

## COMMUNITY SAFETY

Residents of Wealden identified 'safety from crime' as the second most important aspect in making somewhere a good place to live. Although levels of crime are low in the area as a whole, 41% said 'safety from crime' needed improving.<sup>28</sup> The Wealden LSP believes that safety can best be improved through partnership working and by tackling people's fear of crime because this can have a big impact on the quality of life even when levels of crime are relatively low. Resources will be targeted to address problems in any areas where higher than average levels of crime are identified.

### Priorities

- Encourage design for, and enforcement, of appropriate speeds through villages and on new estates including traffic calming and pedestrian safety.
- Educate drivers to encourage better driving behaviours
- Encourage a more visible police presence where there is an identified need, for example through the use of PCSOs and Neighbourhood Watch Schemes
- Encourage members of the community to work more closely with the police and other agencies to tackle crime through Local Action Teams
- Influence the Local Development Framework to ensure that the design of housing and communal facilities enhances community cohesion and the feeling of well-being
- Promote community safety and the reduction of the fear of crime as a high priority for public, private and voluntary sector services
- Encourage members of the community to become active in the collective identification of community safety priorities and in the active communal resolution of those issues
- Promote the need for tolerance, respect and understanding for all diverse sections of the community and emphasise that a balance

has to be found between individual choice and freedom, and the greater needs and well-being of the community

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<sup>28</sup> Wealden LSP (2002) Wealden Community Planning Consultation Report of Findings