

Community Safety Survey 2021 breakdown and Comparison with 2019 & 2017

The total received this year was slightly less than 2019 with a total of 665 compared with 780 in 2019 and 989 in 2017. Residents had been subject to a number of consultations recently and Covid had prevented community contact throughout the year. All responses were received online. The Citizens panel results were not collated separately in 2021 as they were in previous years as the panel had reduced in size.

General data

The top 5 issues identified by the survey across the Borough were:

1. Drugs (1st in 2019 & 3rd in 2017)
2. Parking Issues (2nd in 2019 & 1st 2017)
3. Motorbike and vehicle nuisance (Potholes were 3rd in 2019)
4. Flytipping
5. Burglary (4th in 2019) Speeding was 5th in 2019 & 2017

As in previous years parking issues will be referred to other service areas in RBC unless local Safer Neighbourhood Forums feel they can make an impact.

There is a continuing trend in the fear of crime:

- 49% of respondents felt that the level of crime in Reading was high or very high- this has increase from 33% in 2019 and 23% in 2017
- 50% said they felt crime had increased over the last 2 years compared with 42% in 2019 and 34% in 2017
- 18% had been a victim of crime which was the same as 2019 compared to 16% in 2017
- 50% felt unsafe at night which is the same as in 2019 compared to only 38% in 2017
- 12% said they felt unsafe during the day compared to 10% in 2019 and 6% in 2017
- Similar numbers of respondents do not belong to a Neighbourhood Watch although the number is decreasing 75% in 2021, 82% in 2019 and 79% in 2017.

A couple of additional questions were asked in 2021 for the first time:

- Do you know how to report incidents of crime or ASB - 34% were unsure or did not know
- If you have reported were you confident the report was acted upon - 332 did not report and 209 (31%) were either not very confident or not confident at all that it had been
- If you have reported were you confident it reached the right agency and was used to help solve the issue 150 people (22%) were not very confident or not confident at all

Increases in perception of ASB are identified as well

- 48% of respondents felt antisocial behaviour had increased in the Borough compared with 42% in 2019 & 31% in 2017
- 62% of residents who responded felt that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together compared to 69% in 2019 and 76% responding the same in 2017. This suggests the sense of community is reducing

Total responses by Ward

Ward	Abbey	Battle	Caversham	Church	Katesgrove	Kentwood	Mapledurham	Minster	Norcot	Park	Peppard	Redlands	Southcote	Thames	Tilehurst	Whitley	Out of Borough	Total
2021	44	56	44	19	22	43	26	77	39	39	23	33	61	42	49	41	7	665
2019	78	61	61	54	57	36	20	62	40	42	42	38	41	50	47	50	10	790

We asked some age, gender and ethnicity details to look at whether certain crimes affected certain members of the community and perhaps for future targeting:

Age	17&under	18-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	56-65	66+	not answered
Survey responses	0	6 (0.9%)	60 (9%)	119 (18%)	141 (21%)	136 (20%)	177 (27%)	26 (3.9%)
Breakdown across Reading (approx.)*	5%	10%	16%	15%	12%	9%	12%	

*ONS estimates 2018 (not included 0-15yr olds)

Ethnicity	Asian/ Asian British	Black African/Caribbean/British	White	Mixed/Multiple	Other	Not answered
Survey responses	31 (4.6%)	11 (1.7%)	564 (85%)	10 (1.5%)	12 (1.8%)	37 (5.6%)
Breakdown across Reading (approx.)*	13%	7%	75%	4%	1%	

*ONS census 2011

Gender	Female	Male	Not answered
	336 (50.5%)	237 (35.6%)	92 (13.8%)

Key issues of ASB

The 3 highest issues for ASB where residents identified issues as 'a very big problem' or 'a fairly big problem' for each area

	Abbey	Battle	Caversham	Church	Katesgrove	Kentwood	Mapledurham	Minster	Norcot	Park	Peppard	Redlands	Southcote	Thames	Tilehurst	Whitley
Loud parties/Noisy neighbours										3		2				
Rubbish and litter	2	2	1	3	1	3	1	3	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	3
Vandalism & grafitti					2						2			3	3	
People Using or dealing drugs	1	1	2	2	3	2	1	1	3	2		3	2	2	2	2
People being drunk or rowdy in public spaces	3	3														
Motorbike nuisance			1	1		1	1	2	2		1		1	1	1	1

Community Alcohol Partnership - total number of responses where residents identified issues as 'a very big problem' or 'a fairly big problem'

	Abbey	Battle	Caversham	Church	Katesgrove	Kentwood	Mapledurham	Minster	Norcot	Park	Peppard	Redlands	Southcote	Thames	Tilehurst	Whitley
Teenagers Hanging around	9	12	7	9	3	6	0	14	9	1	3	4	17	5	11	9
Young people drinking in public spaces	7	5	3	5	1	6	0	11	5	0	3	3	11	4	6	6
Young people drunk and rowdy in public spaces	7	5	3	2	0	3	0	10	4	1	2	4	9	5	5	6
Young people hanging around outside shops asking adults to buy alcohol	2	3	1	2	1	3	0	7	3	1	0	0	9	3	1	4
Alcohol related litter	20	20	9	7	8	10	2	27	12	10	5	13	13	8	18	16

Local Issues

The priorities identified for each area that the groups will be considering for action are as follows. (Potholes have been removed as the Safer Reading groups cannot impact in this area but the results where potholes have featured in the top 3 priorities will be referred to our Highways team)

	Oxford Road	West Reading	Southcote	Minster	North Reading	Katesgrove	East Reading	South Reading
Priority 1	Drugs	Drugs	Drugs	Drugs	Parking Issues	Flytipping	Drugs	Drugs
Priority 2	Fly-tipping	Motorbike Nuisance	Motorbike Nuisance	Motorbike Nuisance	Burglary	Bins	Fly-tipping	Parking
Priority 3	Bins	Parking	Parking	Burglary	Unauthorised encampments	Drugs	Bins	Motorbike Nuisance/ Fly-tipping
Priority 4	Groups of people hanging around	Fly-tipping	Groups of people hanging around		Begging	Parking	Parking	

Getting involved

Many respondents suggested they would like to get involved in activities in their local community. The Neighbourhood Initiatives Team at Reading Borough Council is starting to make contact with those individuals. If there are others that would be interested please contact us via email Neighbourhoodinitiatives@reading.gov.uk

Next Steps

- Each Safer Neighbourhood Forum will receive a breakdown of the results for their area with the community safety/crime related priorities highlighted from the survey. Combined with data of reported crime through the Police.UK website in each neighbourhood, the local groups can then decide their areas of priority based on a combination of the two.
- Issues such as potholes and in some cases bins and parking will be referred to the relevant departments in RBC for their information and consideration in line with the group's terms of reference to focus on crime and disorder.
- Work from within the Community Safety Partnership e.g, actions on drugs will be shared with neighbourhoods when appropriate.