

PRESS RELEASE



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WELWYN HATFIELD RESIDENTS' FEEDBACK FROM KALEIDOSCOPE FESTIVAL HELPING TO IMPROVE POLICING IN THE AREA

Welwyn Hatfield Neighbourhood Policing Team have been continuing to take on board the views and suggestions of local residents by making use of Hertfordshire Police Authority's feedback results from surveys conducted at the Kaleidoscope festival in July.

A total of 109 local residents from Welwyn Garden City, Hatfield and surrounding areas completed the questionnaires, and the results were particularly positive.

When asked how satisfied or dissatisfied residents were with their local force, 48% said they were fairly satisfied and 29% responded by saying they were very satisfied. Nearly half of all respondents (49%) said they felt fairly safe when outside in their local area after dark.

The results also showed that a large proportion of respondents felt that they are well informed by the police and council when dealing with local priorities in their area with 52% saying that they felt fairly well informed.

Residents' community safety concerns were highlighted in the surveys and anti-social behaviour showed to be the biggest worry with 31% of respondents highlighting this as their main issue. A lack of visible policing followed (at 16%) and alcohol-related crime and disorder and burglary, both with 12% of all responses.

Neighbourhood Policing Team Chief Inspector for Welwyn Hatfield, Dave Newsome, commented: "Understanding any concerns within Welwyn Hatfield communities is a number one priority. Quite often these concerns might be seen as fairly minor, yet they can have a significant impact on the quality of life for both residents and visitors to the District.

"Our Neighbourhood teams work very closely with partners to first identify, then tackle, local problems for local people. I am very grateful to those residents who took time to share their local views at the festival. This feedback helps to influence our Policing Pledge priorities at a very local level."

Chair of Hertfordshire Police Authority, Stuart Nagler, who attended the festival, said: "We place a great emphasis on consultation with our local public and all feedback that you provide is hugely important to help us understand what your views are, and shape the targets we set for the Constabulary to improve your policing service.

"I am delighted to see that many of the results are positive, but there is still room for improvement. The Authority will continue to work very closely with the Constabulary to ensure that all of your suggestions are taken on board to improve your police service in Welwyn Hatfield."

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