

8. Safety & Security

Wiveliscombe Town Council do not have powers to tackle crime or antisocial behaviour, but work closely with the Police, higher tier councils and other bodies to work to keep Wiveliscombe a safe community. Understanding how residents and visitors perceive Wiveliscombe and the wider community helps WTC respond where necessary.

8.1 Crime, vandalism and antisocial behaviour

Asked if they'd been a victim of a **crime** in the Parish in the past 5 years 21 (13%) of 168 respondents answered yes, with 15 (54%) reporting it to the police. The types of crimes named generally fell into 4 broad categories

- Theft or attempted theft
- Damage to property
- Harassment (on and offline)
- Loose animals

A large proportion of people - 125 (69%) - are aware of any acts of **vandalism** in the Parish in the past 5 years, but only 17 (13%) of those respondents were directly impacted. 58 people left comments about the vandalism they were aware of, but many referred to the same incidents:

- Damage to property - with many referencing vandalism and damage to public toilets, tyres slashed in car park, and smashed windows
- Theft - with several referencing the theft of the Christmas Pillar Box knitted decoration
- Graffiti is seen by some as an increasing problem
- Other's mentioned broken glass in the children's play area, young people intimidating the elderly and fly tipping

One person suggested "Often it's not a big deal - teenagers being bored and destructive"

When it comes to **antisocial behaviour** 33 (20%) of respondents have been victims in the past 5 years with 14 of those reporting it to the police. Comments left referred in the main to:

- young people being being loud and/or abusive
- Noise
- Bonfires
- Adults being rude or making lewd comments
- Dog mess on pavements
- Obstruction of a right of way

Action 8.1 - Crime, vandalism and antisocial behaviour

8.1.1 WTC to continue to work closely with the local Police

8.1.2 WTC to publicise PCSO surgeries

8.1.3 WTC to investigate provision of more dog poo bins

8.1.4 WTC to investigate the possibility of graffiti wall

8.1.5 WTC to highlight SCC reporting tools for Fly tipping, obstruction of highway and more

Also see Section 10 Young peoples survey results for actions to provide more for young people to do

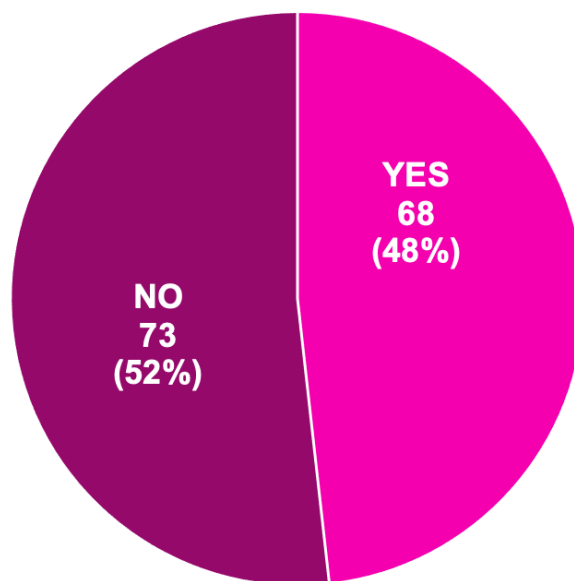
8.2 Policing & Security

Just over half of the respondents do not feel that Wiveliscombe is adequately policed. Of the 49 suggestions made to improve the policing 47 referred to an increase presence of the police on the streets of Wiveliscombe. 1 referred to education about what is antisocial behaviour and 1 suggested a traffic management to control speeding.

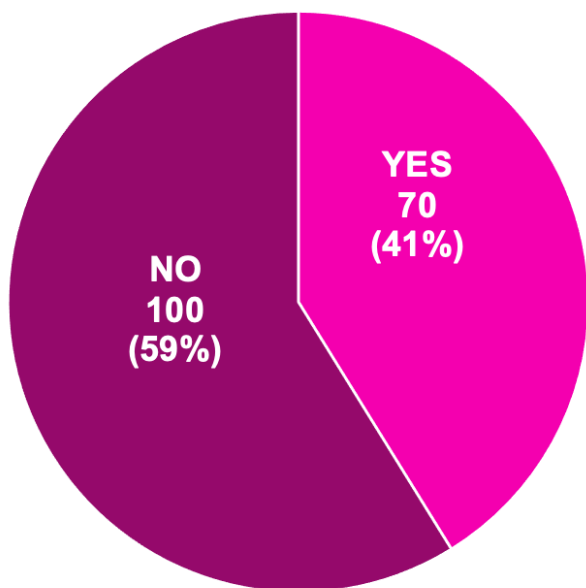
Asked if respondents would like to see an increase in CCTV cameras 100 (59%) answered no. 45 respondents suggested locations (some more than 1):

- 29 The Square/Centre of town
- 11 the Rec or Jubilee Gardens
- 9 The Car parks
- 9 the pubic toilets
- 4 everywhere
- 2 the Community Centre

Do you think the Parish is adequately policed?



Would you like to see an increase in CCTV cameras?



15% of respondents already have a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in their street. Of those that don't only 9% are prepared to help organise for their street. We did ask for respondents details but not all offered them - see Action 8.2.2 for way forward.

On the paper version of the questionnaire respondents were asked if street lighting is adequate - unfortunately this question was omitted from the online version. The responses received were mixed with some wishing street lighting to be improved and other preferring to see the stars and the night sky than artificial lights.

Other general comments on Safety and Security included some who felt unsafe locally and others expressing a sense of community and feeling safe. One person suggested young people need a place to hang out.

See Appendix 8 Safety & Security for additional comments made

Action 8.2 - Policing & Security

8.2.1 WTC note the mix of opinions about additional CCTV

8.2.2 WTC to publicise our contact details for those wishing to create a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in their street.

8.2.3 WTC to discuss with PCSO about facilitating tailored sessions eg home security