

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Chief Executive

Community Participation Committee - Wednesday 19th April, 2006

Subject: West Dunbartonshire Citizens' Panel: Summary Results of Community Safety Survey

1. Purpose of Report

This report provides the summary of the results of the Community Safety Survey carried out in January 2006.

2. Background

- 2.1 Citizens' Panels are used widely in the public sector to gather the views of citizens on a range of subjects so that our services and policies reflect the needs and wishes of our residents as far as possible. Panels are recognised as an important consultation tool. West Dunbartonshire Citizens' Panel is now run on a community planning partnership model.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1 The newly refreshed panel has now over 1200 members (a substantial increase on the former figure of 670). A breakdown of characteristics of panel members is available on request from Anne Clegg, tel. 01389 737177.
- 3.2 The results of the first Community Safety Survey are now available and a summary of the main findings is reported in Appendix 1. The summary will be sent to all panel members with the next survey on Customer Service Standards. A full copy of the findings of the Community Safety Survey is available on request from Anne Clegg, tel. 01389 737177.

4. Recommendations

The committee is asked to note the contents of this report.

Tim Huntingford
Chief Executive

Person to contact: Anne Clegg, Policy Officer, Community & Consultation, tel. 01389 737177

Background papers: - CPC, New Arrangements for West Dunbartonshire Citizens' Panel, 19/10/05

Community Safety Survey

Summary of a recent survey of the West Dunbartonshire Citizens' Panel

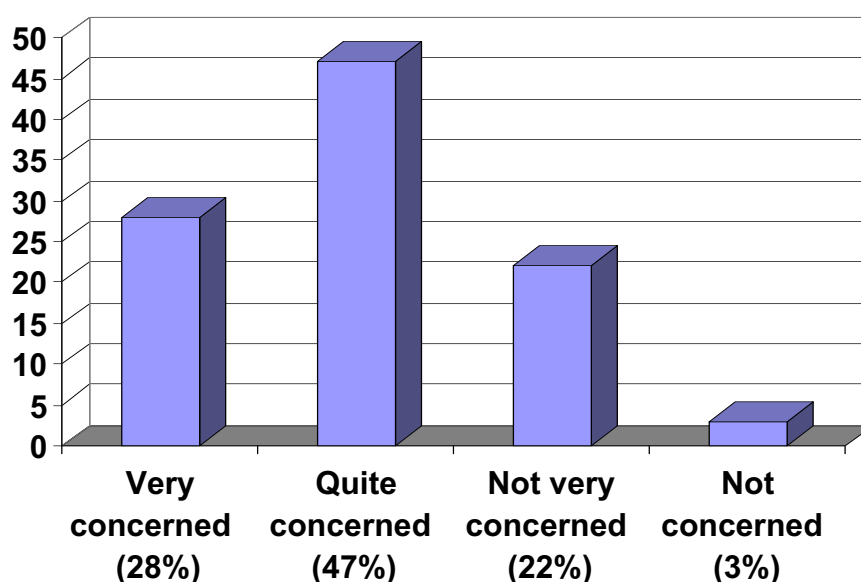
Introduction

Recently, Panel members were asked to take part in a survey on Community Safety for the West Dunbartonshire Community Safety Partnership. This note summarises the main findings to emerge from the survey.

Attitudes to Community Safety

Three-quarters of all Panel members said they were concerned about crime in their local neighbourhood.

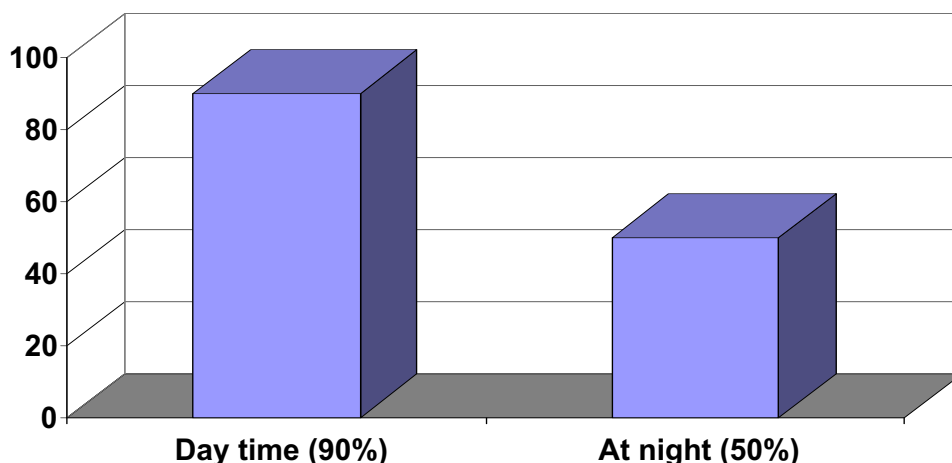
Concerned about crime in your local neighbourhood



There is also a perception that anti-social behaviour has increased in the last year. Across West Dunbartonshire as a whole, 41% of residents feel there has been an increase, while 46% feel there has been no real change. Only 6% feel anti-social behaviour has decreased.

The vast majority of residents (90%) said they felt safe walking in their neighbourhood during the day. However, a different pattern emerged when they were asked how safe they felt walking in the area after dark. As illustrated in the figure overleaf, the proportion feeling safe walking in their neighbourhood at night fell to 50%.

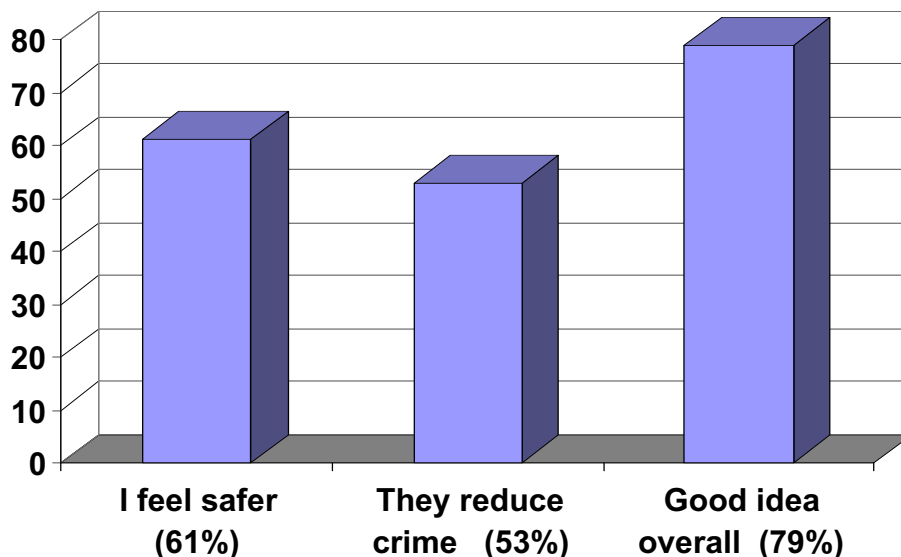
Feeling Safe Walking in Local Neighbourhood



The Role of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Cameras

Panel members strongly support the use of CCTV cameras as a means of improving community safety. For example, 61% said the cameras made them feel safer, 53% felt they helped to reduce crime and 79% said they were a good idea overall.

Attitudes to CCTV Cameras



Priorities for the Future

Panel members were asked to indicate the priorities that the West Dunbartonshire Community Safety Partnership should focus on. The most significant was to have more police on the streets (quoted by 40% of Panel members). Another 17% felt there should be more facilities for young people, while 9% said something should be done about the problem of litter and rubbish lying around.