

Bracknell Forest Fear of Crime Survey 2005 & 2007

In 2005 the Bracknell Forest Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership commissioned researchers from Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College to undertake a study of the fear of crime & safety within Bracknell Forest. The research was to be undertaken within three neighbourhoods, Great Hollands, Harmans Water & Martins Heron and Priestwood & Garth. There was a fourth area, Little Sandhurst, which was used as a control area. There were two parts to the survey, Autumn 2005 and Autumn 2007.

During each of the two surveys a total of 5150 surveys were sent to random addresses within the three areas from which there was a response rate of around 20%. The survey asked questions about the respondent as well as the respondent's views of crime and anti-social behaviour within their neighbourhood. All the responses were anonymous.

Those that reported 'not at all worried' or 'not very worried' to a selection of different issues went up in Great Hollands, Harmans Water and Sandhurst while the number fell in Priestwood between the two periods of the survey.

Between 2005 and 2007 there were reductions in the number of reports of anti-social behaviour in Great Hollands, Harmans Water and Priestwood, with an increase reported in Sandhurst (mainly as a result of changes to recording ASB). The greatest reduction was in Priestwood. There was however a rise in the number of reported criminal damage and violent crime offences in Priestwood while there were falls in Great Hollands and Harmans Water.

The survey has helped the CDRP identify which initiatives are more likely to be successful at improving resident's perceptions of safety. Reducing negative perceptions of crime and safety is one of the new priorities of the CDRP

The results of both parts of this survey are available on line at; www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/cdrt or from the Crime & Disorder Reduction Team at Bracknell Forest Borough Council, Easthampstead House, Town Square, Bracknell RG12 1AQ