

**Minutes of the Meeting of Faversham Town Council**  
**14<sup>th</sup> November 2022, 7pm**  
**The Guildhall, Faversham**

**Present:**

Cllr T Martin	Cllr Reynolds	Cllr Cavanagh	Cllr Hook
Cllr B J Martin	Cllr Henderson	Cllr Jackson	Cllr Williams
Cllr Saunders	Cllr Perkin	Cllr Rowlands	

**In Attendance:**

Louise Bareham (Town Clerk)  
Dr Barry Blackburn (Presentation only)

**Presentation from Dr Barry Blackburn entitled “Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour in Faversham (2019-22) - see Appendix 1**

**Questions from members of the Public**

None.

**641. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies with reasons were received from Cllrs Barker, Irwin and Thomas. On being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the apologies from Cllrs Barker, Irwin and Thomas.***

**642. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

None.

**643. Minutes of the Town Council**

Cllr BJ Martin proposed, seconded by Cllr Rowlands and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Town Council dated 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022.***

**644. Mayor’s Announcements**

Cllr T Martin expressed his thanks to all who attended Remembrance Day events.

The Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, Admiral Lord Boyce, had passed away during the previous week. His funeral would be held on 21<sup>st</sup> November and Cllr T Martin would be in attendance. A memorial service would be held in London.

**645. Crime Research**

Dr Barry Blackburn’s Report on Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour in Faversham (2019-22) was received.

It was proposed by Cllr Henderson, seconded by Cllr Perkin and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to collate proposals based on the findings of the Report for the Agenda of the next meeting.***

It was proposed by Cllr BJ Martin, seconded by Cllr Henderson and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Report on Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour in Faversham (2019-22).***

**646. Policy and Resources Committee**

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Henderson and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee dated 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022.***

**647. Environment Committee**

It was proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Reynolds and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Environment Committee dated 26<sup>th</sup> October 2022.***

**648. Active Travel Committee**

It was proposed by Cllr Saunders, seconded by Cllr Jackson and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Active Travel Committee dated 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022.***

**649. Heritage and Buildings Workings Group**

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Perkin and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Heritage and Buildings Working Group dated 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022.***

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Henderson and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED that the electrical work and hearing loop for The Guildhall be undertaken.***

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Henderson and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED that internal decorating for the Guildhall be undertaken by the Facilities Manager and the Facilities Apprentice.***

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Henderson and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED that external decorating for the Guildhall and the Town Hall be undertaken.***

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Henderson and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED that the external doors for the Town Hall be replaced.***

**650. Community Committee**

It was proposed by Cllr Hook, seconded by Cllr Perkin and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Community Committee dated 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022.**

There was a discussion on the Vibe contract and the importance of increasing outreach and activities for 11-17 year olds. It was agreed to invite Vibe to deliver a presentation including their plans to outreach to 11-17 year olds.

**651. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**

It was proposed by Cllr Perkin, seconded by Cllr Reynolds and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group dated 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022 and 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022.**

Cllr Perkin expressed her thanks to Cllrs Barker and Irwin for their efforts to date on the Neighbourhood Plan.

**652. Civility and Respect Pledge**

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Rowlands and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to defer sign up to the Civility and Respect Pledge until the next meeting pending the training programme for councillors and staff being implemented.**

**653. Dignity at Work Policy**

It was proposed by Cllr B J Martin, seconded by Cllr Rowlands and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to adopt the Dignity at Work Policy.**

**654. Receipts and Payments**

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Rowlands and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to agree receipts and approve payments from November 2022.**

**655. Private Session**

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr XX and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the sensitive nature of the business to be transacted.**

**656. Staffing Committee**

It was proposed by Cllr XX, seconded by Cllr XX and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED that Cllr Reynolds be co-opted to the Staffing Committee.***

**657. HR Support**

It was proposed by Cllr XX, seconded by Cllr XX and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to approve a contract with Worknest.***

**658. Local Government Pay Award**

The Local Government Pay Award for 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 was noted.

It was proposed by Cllr XX, seconded by Cllr XX and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to approve the back pay and increments for staff.***

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

## APPENDIX 1

# Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour in Faversham (2019-22)

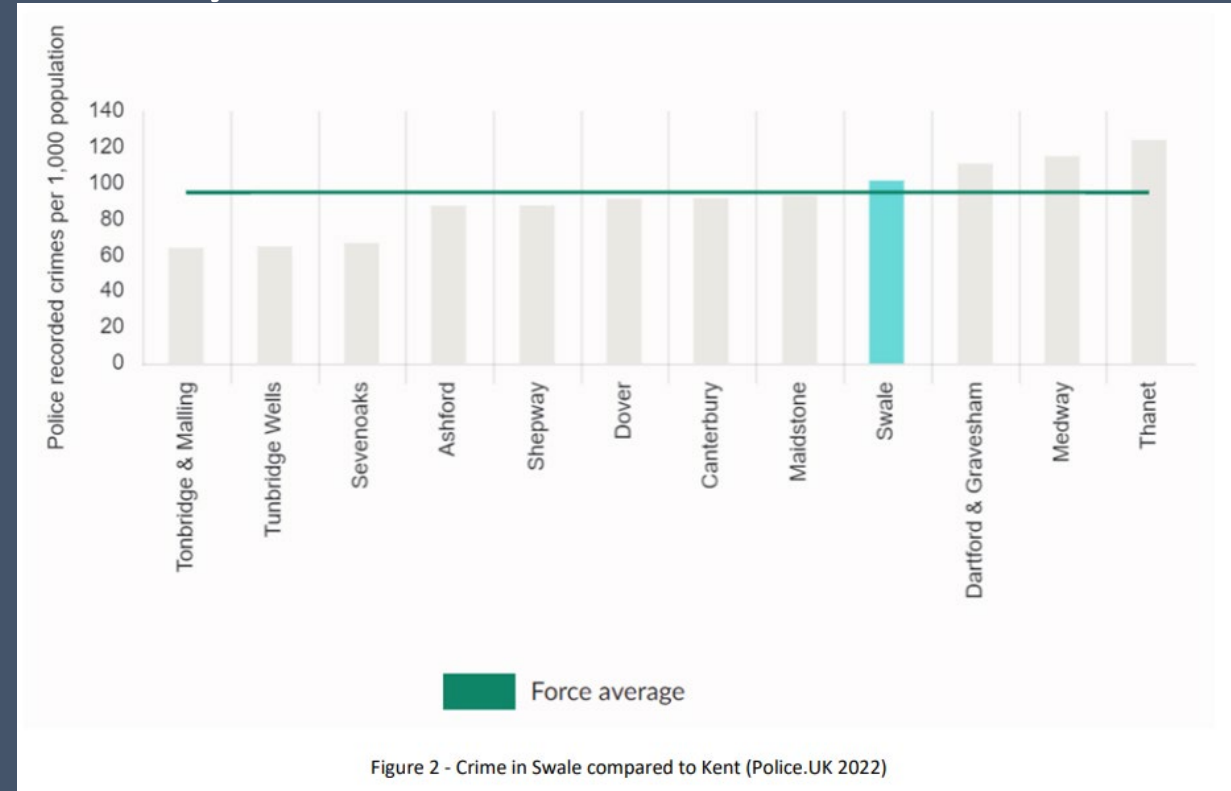
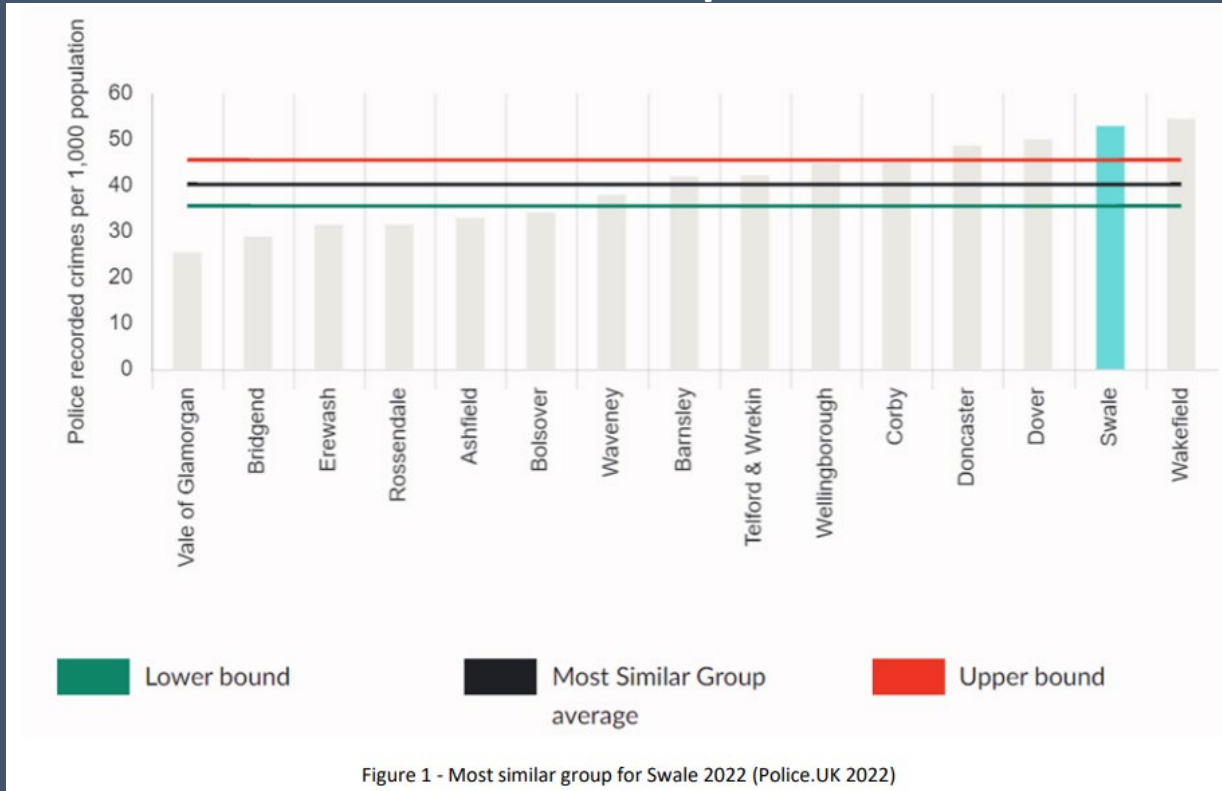
Barry Blackburn

# The project

- This project determined the 'shape' of crime in Faversham.
- With the aim of providing guidance to the town council as to possible avenues for further action
- Two components:
  - A quantitative analysis of reported crime in Faversham
  - A qualitative assessment of the crime and disorder that takes place in Faversham



# Part one – quantitative analysis



- Most Similar Groups – Home Office statistical measure allowing the measurement of similar areas within the UK and the County.
- Faversham is included within the rest of Swale



# Part one – quantitative analysis

- Data obtained from Kent police on recorded crimes – not crimes that have been ‘solved’ but all crimes reported and recorded.
- This included all data for “Swale” as a whole – Faversham data extracted.
- Around 7.5% of crime in Swale was identified as happening in Faversham.
- Data contained location specific data which allowed us to map where the crimes were taking place.
- The crime reports were then broken down by ward



# Part one – quantitative analysis

- A comparison of the data showed five wards as representing 94% of reported crime (Abbey, Boughton and Courtenay, Priory, St Annes and Watling).
- Priory Ward was identified as having the highest count per capita.

Ward	Count	Count per Capita
Abbey Ward	1766	0.33
Boughton and Courtenay Ward	1259	0.29
East Downs Ward	346	0.13
Priory Ward	1029	0.36
St. Ann's Ward	1177	0.21
Teynham and Lynsted Ward	114	0.02
Watling Ward	1614	0.26
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>7305</b>	

Table 2 – Crime in Faversham by ward

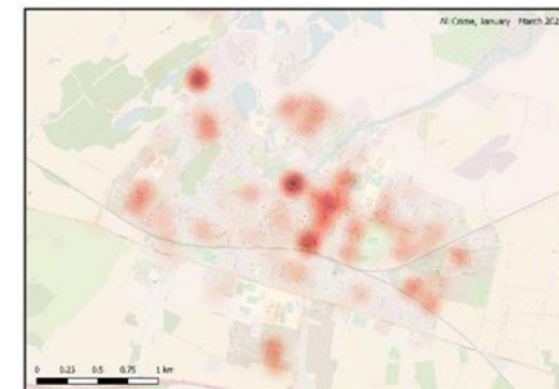
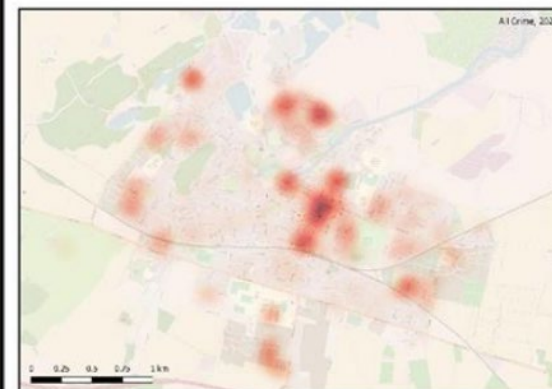
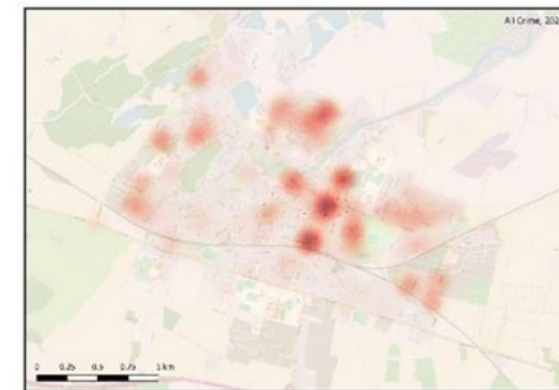
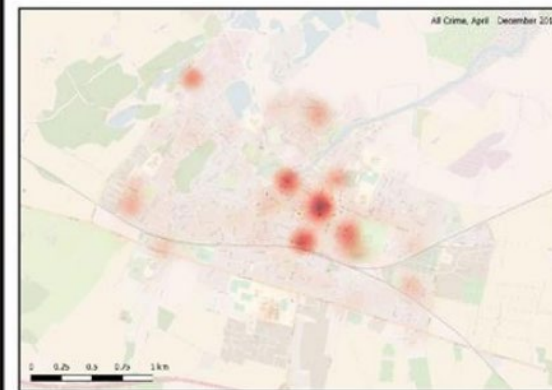
# Part one - victim and suspect data

- Data showed 55% of victims were women, with women making up approximately 50.7% of the population of Swale.
- Indicating that women are represented as victims slightly more than would be expected.
- Men represented 73% of suspects, around what is expected compared to England and Wales average.
- This means that women are more likely to be victimised than men within Faversham and are significantly less likely to be a suspect in an offence.
- Largely speaking victim and suspect data matched with the ward data, meaning offences undertaken in a ward were against victims in the ward and by suspects in the ward.
- It is important to note that the victim and suspect data were not explicitly linked within the data.

# Part one – repeat victimisation and repeat offending

- Twenty-nine people were identified as being repeat victims (three or more victimisations a year) representing 6% of all victimisations for the period
- Sixty-one people were identified as being repeat suspects (suspected in ten or more offences in the three-year period) and this represented 14% of all crimes and 18% of all suspects identified.
- Repeat suspects - Theft
- Repeat victims were often what Ferrell et al (2001) called *specialists* in that the victimisations were often related to similar offences. Possibly indicating repeat victimisation from different offenders.

# Part one – crime mapping (all crime)



# Part two – qualitative analysis

- Three focus groups held to discuss crime with local residents.
- Instead, over fifty face to face discussions were held with residents and local businesses.
- Local services were contacted and interviews carried out to determine their impression of crime in Faversham

FAVERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Let's Talk about  
Crime in Faversham

Policing - Crime - Anti-Social Behaviour

**Focus  
Group on  
Crime**

AT FAVERSHAM GUILDHALL

A 90 minute  
focus group

Free &  
Open to  
the Public

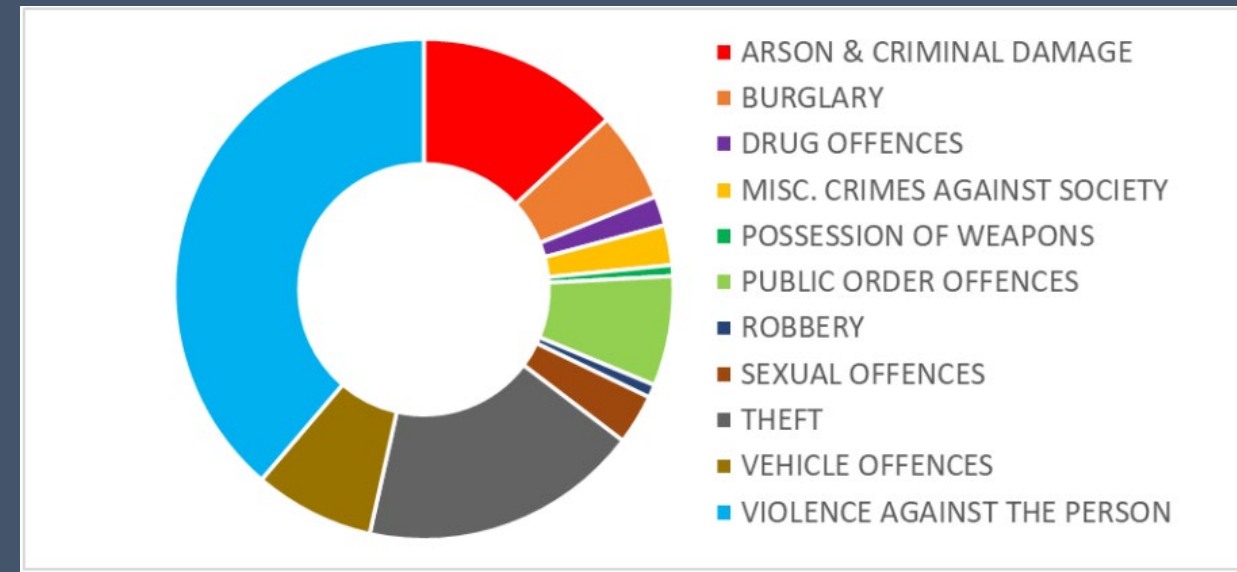
**5th July**

19:30 - 21:00  
at Faversham Guildhall,  
Market Place,  
Faversham, ME13 7AG

Chaired by:  
**Dr Barry  
Blackburn**  
Senior Lecturer in Criminal  
Justice Studies at  
Canterbury Christ Church  
University

# Analysis

- Three crime types were identified from the data as being responsible for 70% of all offences.
- These were: Theft, Criminal Damage and Violence Against the Person.
- The inclusion of vehicle offences and public order offences rose this to 85% of all crime.



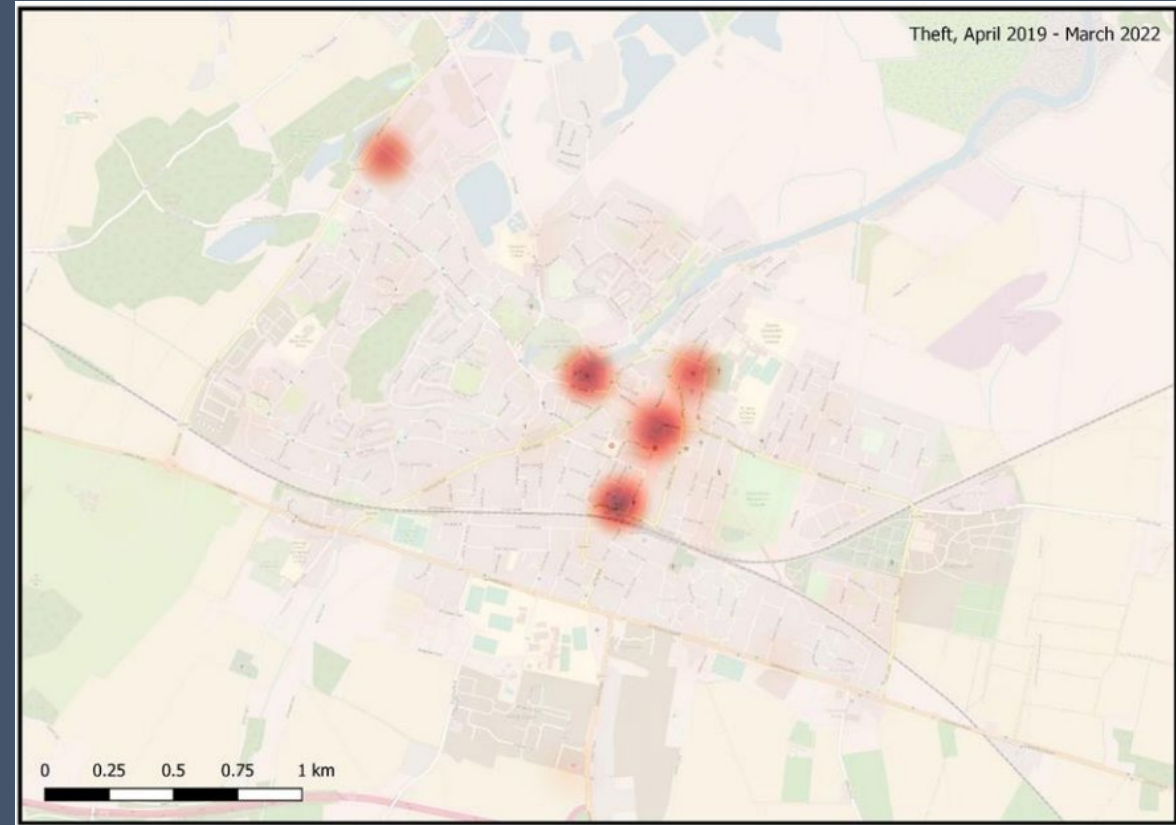
# Domestic abuse

- Around 20% of all crime in the sample was flagged as domestic abuse.
- This represented around half of all violent crime.
- This is a problem in Kent as a whole, with higher-than-average reporting rates across the county and an estimated 92,000 victims.
- Interviews with local services corroborated that domestic abuse was a problem within Faversham
- Movement to online support during the Covid-19 pandemic has allowed clients in Faversham to access additional levels of support.



# Theft

- Theft offences represent 22% of all offences
- Predominantly shoplifting offences
- Theft from vehicle and burglary making up the majority of other offences of this type.
- Mapping the theft offences demonstrates the predominance of shoplifting offences.



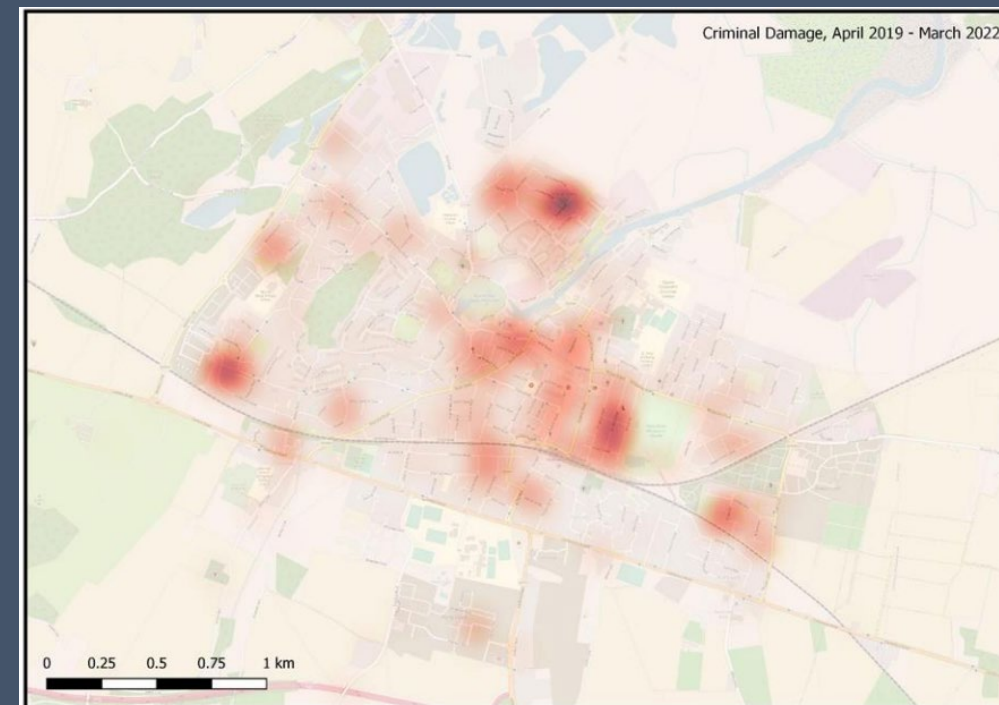
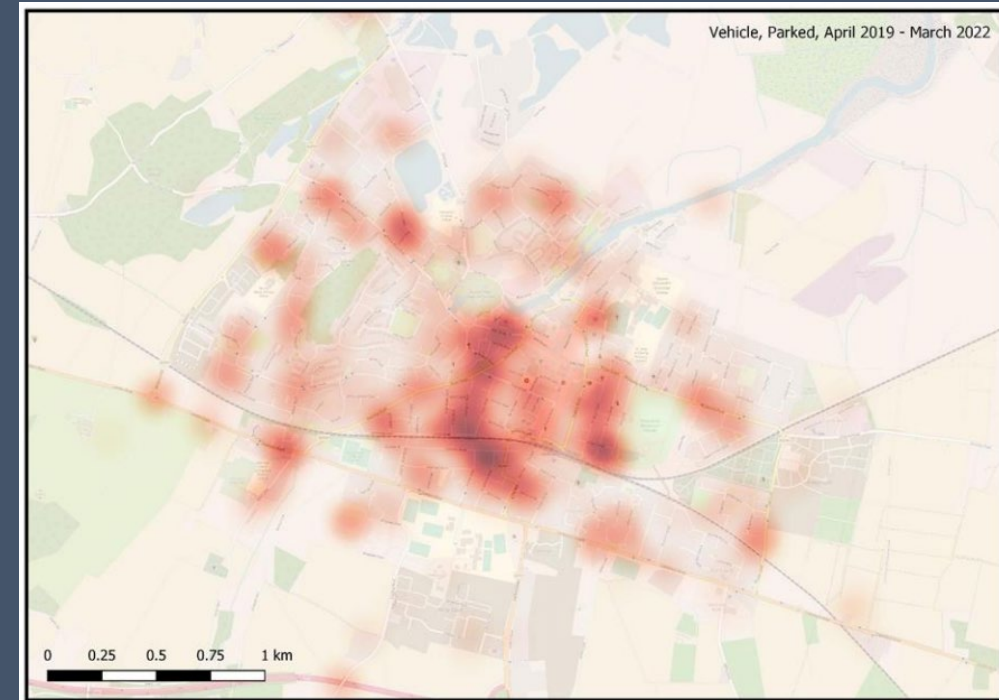
# Shoplifting

- Discussions with town centre shop owners showed that the issue of shoplifting is predominantly within the chain stores.
- This is supported with the mapping of shoplifting reports.
- Repeat suspects – those who were repeated suspects not involved in violent offending were likely to be prolific shoplifters. Indicating that a significant proportion of shoplifting is carried out by a few individuals.



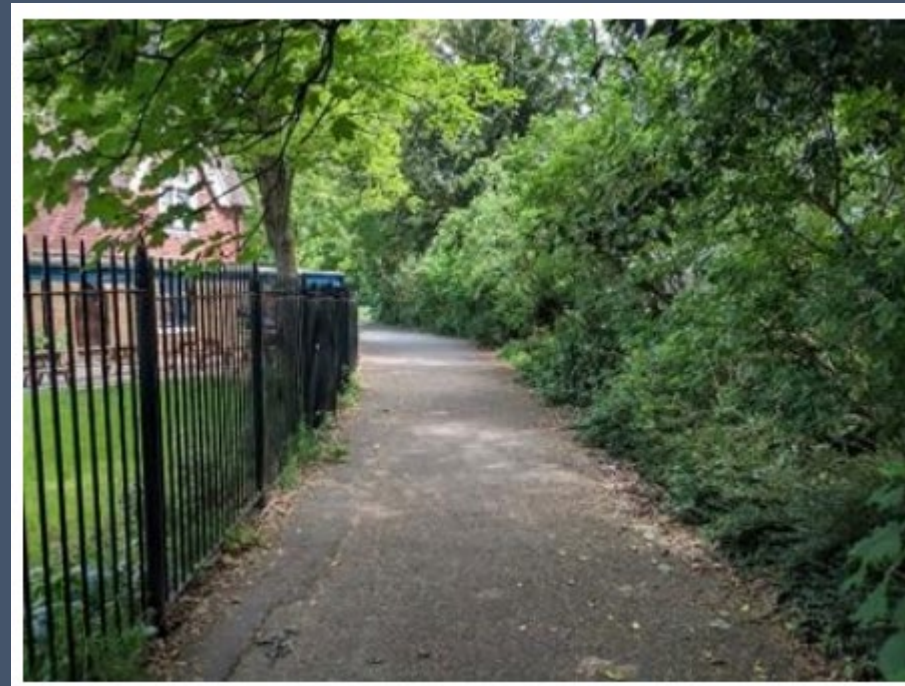
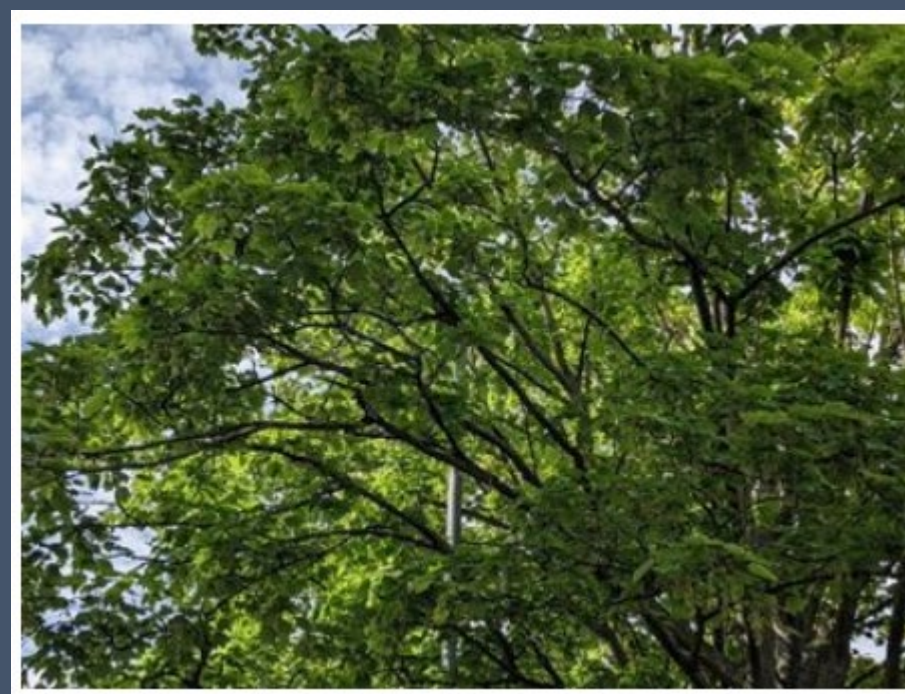
# Theft from vehicle

- Around one third of all criminal damage cases involve cars
- Around 12% of all offences involve vehicles (not including driving offences)
- Predominantly in the centre of town.
- But areas that overlap with criminal damage could indicate areas where parking is less secure



# Crime prevention

- When looking at the spread and types of crime, some crime prevention approaches can be undertaken:
- Trees – removing low tree branches to increase visibility for residents and CCTV and improve lighting.
- Recreation ground – limiting routes into and out of the park, improving sight lines and lighting.
- Changing these could reduce the signal crimes in the park.
- Green spaces – preserve green spaces as they are shown to reduce crime.



# Crime prevention

- Bicycle theft – ‘fly parking’ can cause theft of unsecured or improperly secure bicycles.
- Extend support for bike riders to secure their bicycles safely.
- Awareness of bike registers would also help reduce theft.
- Shoplifting – larger stores already operate a crime prevention model.
- But the risk of increased offending due to the cost of living crisis.
- Town council could utilise their online and physical presence to make residents aware of the sale of stolen goods online and in person.
- This will reduce the market for stolen goods and reduce incentives for theft.

# Crime prevention

- Domestic abuse – increase awareness of local and national support to local residents.
- Work with local schools to help educate young boys so as to prevent further instances of domestic abuse.
- Criminal damage – council organised crime prevention and security drives to ensure local residents secure their property
- Crime prevention material provided on the council website.
- Youth work – expanding on existing youth work will help prevent the development of criminal careers and will reduce crime in the long term.

# Future crime prevention schemes

- Park mark – scheme to help secure car parks against theft and criminal damage
- Safer Streets Scheme – funding to help reduce street violence against women and girls
- Pubwatch – already run by some pubs in Faversham
- Police and Crime Commissioner grants – available for local community safety partnerships
- Swale CSU – crime prevention advice and partnership working
- Kent Police Designing Out Crime Team – specialists that can help with crime prevention advice based on current crime trends.

Any questions?