

# Helping to create a safer Babergh...



Autumn 2004

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

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as amended by the Police Reform Act 2002 places a duty on specific agencies (Babergh 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 Babergh 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 district 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?

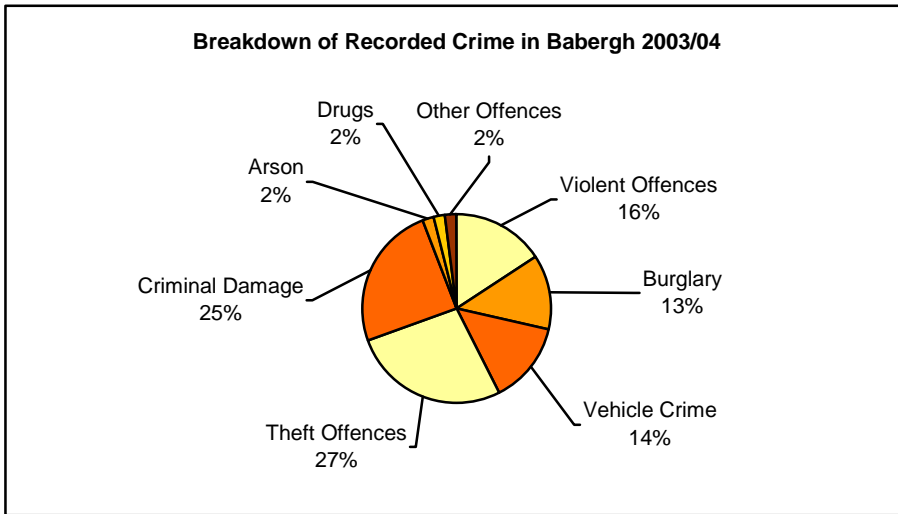
The questionnaire on the back page of this leaflet is your

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.

Babergh enjoys relatively low crime rates in the county and a high quality of life, 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 Babergh District Council.

# What the audit tells us...



## OVERVIEW

In 2002 the population in Babergh was 84,669, which accounted for 13% of the total population of Suffolk.

The 2001 Census showed that 48% of the population of Babergh were employed. In January 2004, there were 716 people registered as unemployed in Babergh.

A postal survey carried out by Suffolk County Council in March 2004 showed that 52% of Babergh residents felt 'fairly safe' in the area where they lived, and 40% felt 'very safe'.

The annual cost of crime in Babergh for 2003/04 was estimated to be in the region of £11,375,228. 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 Babergh remain well below the county average at 56.2 offences per 1000 population compared to 77.8 offences per 1000 population for Suffolk as a whole. Between April

2003 and March 2004, 4692 offences were recorded by Suffolk Constabulary in the Babergh District Council area.

Patterns of offending across Babergh are fairly typical with incidents of violence and disorder occurring mostly in urban areas and opportunistic offences such as vehicle crime and burglary occurring in more rural locations.

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

## ARSON (82)

The rate of arson in Babergh was equal to the Suffolk average of 1.0 offences per 1000 population. Last year there were 82 arson offences reported to the police. 20 of these offences took place in Sudbury, 10 in Gt. Cornard, and 10 in Hadleigh.

## BURGLARY (596)

### Of Peoples Homes:

Babergh had the lowest number of recorded dwelling burglaries of any district in Suffolk during 2003/04 (161 offences). It also shared the lowest burglary rate with Mid Suffolk (1.9 offences per 1000 population).

### Of Sheds, Garages and Other Buildings:

There were 435 'other' burglaries in Babergh last year. These included sheds, garages, outbuildings, and

business premises. Over 60% of these offences took place in the following 9 wards: Brook (55), Hadleigh North (10.6, 36), Sudbury South (8.2, 32), Gt. Cornard North (6.7, 26), Gt. Cornard South (6.3, 26), Long Melford (6.5, 24), Berners (5.9, 23), Sudbury East (5.3, 21), and Walsingham (5.0, 20).

## CRIMINAL DAMAGE (1178)

The rate of criminal damage in Babergh was generally lower than the Suffolk average (18.3 offences per 1000 population). However, there were some wards where the rate of offences was significantly higher. These wards were Sudbury South (42.5, 166), Hadleigh North (33.5, 114), Sudbury North (28.5, 117), Sudbury East (27.3, 109), Gt. Cornard North (25.4, 99), and Gt. Cornard South (21.5, 88).

## DISORDER (1388)

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 in urban areas, and more events are recorded during the evening and at weekends.

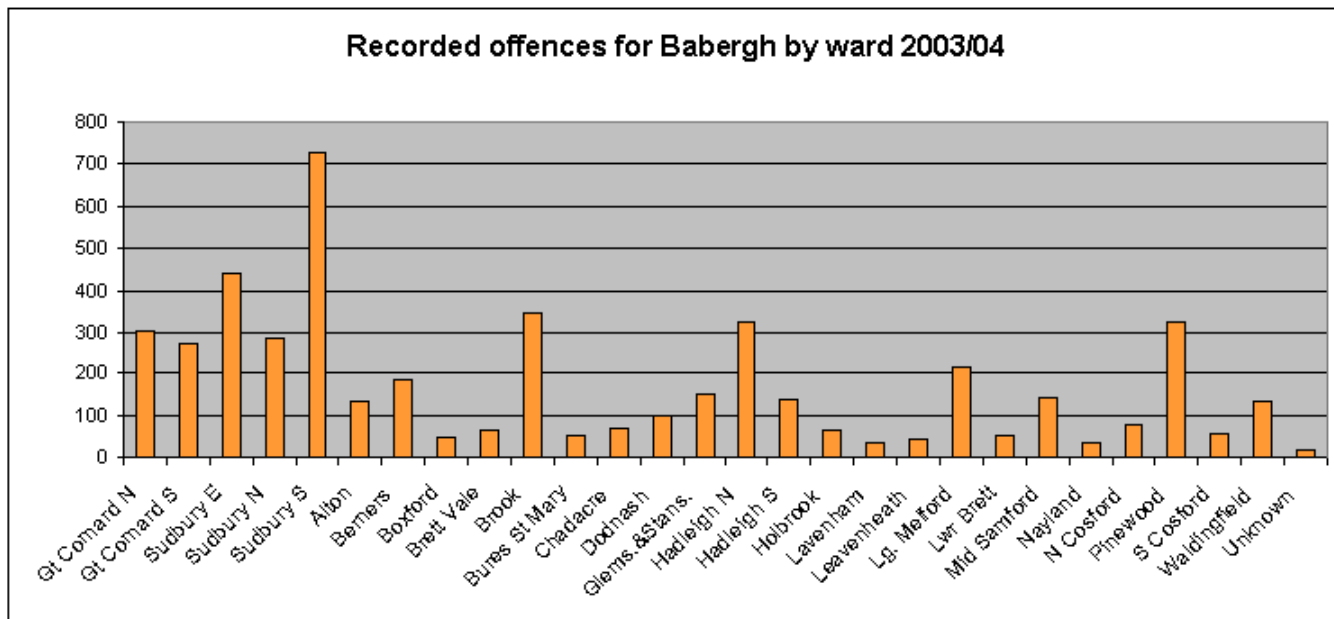
Within the disorder category the most commonly recorded incident in Babergh was 'Disturbance in a Public Place'. The district average for this type of incident was 6.3 offences per 1000 population. Wards with higher than average rates are Sudbury South (29.0, 113), Hadleigh North (13.2, 45), Sudbury North (12.4, 51), Sudbury East (12.0, 48), Gt. Cornard North (11.3, 44), Pinewood (10.0, 40) and Gt. Cornard South (9.5, 39).

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (240)

Of the total number of domestic violence incidents reported to Suffolk Police during 2003/2004, 5% were in Babergh. This equated to 240 incidents.

Although Babergh appears to have a lower than average rate of victimisation it is important to remember that victims living in rural areas face additional barriers to reporting.

**Recorded offences for Babergh by ward 2003/04**



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 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 (91)**

There were 91 drugs offences recorded in Babergh by Suffolk Police during 2003/2004. Of these offences 10 were classed as 'serious drugs offences' and the remaining 81 offences were recorded as 'other drug offences'.

Of these offences 34 were recorded in Sudbury and 13 were recorded in Gt. Cornard.

It is difficult to determine an accurate level of drug misuse in an area, relying heavily on police intelligence and proactive police operations. Whilst, there is no evidence to suggest that there is a major drugs problem in Babergh, it is important to make treatment services available to drug misusers, and to continue to make educational material available to the community.

**RACIAL HARASSMENT (27)**

There were 27 racist incidents recorded in Babergh during 2003/04.

This equated to approximately 5% of all racist incidents countywide.

The 2001 Census showed that the proportion of people from black and minority ethnic groups living in Babergh was below the county rate (2.8%) at 1.3%.

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 Babergh has risen from 1.2 offences per 100,000 population in 1998/99 to 32.4 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 (642)**

**Theft of Motor Vehicle**

Last year in Babergh 157 vehicles were stolen. Overall the rate of vehicle thefts in Babergh was below the Suffolk average of 2.3 offences per 1000 population, but there were some wards which had higher than average rates. These were: Sudbury South (6.4, 25), Sudbury East (4.5, 18), Brook (3.7, 14), Pinewood (3.25, 13) and Gt. Cornard South (2.9, 12).

**Theft from Motor Vehicle**

During 2003/2004 there were 485 thefts from motor vehicles in Babergh. The average rate for 'thefts from motor vehicle' across Suffolk was 6.5 offences per 1000 population. The wards in Babergh which exceeded this rate were: Brook (16.6, 63), Sudbury East (12.0, 48), Sudbury South (9.7, 38), Gt.Cornard North (8.2, 32), Hadleigh North (8.8, 30), Pinewood (8.75, 35) and Sudbury North (8.0, 33),

**VIOLENT CRIME (745)**

Levels of violent crime in Babergh are very low.

Violent crime can involve actual violence, the threat of violence or harassment. According to the Home Office Publication, 'Crime in England and Wales 2002/03' half of all violent crime does not result in any injury to the victim.

There were 745 violent offences in Babergh last year. These included 11 robberies and 39 sexual offences.

The violent crime rate in Babergh was well below the Suffolk average (14.0 offences per 1000 population) at 8.9. However, there were two wards with rates higher than the Suffolk average. These were Sudbury South (35.4, 138) and Sudbury East (22.8, 91).

**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 Babergh. Please prioritise them in order of importance to you, between 1 and 10, with 1 being the MOST IMPORTANT and 10 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
- 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 Babergh 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:**

**Tim Mutum, Head of Leisure and Community Services, Babergh District Council, Corks Lane, Hadleigh, Suffolk IP7 6SJ**

**Or email [tim.mutum@babergh.gov.uk](mailto:tim.mutum@babergh.gov.uk)**