

## 12. Crime and Community Safety

Woodhall Spa has always been a safe community where most people know their neighbour and the community spirit is strong. The past few years have seen unprecedented growth and over development. This, as well as stressing the service infrastructure, has made policing a little more difficult. The past couple of years have seen a gradual rise in requests for increased police presence, mainly in response to anti-social behaviour. This is a key issue for the Parish Plan Committee and one which has already been partly addressed by the addition of a new community support officer.

The open evenings and consultation events revealed that most residents feel safe in the parish and their home. A number of respondents, however, highlighted a growing trend towards anti-social behaviour in the parish. Examples of antisocial behaviour mentioned included noise pollution, egg throwing, fast food litter, rowdy behaviour and persistent nuisance.

**Quote**  
“Didn’t think the police would be interested”

The survey results do show that fear of burglary is higher than people would expect in such a small village; 62% see this as a real concern.

The police service in the area was unfortunately well under par in the views of Woodhall Spa parishioners. Strikingly, over 20% of resident had called the police in the last 12 months, and out of this number a disturbing 56% were not satisfied with the response. The comments, although varied, certainly pin pointed one important issue: there was not sufficient police presence in the village. The village has grown to become almost a small town and must be covered at all times by a visible police presence.

Vandalism has certainly become an issue and in the spring months of 2005 there was an increase in destructive behaviour in Jubilee Park and through the village centre. Using the household survey results, a third of people had witnessed anti-social behaviour first hand. More than 80% of the anti-social behaviour was vandalism. The majority of the blame was put upon lack of police presence in the village. With regard to the specific targeting of Jubilee Park over the Easter Bank Holiday, the police have responded to this upturn in criminal activity and the local residents have voiced their appreciation.



**The local Community Support Officer**

The appointment of a Community Support Officer since the questionnaire was completed is already making an impact on the ASBO and vandalism issues. The continued existence of the CSO post is not one that should be taken for granted and the Parish Council needs to be pro-active with the relevant authorities on this issues. Tackling anti-social behaviour is not just an issue for Woodhall Spa and there are opportunities for investigating best practice as exercised by other communities. Specifically, Spilsby has implemented a series of measures that warrant investigation. The CSO and Parish Council should liaise with the Spilsby authorities to see what lessons can be applied to Woodhall Spa.

The survey did also show that a number of residents, about half the population, felt that speeding was of concern within the parish with 51% in favour of traffic calming measures. Several locations were highlighted as key places for traffic calming, most significantly mentioned was The

Broadway, where numerous suggestions were made: speed bumps, parking on one side of the road, lowering the speed limit to 20mph, more signs, reactive signs, and more crossings with brighter lights were the main ones. There were number of other problem sites mentioned, including the various entry roads into the village.

In addition, some parishioners felt that poor parking is creating a safety hazard. Once again, the key area where parking has been highlighted as a major issue is on The Broadway. Again, one solution suggested is to limit parking to one side of the road. Parking on The Broadway and in the centre of the village in general needs more consultation and feasibility work.



**Traffic nightmare for the cyclist as well the car user**

**What we want to achieve What do we need to do**

Anti-social behaviour must be dealt with swiftly and strongly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate local byelaws to tackle persistent nuisance</li> <li>Request more support from youth service, specifically “Detached Youth Workers”</li> <li>Investigate the anti-social behaviour projects at Spilsby</li> </ul>
We are a growing village and need a policing presence to match	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure the financial security of the CSO post</li> <li>Develop the new Community Panel so that the police are aware of local problems and give them a higher priority</li> </ul>
We want traffic to slow down and stick to the speed limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We want permanent traffic calming measures on the four roads through Woodhall Spa (Horncastle Road, Tattershall Road, Stixwould Road and Witham Road).</li> <li>Tor-o-Moor Road is getting lots of complaints so we need something doing here as well.</li> </ul>
Traffic safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We’d like a one way system for roads by the Kinema</li> <li>Traffic calming measures on Abbey Lane (used as a rat run)</li> <li>See also Services &amp; Infrastructure</li> </ul>



