



Issue 181

FOCUS

Forward Together

From your Liberal Democrat
Focus Team
Cllr Mike Heap
Cllr Richard Whitehouse

Sept - Oct 2006

Lib Dem's Crime Survey

Many residents have told the Focus Team how worried they are about crime in their immediate area and also more generally across the City.



The results of this survey will assist us to work with the police, Council and residents to help the fight against crime."

One of the most common problems is that residents say a particular type of crime is a real problem but this is not shown in the police's official statistics.

The Lib Dems believe this is because many crimes, especially relatively minor ones, often go unreported. Certainly, many people have said that they are not sure how to report a crime if a 999 call isn't really appropriate.

Your local councillors have been working on many crime problems. They have made some good progress recently but they know there is still much more work to do.

Cllr Mike Heap said, **"I am asking you to take part in this special crime survey. I really hope you will be willing to fill it in and then return it."**

Please fill in the survey, cut it off this Focus and return it to our Freepost address

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Parish of Bilston Special Projects

Let us know your views on crime

A survey from the Liberal
Democrat FOCUS team

I know that crime is a real concern for many people in our area. This crime survey is your chance to make your voice heard and will help me and my Liberal Democrat FOCUS team colleagues to continue our work against crime in the area.

It will only take a few minutes - but the results will really help.

Cllr Mike Heap and Cllr Richard Whitehouse



YOUR DETAILS

Title (Mr/Ms/Dr etc)

Name

Address

.....

.....

Phone

Email

All replies will be kept strictly confidential.

1 Which age group are you in?

- 16-26 1
27-60 2
61 and over 3

CRIME LEVELS

2 Do you personally feel more or less at risk of crime than one year ago?

- More at risk 4
The same 5
Less at risk 6

3 Do you think levels of crime are rising in the area?

- Yes 7
No 8
Don't know 9

4 Have you been a victim of crime?

- Yes, in the last six months 10
Yes, in the last year 11
No, not in the last year 12

If yes, was the crime:

Graffiti/vandalism 13

Vehicle crime 14

Burglary 15

Robbery 16

Mugging 17

Domestic violence 18

Physical assault 19

Racial abuse/assault 20

Rape/sexual assault 21

Other (.....) 22

Please tick all that apply

REPORTING CRIME

5 Have you been the victim of or witnessed a crime in the last year?

Please include minor incidents.

Yes 23 No 24

If yes, did you report it to the police?

Yes 25 No 26

If you didn't report it to the police was this because ... (You can tick more than one)

Someone else did 27

Didn't know how to 28

Would have taken too long 29

Crime wasn't important enough 30

Couldn't get hold of police 31

Didn't think police would act 32

Reported it to someone else 33

Other (.....) 34

If you did report it, were you satisfied with the speed of the police's response?

Yes 35 No 36

If you did report it, were you satisfied with the work the police did to follow up the report?

Yes 37 No 38

If you have any other comments about the incident or what the police did, please give them here:

7 Do you think the police pay enough attention to crime in your area?

- Yes 42
No 43
Don't know 44

YOUR SAFETY: Out and about

8 Do you feel safe when you go out and about in the area during the daytime?

- Very safe 45
Fairly safe 46
Not very safe 47
Very unsafe 48
N/A - housebound 49

9 Do you feel safe when you go out and about in the area after dark?

- Very safe 50
Fairly safe 51
Not very safe 52
Very unsafe 53
N/A - housebound 54

10 Do you feel safe when using public transport in the area?

- Very safe 55
Fairly safe 56
Not very safe 57
Very unsafe 58
N/A - housebound 59

11 Are there any particular areas where you feel unsafe?

Please give details

LOCAL POLICE

6 Do you think our local police force has enough police officers?

- Yes 39
No 40
Don't know 41

Continued overleaf



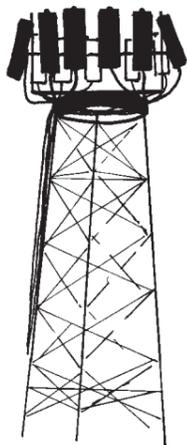
Swann Road garage site update

The order for the gates to the site, which Cllr Richard Whitehouse applied for last year and was passed this year, has been raised and fitting was imminent at the time

of going to press. This should improve the security to the site. Work has also been programmed to clear the rubbish on the site and cut back the vegetation; this should happen in the next few weeks. This is with a view to obtaining funds next year to complete the tarmacing of the whole site. The garages have now been inspected by the estates manager, who believes as your Focus Team do, that they can be repaired. Unfortunately, it will take some considerable time to get any work done on them. We do hope however that the resurfacing will be completed next year. Suffice to say the garages ought not to be under threat of demolition any longer.

O2 communications mast Hurst Hill

Following our successful petition last year in opposition to the 40 ft phone mast on Hurst Hill (by the Gate Hangs Well pub) the company has now appealed against the Council's decision to the independent Planning Inspectorate. Your Focus team quickly jumped into action with Cllr Richard Whitehouse writing on behalf of all your local councillors to the Inspectorate opposing the scheme and producing a letter for all neighbours urging them to also write. Cllr Mike Heap then quickly delivered the letters. As we go to press we can report that we are awaiting the decision of the Inspectorate. We do hope all our hard work has paid off and the mast is refused. We will keep you informed in our next Focus.



Rookery Lodge update

A planning application has been made for 21 houses and a 60 bed nursing home on the site. Having examined the plans your Focus Team are quite happy with the layout. We believe that this could be the beginning of the end of this long running saga and this eyesore site will be cleared up for good. Cllr Mike Heap said, "Everyone in the ward was agreed that this home should not have closed. The manner by which the Council disposed of the site with no covenants as to future use and development control, has led to this rat infested haven for local drug addicts and undesirables. The building and the grounds have deteriorated so much so that this site has become a total eyesore. Development cannot happen soon enough."

Proposed closure of gulleys

Anti-social behaviour is now the biggest problem in the Ward and a lot of it takes place in or near gulleys that run through SpringVale. Your councillors get more complaints on this subject than almost any other.

We are determined that this kind of behaviour is eliminated and to that end we are in constant touch with the police and council officials. We are also aware that many people have been promised that certain gulleys will be closed, and are naturally very upset to hear the contrary. It is completely irresponsible to make promises of this kind, as the process is not easy. Many of the gulleys are used by the elderly and disabled who would otherwise be unable to get around.

The best solution, - although again not easy - is to have the gulleys gated and closed during hours of darkness.

Your councillors will not make pledges that we can not keep, but we will always work to improve the quality of life for all residents.

Visit our web site
www.wolverhamptonlibdems.org.uk

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YOUR SAFETY: At home

12 Do you feel safe in your home?

- Very safe 60
Fairly safe 61
Not very safe 62
Very unsafe 63

13 Are you a member of a Neighbourhood Watch?

- Yes 64
No 65

If no, would you be interested in helping to set up one?

- Yes 66
No 67

OUR AREA

14 Our local Council has a legal duty to help in the fight against crime. Do you think they are doing enough?

- Yes 68
No 69
Don't know 70

15 Do you think the Council has a good record of removing abandoned vehicles?

- Yes 71
No 72
Don't know 73

16 Are you regularly troubled by noise late at night?

- Yes 74
No 75
Don't know 76

17 Do you think that graffiti is a big problem locally?

- Yes 77
No 78
Don't know 79

18 Do you support the 24 hour licensing laws?

- Yes 80
No 81
Don't know 82

FIGHTING CRIME

19 Some people favour the introduction of identity cards to fight crime. Others think ID cards wouldn't be effective and would cost too much to introduce. Do you think they are a good idea?

- Yes 83
No 84
Don't know 85

20 Would you like to see greater use of CCTV in the fight against crime?

- Yes 86
No 87
Don't know 88

If yes, are there any particular locations?

21 Are there any areas which you think need better lighting or other work to cut crime?

Please give details

YOUR VIEWS

22 Overall, do you think that the Labour Government is doing a good job in tackling crime?

- Yes 89
No 90
Don't know 91

23 Which party do you usually support?

- Labour 92
Conservatives 93
Lib Dems 94
Labour or Lib Dems 95
Conservatives or Lib Dems 96
Greens 97
Other () 98

24 Would you like to be kept informed about the work of the Lib Dem FOCUS team?

- Yes 99
No 100

Email

How you can help

Help deliver our Focus newsletter

Could you deliver the local Liberal Democrat FOCUS newsletter in your area?

- Yes 101
No 102
I already do 103



25 Are there any other issues you would like to raise?

Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary

Now return your survey to:

Springvale Focus Team
Crime Survey
Wolverhampton
Liberal Democrats
FREEPOST WV 2092
Wolverhampton
WV4 4BR

Thank you!

You can help the local LibDem Focus team with their work for our area by making a donation today to help fund the costs of this survey.

I enclose a donation for:
 £50 £25 £10 £6

Other: £ _____

(Cheques or postal orders payable to 'Wolverhampton South East Liberal Democrats'). Thank You

A donation of £6 or more entitles you to membership of the Liberal Democrats. Please tick here if you do not wish to join: