



## YOUTH RE:ACTION TEAM SURVEY RESULTS

This report has been compiled and written by Alfred Barrow, Parkview, Thorncliffe and Walney School members of the Youth Re:Action Team

From December 2007 until February 2008 we asked you to complete our on-line survey about 'Safety and Community Spirit' in Barrow. We also researched extra information from key professionals to help us understand the issues better.

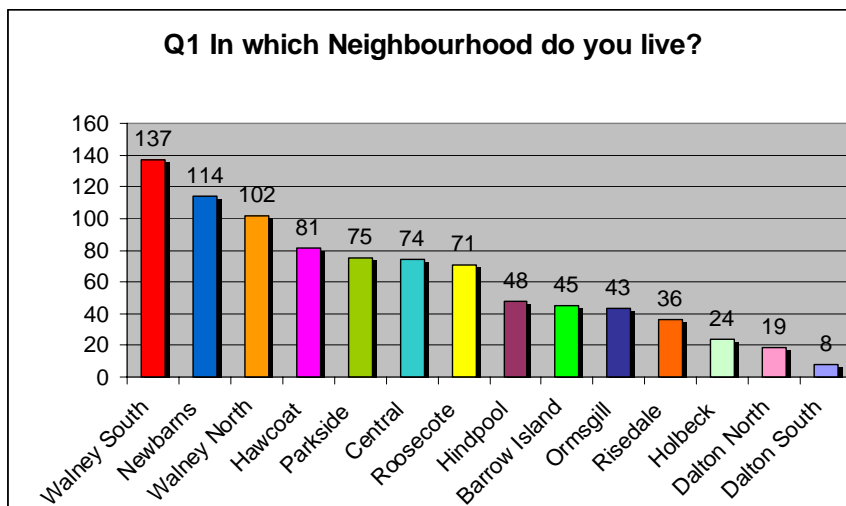
In this report we get all our results together and make recommendations about what our findings mean.

This year our survey was completed by 942 young people in Barrow; this means that **25%** of Barrow secondary school pupils have had their say.

We designed our survey in four sections:

- About you
- Feeling safe
- Community spirit
- How can we change things

### About You



The graph shows us that **opinions from every area in Barrow has been collected**, which is important as we wanted to represent the views of all young people in Barrow. Although we first thought that the number of people who had picked to say they lived in 'other areas' was very high when we looked at the details of what people had written we saw that they had chosen 'other' when they were unsure about the exact part of the town they lived in.

## Feeling safe

The majority of young people think that Barrow is a safe place to live and that Barrow people are safe to be with. We think that this is a really positive finding, and something that we would like to celebrate. However, the perception seems to be that Barrow does have a high crime rate yet further research with Streetsafe gave us some statistics that stated **crime rate is low in Barrow** – we are wondering how can we make people more aware of this so please send us your comments.

Question 3. Do you ever feel intimidated in any of the following circumstances?

ITEM	Always	Mostly	Sometimes	Never	Total
Town centre before dark?	4.0% 37	4.6% 43	27.6% 256	63.8% 593	929
Town centre after dark?	14.1% 131	19.8% 184	37.8% 351	28.3% 263	929
In school?	5.5% 51	3.2% 30	21.3% 197	70.0% 648	926
Using public transport?	4.9% 45	6.6% 61	38.1% 353	50.5% 468	927
In any of the parks in Barrow before dark?	5.3% 49	5.5% 51	32.0% 297	57.3% 532	929
In any of the parks in Barrow after dark?	19.2% 177	20.0% 185	34.0% 314	26.8% 248	924
<b>Average %:</b>	<b>8.8%</b>	<b>10.0%</b>	<b>31.8%</b>	<b>49.5%</b>	

Total Responses: 928

The table shows us that:

- 63.8% of young people are 'never' intimidated in the town centre before dark
- 37.8% of young people are 'sometimes' intimidated in the town centre after dark
- 70% of young people are 'never' intimidated in school
- 50.5% of young people are 'never' intimidated using public transport
- 57.3% of young people are 'never' intimidated in any of the Barrow parks before dark
- 32% of young people are 'sometimes' intimidated in any of the Barrow parks before dark

Research shows us that you find **school the least intimidating place to be**. However, we were concerned about the fact that 81 young people said that they were 'always' or 'mostly' intimidated at school. We want staff and students in school, to be aware of this figure and to have a plan of action to get this number down. We have made a comic strip quiz which is interactive and may help young people with bullying issues. Visit it in the **YOUR RE:ACTION** page on our website.

Further research may be needed to find out when and where problems in school happen, so that plans about how to sort this out can be made.

When we asked for examples about when and why young people were intimidated we were surprised that **64% of people reported examples of intimidation**.

People were asked to give examples of when and why they felt intimidated. **The most common experience was feeling intimidated by a group or gang of others**. 196 examples were described being intimidated by gangs. When discussing gangs young people used the term 'chav' most often. We think it is important that we remember that we intimidate each other when we are in a group, others feel scared about what the group will do. Gangs at night were found to be particularly intimidating.

Another intimidating situation was found to be related to alcohol, 95 examples included feeling intimidated by people that were drunk or using drugs.

Comments included:

The town centre after dark, when people are drinking

The park, because teenagers go there and will drink

When I'm walking through town on my own and a group of drunk teenagers are around

## Community spirit

Community spirit is looking out for each other, looking after each other and the environment in which we live  
Comment from interviewee

67.3% of young people who completed our survey agreed or strongly agreed that people in their neighbourhood knew each other. When we asked people to explain whether they felt part of the community knowing their neighbours was the most important thing highlighted as being important for feeling part of the community. We were pleased that such a majority of people felt that they know their neighbours and **our survey highlighted community events as being important to contributing to this**. The Team also think that local parks and facilities help to build communities.

*... everyone coming together whether it is to achieve a certain goal or to create a certain spirit around what's going on in an area ...*

Comment from interviewee

**66.6% of young people agreed that they can go and talk to somebody when they need help.** The majority of young people also agreed that they trust their neighbour. This is very positive and we can conclude that **most young people think that their neighbourhood is a safe and happy place to live.**

Our survey showed that **most young people did not think that people in their area had a voice about important community issues.** Let's do something about that!

84.8% of young people agreed that they would intervene if a friend was being bullied, but this figure dropped to 54.1% if the victim was unknown to them.

Important issues about being part of the community were found to be:

- Feeling safe
- Knowing neighbours
- Having neighbours with good characteristics
- Becoming involved with community events
- Having a history with an area

Things that got in the way of young people feeling part of the community were:

*Barriers ....look after number one, forget everybody else.....*

Comment from interviewee

- Not knowing neighbours
- Anti-social neighbours
- Lack of community events
- A feeling of mistrust of neighbours
- A feeling of not having a say

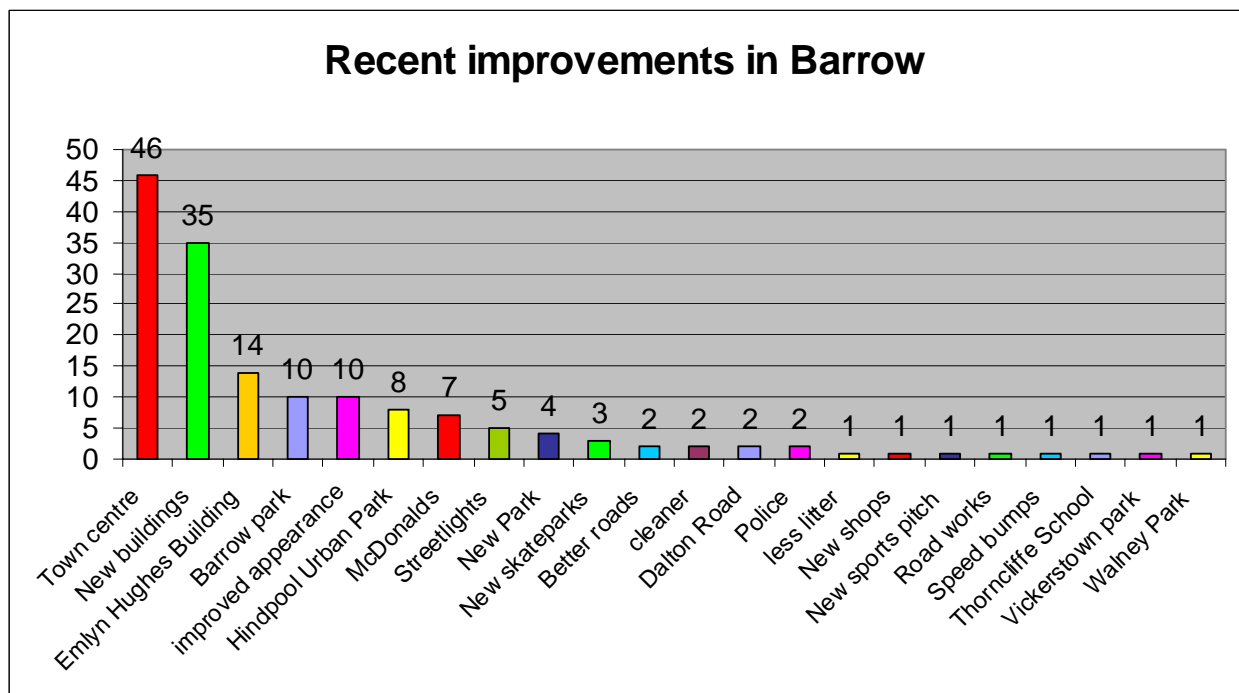
*Apathy!*

Comment from interviewee

Our research showed that some people who completed our survey did not feel that they know what community spirit meant.

School was highlighted as an important community in its own right and our research showed strong school communities.

When asked about recent improvements in our town the most often mentioned improvements are shown in the graph below:



## How can we change things?

We asked young people to give their opinion on the areas of Barrow that should be improved.

Some answered by giving the names of wards within Barrow which would benefit from improvements. Several were suggested, but two wards, Barrow Island and Ormsgill, were each listed by over 100 respondents and they stood out as areas which young people thought would benefit from regeneration. Behind these was the town centre, which was listed by 88 respondents. 42 respondents answered this question by simply stating that the whole of Barrow needed to be improved. 83 people thought that the parks needed improvements, whilst 53 suggested that there were aspects of the environment which needed improving, in particular street lighting, litter and dog mess. 29 people thought that Barrow needed a better variety of shops, especially those catering for the needs of young people. Fashion shops with low priced clothes plus music shops were two examples of this. 27 thought the town needed better facilities for teenagers, a topic which also figured prominently in relation to another question on the survey

*Things that you're doing now, talking to people is really important and inter-generation talking, young and older people engaging in conversation about their communities*

Comment from interviewee

*...correct lighting, careful design of the town centre. In university towns they have safety buses. I think that CCTV is great.*

Comment from interviewee

Our funders include:



WEST LAKES RENAISSANCE



LANCASTER UNIVERSITY



Aimhigher...  
Cumbria