

Windle, Rainford, Moss Bank, Billinge & Seneley Green Event – Tesco, East Lancashire Road 20.05.08

Most of the people spoken to at this event preferred to take away a feedback questionnaire rather than speak to the officers present.

The comments made included:

“I have just moved to the area and feel very safe in my community”.

“We live opposite someone we know is a criminal but we’re too intimidated to report him”.

“We did have a spate of burglaries in our area but the police dealt with it and now we feel relatively safe”.

Parr, Sutton & Bold Event – 13.05.08

The comments made included:

“I live in Reginald Road and the speed of vehicles sometimes is frightening - lorries and cars all times of day and night”.

“It is very much appreciated that we have regular contact with the community police via the church on a Wednesday morning”.

“I live opposite a labour club and we are constantly blighted by youths hanging around the car park area smoking and drinking and this can be intimidating. Some of these youths don’t even live in the street! I think patrols should be beefed up around the Ellen street area through to Peckers Hill Road to disperse these youths. Plus, they should be made aware of the local open spaces like Sutton Park where they can play and not just hang around the streets”.

“On walking with my dog, I notice drug and alcohol abuse taking place in the Dingle area of Newton-le-Willows”.

Newton, Haydock, Blackbrook & Earlestown Event – Tesco, Earlestown 20.02.08

The vast majority of the people spoken to were happy with the service they get from Merseyside Police. The staff in Tesco were also very supportive and liked the fact that the officers were present in the store. Several people raised the fact they did not feel safe to go out after dark, however when asked why they felt this way it was not down to issues in the neighbourhood but due to what they hear and see in the media.

The comments made included:

“Youths are drinking in the new children’s playground in the area. Police have done a good job moving them on and dealing with the situation.”

“Youths are causing annoyance in Haydock.”

“We are very happy with the police in Earlestown.”

“I had my purse stolen yesterday and was very happy with the police response.”

“The local station should be open at night; I’m scared to go out.”

“The PCSOs in the area are an asset they know the people of the neighbourhood and know the youth who cause all the trouble.”

“The police service is poor, nothing ever gets done so I don’t bother reporting anything.”

“I have had problems with young people causing damage to my property on Market Street but I am relieved to hear my area is being alley-gated in the near future.”

“We used to get the kids in Wargrave being a menace but its gone quiet now. We often see the PCSOs which I think puts the kids off.”

“Change the laws and get harsher sentencing - the criminals know how to work the system and know they won’t get touched by the courts. It is not fair to law-abiding citizens.”

“More night-time policing is needed in Whiston. It would provide reassurance for people and a deterrent for the thugs and gangs.”

“I had a poor experience with the police when I was attacked two years ago. There was no contact from the police and I had to chase them up. The police were not even from a local station so were not familiar with the place I was attacked.”

“I have no confidence in reporting crime to the police because of what I’ve heard from friends and what I’ve seen reported in the media.”

Eccleston Event – Spar, Warmesley Road 29.01.08

(Note – Problems with parking on Walmsley Road and Kiln Lane were highlighted frequently throughout the event. During the event the PCSOs appeared very popular and well known to the local community – many people commented on how reassured they felt by a ‘visual presence’).

The comments made included:

“Local car park – too full, too often, far too long. I suspect it is used as a ‘park and ride’. A pay and display scheme should be considered.”

“The parking spaces in this area are used as a park and ride as it is at a bus stop. The trader’s car spaces are used by the public, causing lorries to park in the centre of road. The community police officer told me the car park is on private land so I presume you have very little authority there.”

“I had an occasion last week to witness a near accident involving a lady with a pram and a speeding car at the end of Kiln Lane. The lady had to go into the road because the pavement was blocked by parked cars. We were told by letter from the police that it was a £30 fine if caught parking on said pavement, but these letters have not been enforced.”

“Keep our community police on our estate. You get used to the same faces and have the confidence to talk to them. Sandra, Lesley and Laura – Please keep them on our estate everyone loves them.”

“We want to see more ‘bobbies’ in our community.”

“Have civilian personnel staffing small police stations enabling PCSOs and police to get out into the community.”

“Less paperwork for the police so that more time could be spent on the streets where they are most needed.”

“I feel the parish/town council do little for young men in the area on dark winter evenings. The cost of a sports hall (all brick, no trimmings) to play 5 aside or basketball would be minimal on the land at Walmsley Road. We have good social pitches for day time, nothing at night time.”

“I am concerned when I hear people say they ring the police and they don’t respond to an incident. There have been 3 incidents of broken double glazing windows and even when police have been informed of a ‘bullet type’ breakage. In one particular case the police did not come out; in another they did not know of any other incidents even though they had been informed, which appears that incidents are not ‘joined up’. Other than a lack of communication I have no personal grumbles and am glad to see the presence of the community police around.”

“Police do have a really hard job, but a lot of police target people. My son has been wrongfully arrested on several occasions just by the look of him and my house wrongfully overturned. It is very unfair on people.”

St Helens Town Centre Event - Hardshaw Centre 10.10.07

The comments made included:

“We would like to see more bobbies on the beat Haydock/ Parr /Fleet Lane.”
(This issue was brought up more than once).

“There are problems with youths causing annoyance in Billinge.”

“We’re very happy with the police in Windle.”

“The PCSO’s do a great job but should have more powers, can we have more please?”

“There are drug dealers operating in Knowsley House Avenue.”

“My 14-year-old granddaughter was beaten up in the Haydock area and we had a very poor response form the police.”

“My road is a cut-through for youngsters moving between the pub and their estate – there is lots of noise, people being sick etc and we need more police presence” (Windermere Road, Haydock).

“We don’t see many police in New Sutton, although we do often see 2 PCSOs. There has been less car vandalism in the last 12 months so we can see an improvement.”

“I was burgled 18 months ago and the police came straight away and CID arrived one hour later – a very quick response.”

“The service the police provide is very good. PCSOs visible on the beat and the problems we had have calmed down.”

“Sutton Leach is a very quiet area and we often see police about.”

“There are lots of problems in Ashton Park; people drinking, taking drugs etc. PCSOs come around in the day when it is quiet but not when they are needed at night. My neighbours moving out because of the problem.”

“We are frightened to go out, as are other old people in our street. We reported seeing some youths stealing copper pipe at an empty property over the road and it was 2 hours before the police came. Residents advised the officers to take fingerprints off the piping and wait to catch them when they came back for it, but nothing happened. The police are under-staffed and have too much paperwork. A local nightclub has opened and that attracts problems as well - yobs have kicked my wall over many times and now I don’t bother to have it repaired.” (Newton-le-Willows).

“I believe the police do a bad job and stop and search is unnecessary.”

“I don’t have any crime issues – I think the police are doing OK.”

“I work in a garage and have had death threats but the police have not come out until four weeks later. We need more police.”

“The police do as well as they can although they don’t have enough freedom. There’s not a lot of crime in Sutton; there used to be but the police attended to it.”

“I am a single parent living next door to another single parent who this morning locked her house and car keys in the house when she put her baby into the car. The police refused to come and help break the door so we had to go and find help down the street. We never see police about and don’t feel safe. More police patrols at weekends would be appreciated.” (Rainford).

“No issues, PCSOs tend to sort out the youth problems.”

“I am a taxi driver and see a lot – I have no confidence in police. I reported some vandalism but nothing happened.”

“We don’t see enough police on the Avon Road Estate. We are a rat run for cars driving too fast but we don’t want speed bumps.”

“Young people are taking drugs on Coronation Drive, Haydock.”

“My daughter lost her mobile phone and we had an excellent response from police.”

“Sheltered accommodation in Parr receive an excellent service from police.”