

# Helping to create a safer Waveney...



Autumn 2004

## Have your say on tackling crime and disorder and drug misuse in Waveney.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as amended by the Police Reform Act 2002 places a duty on specific agencies (Waveney District Council, Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Constabulary, the Primary Care Trust, and the Suffolk Fire Service) to work together and with other agencies in the community to tackle crime and disorder and the misuse of drugs. This body is known as the Waveney Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership ('the Partnership').

Every three years the Partnership is required to carry out an audit to identify the extent of the problems in the borough and develop a strategy to deal with them.

The following document summarises the findings of the audit which has been carried out using data from 2001-2004.

It is now time to produce a new strategy for 2005-2008, and the Partnership would like to hear your views on crime and disorder within the district.

They would also like to hear your opinion on the incident types which have been short-listed for consideration for inclusion in the forthcoming strategy.

Are these issues important to you? Has the Partnership missed something equally as important?

The questionnaire on the back page of this leaflet is your

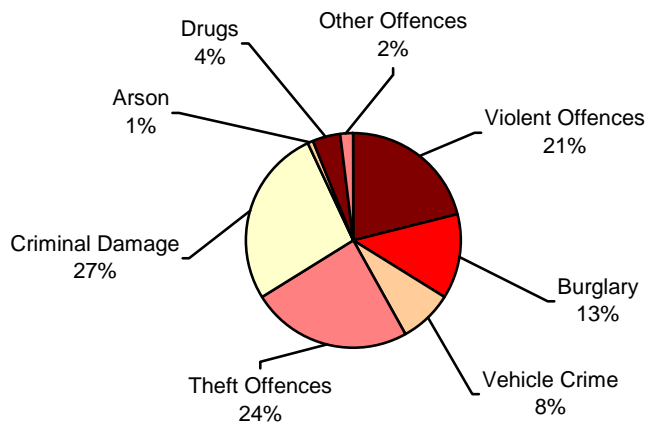
opportunity to have your say. The information you provide will be treated in the strictest confidence and will only be used for the purpose of this exercise.

Many positive steps have been taken to reduce crime in the district, but the Partnership acknowledges that there is still work to be done to reduce crime and disorder and drug misuse and help local people feel very safe where they live.

To learn more about the work of the Partnership please contact the Community Safety Officer at Waveney District Council.

# What the audit tells us...

Breakdown of Recorded Crime in Waveney 2003/04



## OVERVIEW

In 2002 the population in Waveney was 113,370, which accounted for 17% of the total population of Suffolk.

The 2001 Census showed that 41% of the population of Waveney were employed. In January 2004, there were 2369 people registered as unemployed in Waveney.

A postal survey carried out by Suffolk County Council in March 2004 showed that 60% of Waveney residents felt 'fairly safe' in the area where they lived, and 24% felt 'very safe'.

The annual cost of crime in Waveney for 2003/04 was estimated to be in the region of £29,974,140. These costs include lost or damaged property, time spent, emotional or physical impact, security, insurance premiums, and employer costs. Public sector costs account for about 30% of the overall total cost and include government crime prevention spending, criminal justice system costs, victim services and health services.

Overall, crime rates in Waveney are above the county average at 90.1 offences per 1000 population compared to 77.8 offences per 1000 population for Suffolk as a whole. Between April 2003 and March 2004, 10117 offences were recorded

by Suffolk Constabulary in the Waveney District Council area.

Whilst these levels may appear high at first glance it should be remembered that patterns of offending vary greatly between urban and rural areas and it is therefore not always favourable to make direct comparisons between areas within a county.

For this reason, the Home Office compares areas from across England and Wales that have a similar socio-economic makeup. When comparing these areas for the period January—March 2004, Waveney had an offence rate per 1000 population for all crime that was slightly above average.

In the following sections, figures appearing in *italics* relate to the actual number of recorded offences.

## ARSON (114)

The rate of arson in Waveney was equal to the county average of 1.0 offences per 1000 population. Two wards had rates over twice the county average: Harbour (3.0, 24), and Kirkley (2.6, 19).

## BURGLARY (1290)

### Of Peoples Homes:

The 'dwelling burglary' rate for the district was 5.4 offences per 1000 population. The four wards with the highest rates were: Kirkley (13.6,

99), Harbour (12.4, 97), Gunton & Corton (10.2, 46) and Normanston (7.5, 54).

## Of Sheds, Garages and Other Buildings:

There were 685 'other' burglaries in Waveney last year. These included sheds, garages, outbuildings, and business premises. The average offence rate for the district was 6.1 offences per 1000 population. Three wards had rates significantly higher than the district average: Kirkley (15.8, 115), Harbour (12.8, 100), and Beccles N (8.1, 38).

## CRIMINAL DAMAGE (2691)

During 2003-04, the average rate for criminal damage offences across the district was 24.0 offences per 1000 population. Four wards had rates over one and a half times higher than this average: Harbour (74.6, 582), Kirkley (60.8, 444), St Margaret's (45.8, 183), and Normanston (37.2, 268).

## DISORDER (3466)

Public disorder events tend to peak in line with periods of activity associated with the nighttime economy (e.g. pub/nightclub closing times). Unsurprisingly, most events are recorded during the evening and at weekends.

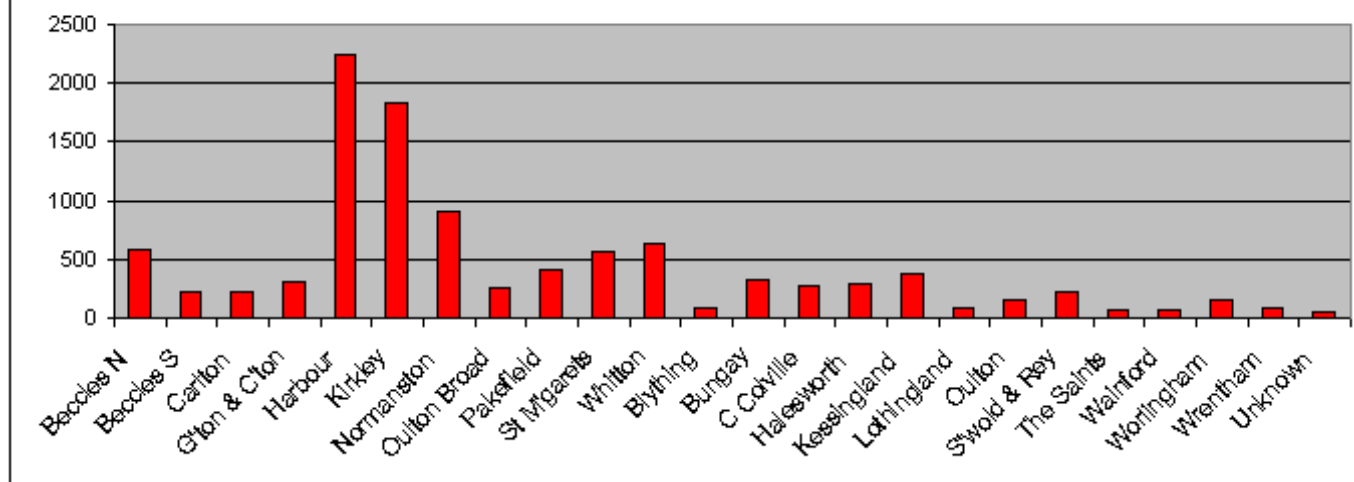
Within the disorder category the most commonly recorded incident in Waveney was 'Disturbance in a Public Place'. The district average for this type of incident was 13.7 offences per 1000 population. Wards with higher than average rates were Kirkley (56.2, 410), Harbour (41.5, 324), St Margaret's (22.3, 89), and Normanston (18.2, 131).

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (768)

Of the total number of domestic violence incidents reported to Suffolk Police during 2003/2004, 16% were in Waveney. This equated to 2064 incidents.

Domestic violence is a serious and complex crime whose victims are reluctant to come forward to report what has happened to them or seek support. Since the launch of the

**Recorded offences for Waveney, by ward, 2003-04**



countywide 'Break the Pattern: STOP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE' campaign there has been an increase in the number of incidents reported to the police. Countywide the reporting rate doubled during 2003/2004.

**DRUGS (398)**

There were 398 drugs offences recorded in Waveney by Suffolk Police during 2003/2004. Of these offences 68 were classed as 'serious drugs offences' and the remaining 330 offences were recorded as 'other drug offences'.

Of the total drugs offences 119 were recorded in Harbour ward and 57 in Kirkley ward.

It is difficult to determine an accurate level of drug misuse in an area, relying heavily on police intelligence and proactive police operations. It remains important to make treatment services available to drug misusers, and to continue to make educational material available to the community.

**THEFT**

**Theft from Shops (534)**

Three wards had rates above the district average of 3.3 offences per 1000 population. These were Harbour (34.7, 271), Beccles N (14.6, 69), and Kirkley (7.5, 55).

**Cycle Theft (366)**

The average rate of cycle theft in the district is 3.3 offences per 1000 population. The following wards had

rates in excess of one and a half times the district average: Kirkley (10.0, 73), Harbour (8.8, 69), and Whitton (5.3, 40).

**Other thefts & handling (1262)**

Two wards had rates of more than twice the district average of 11.2 offences per 1000 population. These were: Kirkley (32.0, 234) and Harbour (27.2, 212).

**RACIAL HARASSMENT (80)**

There were 80 racist incidents recorded in Waveney during 2003/04. This equated to approximately 16% of all racist incidents countywide.

The 2001 Census showed that the proportion of people from black and minority ethnic groups living in Waveney was below the county rate (2.8%) at 1.2%.

A county breakdown of racist incidents for 2003/04 showed that 32% were harassment, 26% abuse, 22% assault, 10% criminal damage and 10% were other types of offences.

The incident rate in Waveney has risen from 5.3 offences per 100, 000 population in 1998/99 to 71.2 offences per 100,000 population in 2003/04.

The Suffolk Racial Harassment Initiative (RHI) encourages the reporting of incidents which may account for the significant increase in incidents over recent years.

**VEHICLE CRIME (830)**

**Theft of Motor Vehicle**

Last year in Waveney 240 vehicles were stolen. The district average was 2.1 offences per 1000 population. Wards with rates more than one and a half times higher than the average: Whitton (4.4, 33), Kirkley (4.1, 30), Harbour (3.6, 28), and Normanston (3.5, 25).

**Theft from Motor Vehicle**

During 2003/2004 there were 590 thefts from motor vehicles in Waveney. The average rate for 'thefts from motor vehicle' across the district was 5.3 offences per 1000 population. The wards in Waveney which had rates more than one and a half times the district average were: Harbour (12.3, 98), Kirkley (12.3, 90), and Normanston (9.4, 68).

**VIOLENT CRIME (2161)**

There were 2161 violent offences in Waveney last year. These included 50 robberies and 115 sexual offences.

The violent crime rate for the district was 19.2 offences per 1000 population. Three wards had rates more than one and a half times the district average: Kirkley (66.7, 487), Harbour (58.3, 455), and St Margaret's (35.8, 143).

**YOUR VIEWS ARE IMPORTANT.**  
**PLEASE TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONNAIRE**

1. The following crime and disorder types have been identified as possible issues in Waveney. Please prioritise them in order of importance to you, between 1 and 11, with 1 being the MOST IMPORTANT and 11 being the LEAST IMPORTANT.

- ARSON
- BURGLARY OF PEOPLES HOMES
- BURGLARY OF OTHER BUILDINGS
- CRIMINAL DAMAGE
- PUBLIC DISORDER / NUISANCE (non-criminal)
- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
- DRUG OFFENCES
- RACIAL HARASSMENT
- THEFT
- VEHICLE CRIME
- VIOLENT OFFENCES

2. How safe or unsafe do you feel in the area where you live? (Please tick the most appropriate answer)

- Very safe**
- Fairly safe**
- A bit safe**
- Very unsafe**
- Not stated**

3. How safe or unsafe do you feel in an area where there are CCTV cameras? (Please tick the most appropriate answer.)

- Very safe**
- Fairly safe**
- A bit safe**
- Very unsafe**
- Not stated**

4. Overall, how safe do you think Waveney is as a whole? (Please tick the most appropriate answer)

- Very safe**
- Fairly safe**
- A bit safe**
- Very unsafe**
- Not stated**

5. Please list two types of behaviour that you consider to be anti-social:

6. Have you ever been a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour in the past 12 months? (Please tick.)

YES  NO

If you have answered YES to question 6, what type of incident was it? (E.g. criminal damage, burglary.)

7. Did you report this incident to the police? (Please tick.)

YES  NO

**ABOUT YOU**

Please note that the following personal questions are optional and you don't have to provide this information if you don't want to. However, by answering the following questions it helps the Partnership to ensure that it collects views from as wide a selection of the population as possible.

Thank you.

**Postcode of home address:**

**Gender** Male  Female

**Age Group**

- |          |                          |         |                          |
|----------|--------------------------|---------|--------------------------|
| Under 16 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 46-55   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 16-25    | <input type="checkbox"/> | 56-65   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 26-35    | <input type="checkbox"/> | 66-75   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 36-45    | <input type="checkbox"/> | Over 75 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**Ethnicity** (Please circle one of the following.)

**White:** British Irish Any other white background

**Mixed:** White & Black Caribbean White & Black African White & Asian Any other mixed background

**Asian or Asian British:** Indian Pakistani Bangladeshi Any other Asian background

**Black or Black British:** Caribbean African Any other black background

**Chinese** **Refugee**

**Traveller** **Asylum Seeker**

**Other (please specify)**

**Please return completed questionnaires to:**

The Karn Hubbard, Waveney District Council, Town Hall High Street, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 1HS  
 Or email Karen.hubbard@waveney.gov.uk