

**Appendix 1: Agenda Item 2**

# **Barnet Community Safety Strategy Consultation (2014)**

**Initial analysis of results**

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## **Consultations on Community Safety**

Consultation with residents plays a key part in the development and annual review of Barnet's Community Safety Strategy. We consult to ensure that:

- The council works together with its partners and residents to sustain the low levels of crime and anti-social behaviour in the borough
- We understand the views and concerns of Barnet residents and provide an opportunity for residents to have their say about how we tackle and prevent crime and disorder, substance misuse and anti-social behaviour
- The annual review of Barnet's Community Safety Strategy takes into account the concerns residents have around crime and anti-social behaviour.

During the last two years the Safer Communities Partnership has received over 5000 responses from Barnet residents taking part in consultation surveys that have either been focused specifically on crime and community safety or else contained a significant section on that subject. Of these around 3300 of these responses were received during the last 18 months.

### **Consultations pre the 2014 Community Safety Strategy Consultation**

Two of the main surveys undertaken were the Residents Perception Survey (RPS) and Public Attitude Survey (PAS). These have been carried out by separate independent market research companies. In addition to these two surveys there have been a number of either, smaller, or one off consultations, that are also highly relevant to community safety issues (CCTV consultation, Police Open Day survey and the 2011 Barnet Crime and Community Safety Survey).

### **The 2014 Barnet Community Safety Strategy Consultation**

The most recent community safety consultation took place between July and October 2014.

This Consultation set out to understand the views and concerns of Barnet residents and provided an opportunity for residents to have their say about Barnet's 2015-2018 Community Safety Strategy.

The results of this consultation will support the Partnership create, develop and launch a community safety strategy for the borough for 2015 to 2018.

What we consulted on:

- Perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour

- Views about how well the Safer Communities Partnership is tackling crime and anti-social behaviour
- What priorities should the future Community Safety Strategy focus on

This consultation included:

- An online survey (over 270 responses received).
- Two public meetings held at Hendon Town Hall in September 2014.
- Presentations and workshops at Partnership Boards (e.g. Physical and Sensory Impairment Board, Learning Disabilities Partnership Board).
- Community safety stalls at various events to engage with residents and community groups (for example at the Communities Together Network, Safer Neighbours Board meeting, and at various locations in streets across the borough).
- A mass public engagement event in September 2014, Project Mercury, involving over 500 staff from the Police, Council, Safer Communities partners; all meeting and engaging with people across Barnet Borough about Community Safety.

The consultation was promoted through various means including:

- Barnet First advertisement to households across Barnet.
- Social Media – Twitter, Facebook.
- Barnet Borough Website.
- Promotion through partner agencies.
- Emails to voluntary organisations and partner organisations who interim promoted the consultation to their members.
- Posters/ advertising within Barnet.

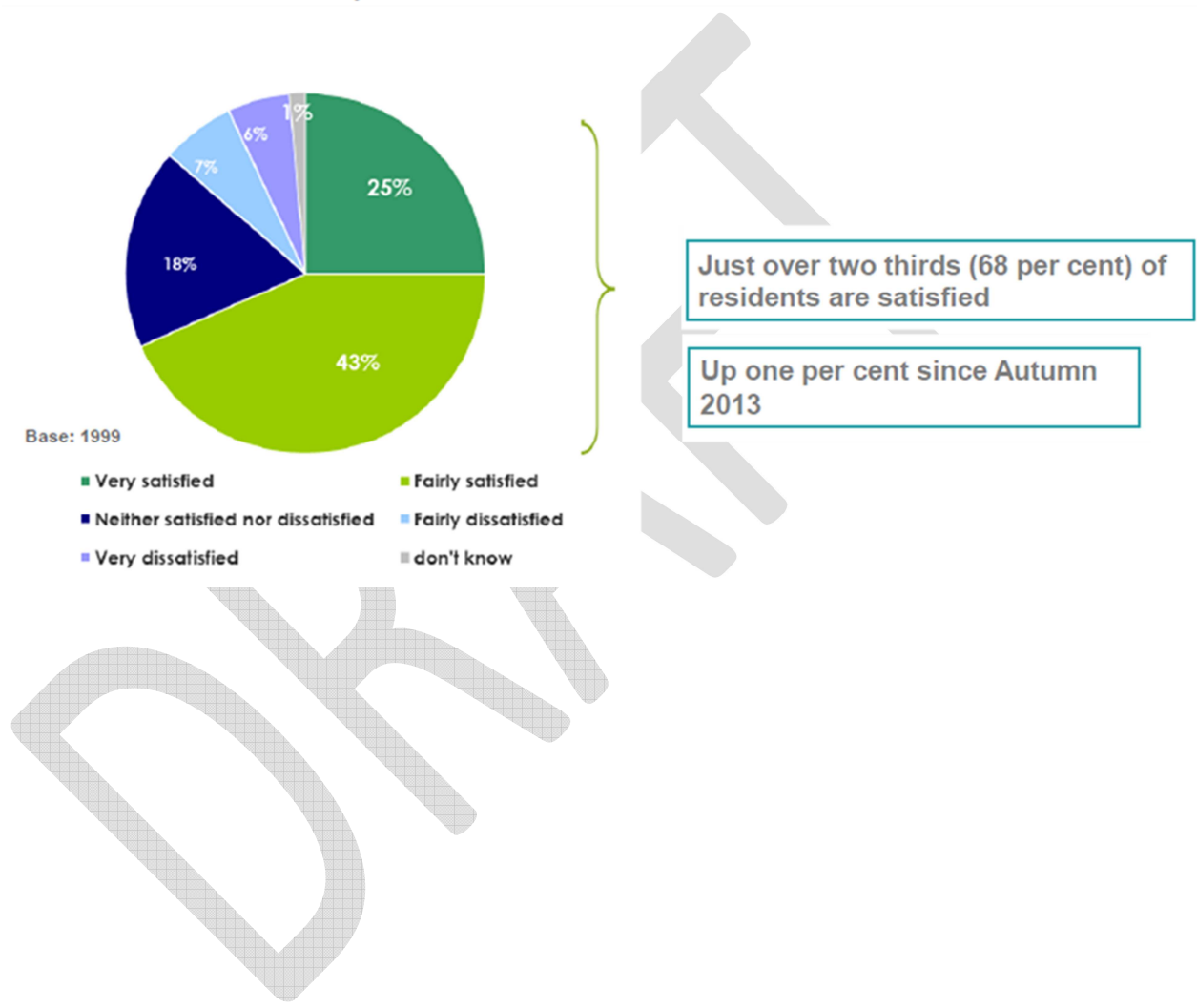
### **Key Findings from the Previous Consultation Exercises:**

- Overall community confidence in the police and local authority in Barnet is strong and most indicators show this improving over the last year.
- Confidence in policing is above the London average.
- Confidence that the police understand community concerns and can be relied upon to be there when you need them is above the London average.

- Community cohesion remains strong.
- Litter and rubbish left around is a top ASB concern.

The Residents Perception Survey 2014-Confidence in the Police and Barnet Council:

**Q** How satisfied are you that Barnet Police and Barnet Council are dealing with antisocial behaviour and crime in your local area?



**Caution: This analysis of the 2014 Community Safety Consultation is provisional and subject to a more detailed analytical assessment.**

## Community Safety Strategy Consultation 2014: Common Themes

Common themes which have emerged from the Community Safety Public consultation (July – October 2014):

- **Anti-social behaviour** - is a common area of concern – especially where the issue involves a victim being targeted or intimidated over a long period of time. In comparison to acquisitive crimes (for example theft) victims of ASB face a greater degree of uncertainty about who to report the problem to, who to turn to if the issue is not resolved.
- **Under-reporting of Crime and ASB** - concerns about under-reporting of ASB and Hate Crime were themes which emerged from the feedback at the Physical Sensory Impairment Partnership Board and Learning Disabilities Partnership Board – particularly in cases where the victim may have communication difficulties which can present an additional barrier to the victims concerns being understood and responded to appropriately.
- **The need for clear channels of communication** - Who to report issues to? Where to go to if my problem is not being resolved?
- **More feedback about what is being done** - Barnet residents want more feedback about what is being done to tackle local crime and ASB concerns.
- **Litter and rubbish left** around is a top ASB concern.

### Learning from the Consultation

The common themes which emerged from the Community Safety Public consultation highlight the importance of making sure that the strategy addresses the following points:

- **Supporting repeat victims** of crime and anti-social behaviour, problem solving on-going ASB issues and providing clear updates about what action has been taken or will be taken.
- **Focusing on hotspots and repeat locations** of crime and anti-social behaviour.
- **Tacking concerns about rubbish and litter.**
- **Communicating and engaging effectively** - this means providing clear information and pathways so people know exactly who they can report their

issues to; listening to and acting on concerns in a coordinated way; feeding back to the community about what action will be taken to address concerns.

- **Focusing on repeat victims, offenders and locations.**
- **Reducing (and understanding) under-reporting** of Hate Crime and hidden harm issues such as DV, VAWG, Race Hate Crime, and Disability Hate Crime.
- **Preventing burglary.**
- **Youth Crime Prevention**– Young people have told us, through the consultations we have carried out, that safety is one of their top priorities. Our survey results showed that compared to the population average, people aged 19 year or under: were over 55% more likely to feel ‘very worried’ about the risk of being physically assaulted.

## **More detailed analysis of the findings of the 2014 Community Safety Consultation**

Results from this survey show very similar findings in comparison to the previous survey undertaken in 2011. Therefore, we can be assured that this survey is giving us a truthful indication of the perceptions of the community about the work the BSCP is conducting and about the views on crime and ASB on the borough.

**ASB** – Findings from the survey were comparable to the survey of 2011. In addition, both public meetings provided feedback from residents that ASB was a concern for them especially where ASB issues were on-going and persistent.

It is noteworthy that the findings of the 2014 survey reveal that there was a 12% increase compared to the 2011 survey of residents who felt it was the Council’s responsibility to tackle ASB.

**Motor Vehicle Crime** - Further analysis shows there has been a decline in motor vehicle crime in the borough in the past several years. However, fall in reported crime does not appear to be fully reflected in peoples’ perceptions.

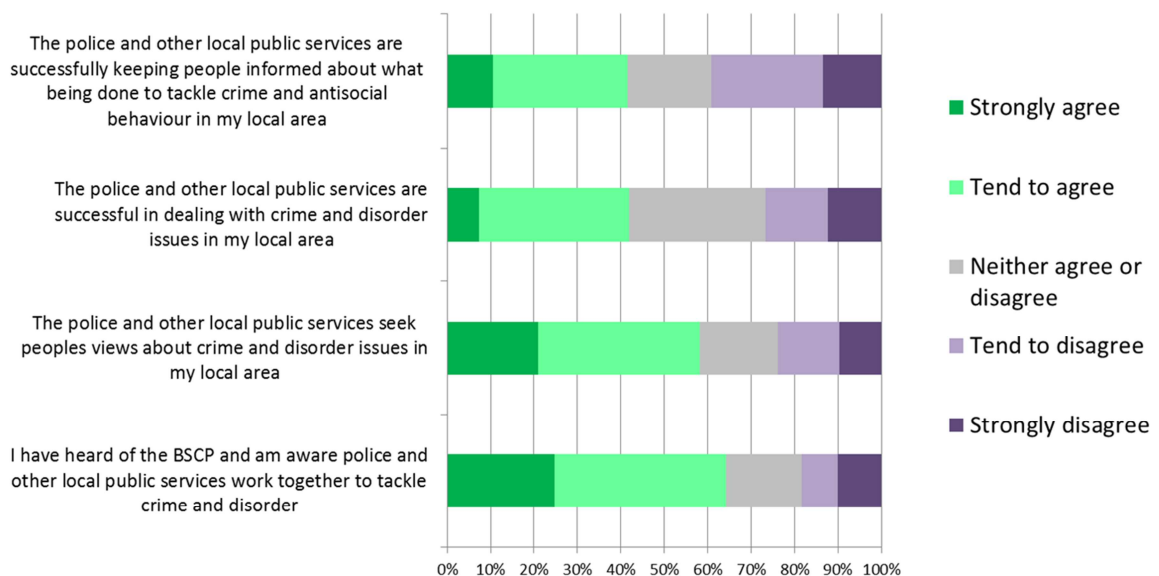
**Hate crime** - Reflecting the increased police reporting figures for hate crime there was an increase in the proportion of respondents who indicated that they have been a victim or repeat victim of a hate crime.

**Litter and Rubbish** - During both public meetings residents discussed this ASB issue as a worry, which they feel leads to further ASB issues. The current survey outcomes indicate that in the region of 40% of those surveyed felt that litter and rubbish was a

fairly big issue in their local area and in Barnet. It should be noted that the survey results showed that people perceived this rubbish and litter to be a London wide and national issue. In the residents perception survey rubbish and litter is the main ASB concern and the level of concern is increasing over time.

**Overall perceptions of crime (BCSP)** - Perception of being a victim of crime has remained similar when comparing the 2011 and 2014 surveys (in both there is a tendency for people to tend to feel crime is going up). However, within the past year there has been an overall 11% decline in reported crime and it seems this has not been fully reflected in changes in people’s perceptions.

**Overall perceptions of the BCSP:**



**Response to: What do you think local priorities should be to improve safety within Barnet?**

The top three responses to date are:

- Volume crime (e.g. Burglary) (56%)
- Reducing ASB (48%)
- Reducing problems associated with alcohol and drugs (40%)

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**Appendix A: What existing consultations told us?** (Below is a breakdown of the findings from the previous consultations about various community safety themes)

What the consultations tell us about the various community safety themes	
<b>Residential Burglary</b>	<p><u>2011 Community Safety Survey :</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residential burglary was the crime type most residents were concerned about when asked how worried they were about becoming a victim of various crime types, with <b>70% of residents</b> saying they were very or fairly worried about becoming a victim of burglary.</li> <li>Approximately one in three said they were <b>very worried</b> about becoming a victim of burglary.</li> <li>43% of residents said 'Reducing levels of core crime crimes (e.g. burglary, motor vehicle crime, theft)' would be in their ideal top three priorities for community safety</li> </ul> <p><u>Colindale Police Station Open Day Survey 2013:</u> Residential burglary was the top crime / community safety problem of concern (accounting for around 42% of the responses from the residents taking part in the survey)</p>
<b>Re-offending</b>	<p>When asked in the Community Safety Survey 2011 Imagine you could set local priorities to improve safety in this area, 40% of residents said "Improving the work between police, courts and other agencies to manage offenders and break their offending behaviour" would be in their top three priorities</p>
<b>Youth Crime</b>	<p>While the levels of satisfaction re the majority of local services in Barnet were high (and increased in 2013 vs. 2012<sup>1</sup>) the area where there was least satisfaction was 'activities for teenagers and young people' - 39% rated the provision poor or extremely poor (vs. 16% rating the provision excellent or good). Note this is a 3% improvement from the result in the 2012 RPS but is still 2% below the London average<sup>2</sup></p> <p>2011 Community Safety survey showed perception of increasing levels of ASB was particularly high amongst younger residents In both the PAS (2013) and RPS (2013), when asked about various ASB related issues: the second highest rated concern of residents</p>



	<p>was, “Teenagers hanging around on the streets.” It is important to note not only is this concern reflected in both the separate surveys (PAS and RPS) but also that this result is consistent in both surveys over the last few years. Perhaps most tellingly where the data is available it indicates that it is the younger residents who tend to be the most concerned about “teenagers hanging around”, compared to the older residents.</p> <p>When asked in the Community Safety Survey 2011 Imagine you could set local priorities to improve safety in this area, 41% of residents said, “Enhancing the work with young people to stop them offending in the first place”</p>
<p><b>Domestic Violence &amp; against woman &amp; girls</b></p>	<p>Violent crime and verbal hate crime were the two crime types that are most under-reported according to the residents who took part in the anonymous Community Safety Survey 2011 (52% of those who said they had been a victim of a violent crime said that they had not reported it to police; 84% of those who said they had been a victim of a verbal hate crime said that they had not reported to police.</p> <p>According to the responses from the Community Safety Survey 2011 out of all the crime types asked about the highest levels of repeat victimisation were found to be for Verbal Abuse – Hate Crime, followed by Violent Crime (both appearing to have significantly higher repeat victimisation rates than the volume crime (burglary / robbery etc.)</p> <p>When asked in the Community Safety Survey 2011 Imagine you could set local priorities to improve safety in this area, 37% of residents said, “Reducing violent crime” would be in their top three priorities</p>
<p><b>Antisocial behaviour</b></p>	<p>70% very or fairly satisfied that police and council are dealing with crime and ASB in their local area which is up 2% from 2012 RPS, but down from a 75% in 2010</p> <p>The top ASB concern is rubbish or litter lying around, and this increased in the 2013RPS vs. 2012 RPS.</p> <p>People being drunk or rowdy in public places has also seen an increase level of concern in most recent RPS (2013).</p> <p>2011 Community Safety survey showed perception of increasing levels of ASB was particularly high among younger residents</p> <p>When asked in the Community Safety Survey 2011 Imagine you</p>

	<p>could set local priorities to improve safety in this area, the top response was reducing levels of ASB and disorder (50% of residents said this would be in their top three priorities)</p>
<p><b>Community confidence / engagement</b></p>	<p>Crime remains the top community concern – In the 2013 RPS Crime was rated as the top overall concern (equal with road conditions) out of 17 issues. Crime was also the top concern in the 2012 RPS</p> <p>Barnet residents want to be informed - Out of a number of aspects the one residents rated the Safer Communities Partnership the least highly on (in the Community Safety Survey 2011) was, “successfully keeping people informed about what is being done to tackle crime and ASB”. Also the latest 12 months PAS results show that 61% of residents would like to receive more information from the police, an increase from the previous year and above the London average of 50% (Note in comparison to the 61% who would like more information, 36% said they would like the same amount, and just 3% would like less)</p> <p>Barnet residents on the whole are confident that the police understand the issues that affect the local community (more so than the London average, and improving over the last two years.</p> <p>Community engagement is a key part of tackling underreporting of violent crime, hate crime and violence against women and girls – in the 2011 Community Safety Survey violent crime and verbal abuse (Hate crime) were identified as the crime types most underreported by residents; amongst those residents who said they did not report such an offence the top reasons they gave for not reporting were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) police would not have been interested</li> <li>b) police could have done nothing</li> </ul>

## Appendix B – endnotes

1 Twelve up vs. Four down

2 Note this is specifically relates to activities for teenagers and young people to participate in rather than overall service provision for young people (i.e. as primary and secondary education, parks and playgrounds and social services for children and adults all rated strongly in the same survey - and above the London average)