents thought that levels of antisocial behaviour had got worse, compared to 2007.

● Respondents felt that aggressive begging was less of a problem than they did in 2007: 44% feeling it was a very or fairly big problem compared to 59% in 2007. However, 55% of respondents still felt that rough sleeping was a fairly or very big problem in the City.
What we are doing to tackle your concerns:

Several different types of antisocial behaviour featured in our survey are tackled through the Neighbourhood Actions Groups (NAGs) across Oxford. Some examples of the work that has been done / is being done are:

- NAGs are studying localised parking problems and Thames Valley Police, Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council, and NCP will be looking to solve local issues.
- Local NAG consultations have demonstrated residents’ concerns with speeding vehicles - as a result of this, many of the Neighbourhood Police Teams will be undertaking speed monitoring operations in Oxford during the next few months. The results of these surveys will be shared with the NAGs and potential solutions will be worked on.
- Our Neighbourhood Environmental Action teams respond to many reports of littering and fly tipping on both a responsive and routine basis, and are also involved in specific projects. Following the results of consultation in Blackbird Leys they undertook a litter and fly tipping blitz day specifically dealing with the locations identified in the consultation results such as the 'deep cleaning' of Blackbird Leys Road.

**Neighbourhood Policing**

- This year, 41% of respondents thought that the Neighbourhood Policing team presence had increased in their area over the last 12 months. This is a marked improvement on the 2007 results (28%).
- 10% more respondents than in 2007 knew who their neighbourhood police team were, and how to contact them.
- Only 10% knew how to find out about their local Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) priorities.

What we are doing to tackle your concerns:

- We will be reviewing the new PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) shift pattern and examining how this has increased neighbourhood coverage and visibility
- Neighbourhood policing surgeries are to be arranged and undertaken by the local police teams – the locations will cover the 12 NAG areas.
- Thames Valley Police Neighbourhood team newsletters will be published once every 2 months - additionally, we will ensure that Neighbourhood Police team stories and updates are published in local free community papers/newsletters and relevant local publications.
- To continue improving the Neighbourhood Teams work with residents in solving local issues, we will ensure that during the NAG consultations the teams actively participate in the collection of questionnaire results. Questionnaires will be completed face to face with local residents, door to door by the PCSOs and PCs.
37% of respondents felt that alcohol-related antisocial behaviour was a very big problem in Oxford City Centre at night, compared to 31% in 2007.

A higher proportion of panel members had heard of Nightsafe compared to 2007 (28% in 2008 compared to 17% in 2007).

Methods of hearing about Nightsafe remained similar to 2007 - the local newspaper was again the most cited source.

76% of respondents felt their feelings of personal safety whilst out in Oxford city centre had stayed the same over the past 12 months.

What we are doing to tackle your concerns:

In order to tackle your concerns about alcohol-related antisocial behaviour in Oxford, Nightsafe will continue to work on a variety of projects, including:

“Operation Nightsafe“ – a high visibility policing operation in the City centre and East Oxford on Friday and Saturday nights. In addition to increasing police visibility, the operation uses additional police resources such as the mounted division and drug dogs.

Banned scheme – launched at the end of October, if an individual creates antisocial behaviour in a licensed premises, he/she will run the risk of being banned from all licensed premises in Oxford city centre.

The Nightsafe website, which has been re-vamped to include a news section and pages for young people, in addition to the existing information about how to have a great night out in Oxford and stay safe. For further information, please visit:

www.nightsafe-oxford.org.uk

To read the complete report that accompanies this survey please go to

www.oxford.gov.uk/consultationresults