

Rushmoor Borough Council Community Safety Survey

In February 2024, for the second year running, Rushmoor Borough Council carried out a survey to ascertain residents views in relation to feelings of safety and crime and anti-social behaviour. In total 930 respondents completed the survey.

Rushmoor Borough Council is part of the Safer North Hampshire Community Safety Partnership, and the results of this survey have been used to inform the Partnership Strategic Assessment, an annual document analysing local crime and antisocial behaviour data which helps to set priorities for the next year.

930 responses marks a 50% increase on 2023, however it is important to note the survey was shared with all secondary schools and colleges, most of which are in Farnborough. This has increased the response rate of those under 18 years from 4 responses in 2023 to 415 in 2024. It is positive to have this level of engagement from the younger community however it does affect how representative the survey is, with over 50% of respondents being under 18 years (of those respondents with a stated age).

Respondent data

- Residents living in Farnborough are overrepresented, as are females.
- These wards are overrepresented by more than 2%: Knellwood, Cove & Southwood and St Marks.
- The Nepali community is underrepresented with only 3% of respondents identifying as Nepali, compared to 10.6% of our population in the 2021 Census.
- 83% of those reporting to be from an ethnic group which isn't white were under the age of 18.

Key findings

- Consistent with 2023, residents who live in Farnborough felt safer in their local area and town than Aldershot residents.
- Local area issues most affecting feelings of safety included drugs, drug addicts and dealing, and the lack of streetlighting after dark.
- Town centre issues related to drugs, drug addicts and dealing. These concerns were raised in the 2023 survey, alongside other matters such as lack of police presence, lack or poor lighting and youths/teens/people hanging around.
- Parks where residents felt most unsafe during the day and after dark were Manor Park (consistent with 2023), and Municipal Gardens in Aldershot, and King George V in Farnborough. The main concerns related to drug use and dealing.
- Overall, respondents in 2024 felt the level of crime was lower than respondents in 2023. However, when looking at data from over 8 years only, the data is very similar.

- 60% of respondents felt crime and ASB was at a low, or very low level, however 45% thought it has increase in the last year, with only 9% believing it had decreased.
- 22% of respondents had been a victim of crime or ASB in the last 12 months. In contrast to 2023, most victims did not report it, with the most common reason being they felt nothing would be done.
- Respondents with these characteristics were more likely to be a victim of crime or ASB:
 - Live in Aldershot
 - 18-64 years
 - Female
 - Those with a health condition or disability which limits their daily activities.

Further information

Across Rushmoor, 931 incidents of ASB were recorded during 2023/24. This figure represents a 31% reduction (409) when compared to the previous year. 8,075 crimes in total were recorded in 2022/23. This figure is similar to 2019/20, pre-pandemic and represents a 7% (n614) decrease on the previous year when 8,689 crimes were recorded. Data collected by YouGov relating to public confidence in policing and safety shows an increase from 61.91% in April 2022 to 72.90% in March 2023 in the percentage of residents feeling safe in their community.

Next steps

The Council works as part of a partnership, focused on reducing crime and disorder across the Borough. The results of this survey will be considered, with consideration given to how feelings of safety can be improved through things such as environmental changes, empowering residents to report issues and increasing public confidence in agencies ability to respond to incidents reported. We plan to repeat the survey on an annual basis to compare trends over years.