

# Community Impact Statement

## Crime in Kirk Smeaton & Little Smeaton, North Yorkshire

### 1. Executive Summary

<b>Location</b>	<b>Kirk Smeaton &amp; Little Smeaton, North Yorkshire</b>
<b>Problem Statement</b>	<p><b>Escalation in crime, notably robbery/burglary, attempted theft, theft from vehicles.</b></p> <p>Criminal gangs operating across county borders.          Speculative theft linked to vehicles with false number plates.          Limitations to Police presence &amp; response times, due to location at south border of the County</p>
<b>Supporting Evidence</b>	<p><b>Police crime data</b>, highlighting a spike in burglaries, affecting 2.4% of households in recent months.</p> <p>19 calls to the Police in March 2024 (6.6% of households).</p> <p>The Police stated at our village meeting on 19.03.2024 that they initiated Operation Pearl in response to the upsurge in crime and the nature of it.</p>
<b>Community Feedback</b>	<p><b>Statements from 143 village residents (51% of households) stating:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 31% of residents have been victim or witness to crime</li> <li>• Crime is on the increase and at unprecedented levels</li> <li>• The nature of crime has become gang-based and brazen</li> <li>• Residents feel they are being targeted and under constant attack</li> <li>• A number see suspicious vehicles and thefts in action</li> <li>• They feel crime is out of control, especially robbery/burglary</li> <li>• Police and authorities have been slow to recognise the problem</li> <li>• They feel the Police presence is lacking and/or response slow</li> <li>• Criminals don't seem to be being caught or deterred</li> <li>• An escalation in crime without an end in sight</li> </ul>
<b>Community Impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People are worried, frightened, scared, terrified, angry</li> <li>• Many feel vulnerable and victimised</li> <li>• A number state an inability to relax or sleep properly and live normally; with effects on energy and mood, in a state of alert, and some say it is affecting their health</li> <li>• Residents are worried about leaving their property unattended</li> <li>• A number are worried to leave their house, some consequently feel isolated</li> <li>• Some are changing habits to stay protected, e.g. who goes out, where people sleep</li> <li>• Worried that it is only a matter of time before someone is seriously hurt, and could be themselves next time</li> <li>• Worried for the vulnerable (elderly, young families)</li> <li>• Some are considering moving away from the village</li> <li>• Many feel insufficiently supported or let down by the Police and authorities</li> </ul>
<b>Topics &amp; Questions to Community Safety Partnership &amp; relevant persons</b>	<p>1. <b><u>Cross-border crime co-ordination:</u></b>          Many state frustration that the Police are not joining up the dots or co-operating cross-border between N, S &amp; W Yorkshire.  <b>What can be done to understand crime &amp; case patterns in the area around Kirk Smeaton &amp; Little Smeaton, routinely?</b></p>

	<p>2. <b><u>Response times:</u></b>          With Selby 30 minutes away, locals are mindful that the nearest available Police units could be in South or West Yorkshire.  <b>How can 999 response calls be directed to the nearest Police unit, regardless of county border, routinely?</b></p> <p>3. <b><u>Police presence:</u></b>          Residents understand that it can be more challenging to patrol areas on the county border, and the nearest base is Eggborough (Google; 9 miles 17 mins away).  <b>Would drop-in facilities in the village for secure .gov wifi with desk area be of use (e.g. in the Community Centre), and allow officers to be in the locality more often?</b>  <b>Or, how could presence be increased, and funded?</b></p> <p>4. <b><u>Prevention &amp; detection:</u></b>          Many residents suggest ANPR or CCTV cameras, in order to detect suspect vehicles, and also as a deterrent to criminals.  <b>What preventative &amp; detection infrastructure could be deployed in the village by the Police or authorities to help detect and deter crime?</b></p>
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*Report compiled from statements from residents by Kirk Smeaton and Little Smeaton Parish Councils.*

# Community Impact Statement

## Crime in Kirk Smeaton & Little Smeaton, North Yorkshire

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#### 2. Introduction

The Parish Councils of Kirk Smeaton and Little Smeaton have observed a high level of engagement with recent Police drop-in meetings, reports of crime and suspicious activity on our Smeatons village WhatsApp chat, as well as increasing approaches from members of the public.

There has been much discussion regarding the need to highlight the situation on crime to the Police and agencies and to develop an effective approach to deploy of Police and agency resources along with a coordinated response across county borders between North, South and West Yorkshire.

It was proposed by residents to conduct a survey in order to gauge the depth of feeling in the village and to capture residents' views of levels of crime and impact on people's lives. If there was sufficient engagement, then the Parish Councils jointly committed to compiling a Community Impact Statement to express the view of the community to the Community Safety Partnership and relevant persons.

### 3. Local Area & Population

Kirk Smeaton and Little Smeatons (the Smeatons) are situated at the southern-most tip of North Yorkshire, bordering on South and West Yorkshire. There is fast access onto the A1 and it is possible to connect to the M62 within 12 minutes or less. Selby is around 30 minutes drive away, as is Leeds, Doncaster is 20 minutes away and Pontefract 15 minutes.

There are 304 households in the Smeatons, of which 290 with residence, along with a village Post Office, School and pub.

The surrounding area is rural; mostly farm land, but also includes quarries close to the A1 and the Brockdale Nature Reserve.

The population comprises mostly working and retired professionals, with a high level of home and car ownership. There are many detached dwellings with an average price of £495,000 (Source: Rightmove).

As of Census day 2011, there were 405 usual residents in Kirk Smeaton, with average age of 44.6 years. 66.7% were in employment and 21.8% retired. In Little Smeaton there were 283 usual residents with average age of 44.2 years. 64% were in employment and 19.7% retired.

### 4. Crime Statistics

Trends for reported crimes and crimes relating to burglaries are shown below, demonstrating an upward surge in criminal activity:

	<b>Burglaries 5 Yr Period Jan 2019 – Feb 2024</b>	<b>Burglaries Since May 2023</b>	<b>Most Recent Incidents</b>
Kirk Smeaton	16	6	12/02/24 x 2, 31/01/24, 18/01/24, 28/08/23 and 05/05/2023
Little Smeaton	5	1	07/11/2023
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>7</b>	
<b>As % of households</b>	<b>7.2%</b>	<b>2.4%</b>	

*Many thanks to A/PS 783 Hardwick for the above numbers.*

Additional related crimes are also logged for:

- Robbery
- Theft from motor vehicles

Most recent data received for **March 2024: 19 calls to the Police** were made by residents of Kirk Smeaton and Little Smeaton, representing 6.6% of households.

The Police stated at our village meeting on 19.03.2024 that they initiated Operation Pearl in response to the upsurge in crime and the nature of it.

## 5. Community Impact Survey

### 5.1 Methodology

A paper and online survey commenced on 01/03/2024 until 19/03/2024. Copies were distributed to each home and links posted in the Village WhatsApp groups and Parish Council websites and Facebook pages by the Parish Councils.

### 5.2 Local Engagement

148 survey completions, representing a 51% response rate by number of households, representing a **very high level of engagement**.

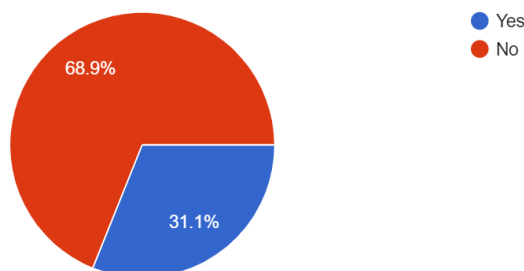
### 5.3 Key Findings

#### Those experiencing crime in the village, as victim or witness:

Base = 148 Full detail in Appendix 2

1) Have you been a victim or witness to a crime or attempted crime in the village?

148 responses

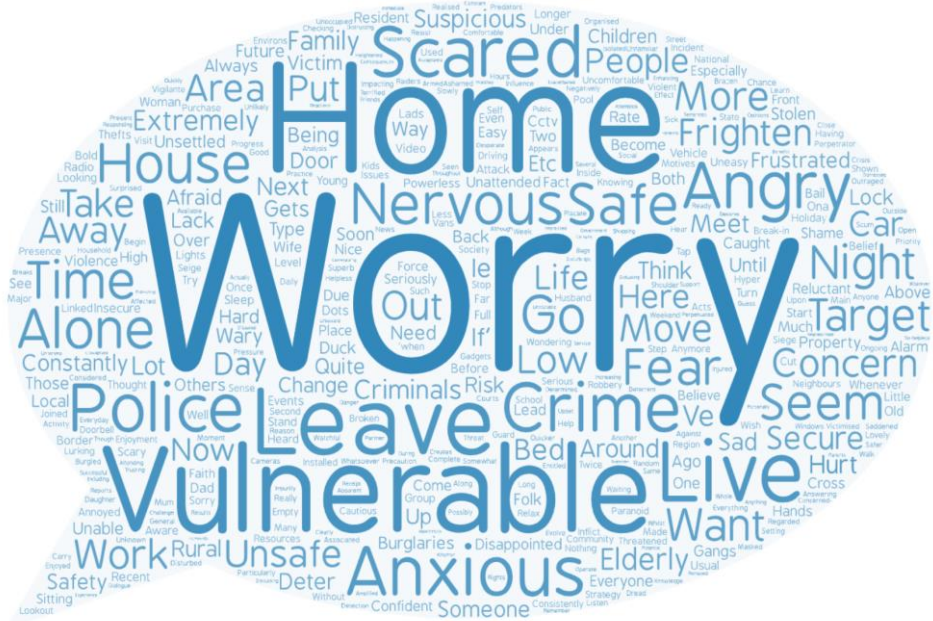


- 31.1% of respondents say they have been a victim or witness to a crime or attempted crime in the village



## How this makes them feel:

Base = 146 Full detail in Appendix 2



- Worried, frightened, scared, vulnerable, angry and victimised
- Many say their sleep is being affected
- Residents are worried about leaving their property unattended
- A number are worried to leave their house
- Feel they have to be constantly vigilant and on alert
- Frustrated that the Police are not joining up the dots or co-operating cross-border
- Worried that it is only a matter of time before someone is seriously hurt
- Anxious that it could be themselves next time
- Worried for the vulnerable (elderly, young families)
- Some loss of faith in the Police and Criminal Justice system





## 6. Topics & Questions to the Community Safety Partnership & relevant persons

### 1) Cross-border crime co-ordination:

Many state frustration that the Police are not joining up the dots or co-operating cross-border between N, S & W Yorkshire.

***What can be done to understand crime & case patterns in the area around Kirk Smeaton & Little Smeaton, routinely?***

### 2) Response times:

With Selby 30 minutes away, locals are mindful that the nearest available Police units could be in South or West Yorkshire.

***How can 999 response calls be directed to the nearest Police unit, regardless of county border, routinely?***

### 3) Police presence:

Residents understand that it can be more challenging to patrol areas on the county border, and the nearest base is Eggborough (Google; 9 miles 17 mins away).

***Would drop-in facilities in the village for secure .gov wifi with desk area be of use (e.g. in the Community Centre), and allow officers to be in the locality more often? Or, how could presence be increased, and funded?***

### 4) Prevention & detection:

Many residents suggest ANPR or CCTV cameras, in order to detect suspect vehicles, and also as a deterrent to criminals.

***What preventative & detection infrastructure could be deployed in the village by the Police or authorities to help detect and deter crime?***

## 7. Appendices

### Appendix 1: Community Impact Survey & Form

#### We need your feedback to help us fight crime

Following two recent meetings with the Police, which were well-attended by local residents, the Parish Councils of Kirk Smeaton and Little Smeaton are compiling a Community Impact Statement.



This is to put the voice from the community to the Community Safety Partnership (which includes the Police, North Yorkshire Council and other agencies), and to our elected representatives. Our objective is to increase the level of attention and resources given to our area.

#### 1) Have you been a victim or witness to a crime or attempted crime in the village?

If so, please answer the following questions using the QR code above or at <https://rb.gy/1vd0fg>, or write the answers and hand it in at the village Post Office:

1a) Can you summarise what happened and when?

1b) How has this made you and your household feel, and how has it affected your lives?

1c) Was the support you received from the Police and agencies appropriate and why?

#### 2) Everyone should complete this section

Please complete the following questions using the QR code above or at <https://rb.gy/1vd0fg>, or write the answers and hand it in at the village Post Office:

2a) How do you feel about crime in the Smeatons currently?

2b) How does it make you feel?

2c) What impact is it having on your life?

#### 3) Please confirm

3a) Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Recommended, but may be left blank) (required)

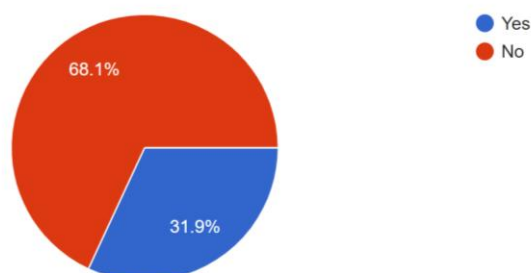
#### What happens now? Responses by 19<sup>th</sup> March please.

We need enough responses to highlight a problem and make an impact. With sufficient response, your Parish Councils will write and submit a Community Impact Statement. We will continue our other efforts to lobby for a more effective and co-ordinated approach to fighting crime. Thank you!

## Appendix 2: Personal Survey Responses

### Q1: Have you been a victim or witness to a crime or attempted crime in the village?

141 responses



#### Q1a: Can you summarise what happened and when?

(If Yes) Can you summarise what happened and when?

Our car was stolen, our neighbours were threatened with violence when they broke into their house to get car keys. 2 other cars stolen from the street.

4 males in balaclavas tried to enter a property adjacent to mine at 430pm, they where stopped in the act as the owner returned, nearly colliding with her car

Attempted break in, in the early hours of the morning I became aware of voices in the driveway and saw four masked men trying all doors and windows. Dialed 999 who sent officers who arrived 28 mins later having been directed to Kirk Sandall as they didn't know where Smeaton was!

house broken into while we slept, car keys stolen, all cars taken

Next door neighbours house broken into by 4 masked men. Confronted by me and my wife and altercation ensued.

28 December broke into my house . Took personal belongings and my car

Individuals were driving around the village assessing targets for burglary. These have been reported.

4 people in balaclava masks broke into our house on 28th dec 2023 by breaking the glass in the back patio windows - ransacked the house and took most possessions including some very personal family possession. Also stole one car

Someone entered through our back door while we were at the front door

Witnessed via CCTV a close friend's property being raided by masked, armed intruders Also community submitted cctv showing multiple incidents.

Next door neighbour burglary in broad daylight. Our CCTV picked up perpetrators and we handed to police.

Apparently 4 men in balaclavas tried to break into our house with iron bars

Recent burglary next door to our home and burglars in balaclavas captured on our CCTV

Attempted entry to the rear of my property by 4 masked and hooded youths who absconded at speed by car when I arrived home.

I have witnessed suspicious vehicles crawling around the village, stopping in driveways and scouting for potential robberies. Within days there have been actual or attempted break-ins

Returned home after being out [unplanned] for 45 minutes. A person had broken a window at the back of the house and entered. Partial footprints on the carpet indicated that one person had run around the entire house and left again through the broken window. Nothing appeared to have been stolen. The burglar alarm was set and did activate, but I didn't have CCTV at that time - it was on order and fitted 2 weeks later. This was approximately 4 years ago.

Locks on doors of conservatory broken off and men entered the house whilst we were asleep. Police suspected they were looking for car keys to steal one of the cars. Approximately June 2023.

Shotguns firing into the air at the start of Brocksdske, Kirk Smeaton side.

CCTV captured armed intruders trying to break into our neighbours home on Manor Close KS

False number plates dumped in a ditch 2023 between Smeaton and Walden Stubbs

Saw a man in a balaclava come up our drive but the security light came on and they saw the cctv and turned around

Approximately 5 years ago our house was broken into while we were asleep during the night. The intruders were disturbed by the home alarm & nothing of value was stolen. Police investigated & were of the opinion they were seeking to steal an expensive Audi car that was parked on my drive. We subsequently improved security with modern double glazing & door systems, installed CCTV & floodlights at the rear of the house. Also sold the expensive luxury car.

While we were renovating our home locks to our rear doors were damaged trying to gain access. They were not successful. We have also seen lampers and hare coursing in the fields behind our house .

3 Irish travellers knocked on my door offering to clean my roof for a fee. I live on my own and they were quite insistent and intimidating. I reluctantly agreed for them to do a small test area and then give me a price. They quoted £950 . I declined. They then showed me a patch they had cleaned on the drive which they said they would do for £200 I agreed for them to clean with a detergent and then seal. They just power washed it. When I questioned them they got very aggressive and I called the police.

Witnessed (on our CCTV) a person snooping round properties and trying vehicle doors. Minutes later someone further down the village reported on WhatsApp that their van had been burgled.

3 lads were seen on neighbours CCTV entering our back garden thru side gate late one night last year. We were away on holiday.

On 22/12/2021 5 masked persons smashed through my front door and threatened to kill my wife, daughter and myself unless I gave them the keys to my car. They subsequently stole my car along with some personal belongings and money.

Lots of events have happened within the village. Closest event was next door neighbours house was targeted and broken into.

Attempted house break in 2005, thwarted by our dog

Only in that we found a box of shotgun cartridges in the middle of Main Street LS. We reported it to the police who came to collect them and told us they had been stolen from a house that had been broken into.

Man trying cars caught on cctv outside my house. Another man looking into gardens and at contractors working at our house

Our outbuildings were broken into in 2018 and 2021. In 2018 they stole various objects. That amounted to thousands, bike , trail bike , tools and garden equipment . We then paid out to have the building alarmed and cameras installed. They attempted another break in but this time the alarms went off and they went away but still we had to pay hundreds for the damage they made to the doors and locks.

The first time in 2018 we were notified by a neighbour who could see the buildings had been broken into. The police came later that day. The second time they tried to break in the alarms went off and it woke me up in the early hours. I phoned the police and they came very quickly, 3 police vans arrived more or less the same time from all 3 county's. The police were very helpful and sent an officer out the following day to mark all of our equipment in garages and outbuildings.

Since these incidents we have put extra locks on all buildings , alarms and extra lighting outside .

Farm buildings broken into last Autumn. Diesel taken from lorry parked in farmyard and also farm diesel taken Summer 2023. Been a victim of three burglaries in the past.

House broken into 3 years ago

2 burglaries, 1 other attempt

Loads of robberies sheep killed by lampers last month

2 masked men entered our garden over walls/ electric gates and proceeded to go into our back garden but our dogs who live outside barked and they ran off down our drive to a waiting 4 wheel drive vehicle. Our neighbours saw them and notified us and the police by dialling 101. It was in May 2023.

Unknown individuals entered front of property through an unsecured top window. They were disturbed and abandoned the break in.

Our garage was entered overnight about 6 months ago, and an axe was taken and a pair of wellingtons, which were left on our drive. Three individuals were seen leaving and the incident was reported to the police.

Trespassing on our property with intent to commit robbery

My cat was shot with a shotgun in the face.

Our cat had been shot several times with a pellet gun, a BB gun and finally with a shotgun

Had a lazy spa hot tub stolen from the garden

June 2020 - Lazy Spa hot tub stolen from back garden overnight.

**Q1b: How has this made you and your household feel, and how has it affected your lives?**

We are fearful of these violent gangs who attack homes in daylight and are brazen. These gangs have bars and weapons. I am trying to stay away for work less to protect my wife. We are having our windows and doors replaced to fortify our home and have installed CCTV. The slightest sound keeps us awake at night and poor sleep can affect our energy and mood.

I am terrified of being in the house on my own overnight. I feel unsafe in this village.

I'm anxious , upset , annoyed and feel violated.

This has had a huge impact on me and my family. We have all had to undertake a lengthy period of counselling due to suffering PTSD. We feel vulnerable in our home due to the continued burglaries and constant crime that is happening in the village. My daughter continues to suffer with sleep issues, anxiety and PTSD symptoms which is impacting on her school work and social development. Every new incident that occurs in the village is yet another setback for me and my family as we try to recover from the robbery that we endured. We are at a point where we are now considering moving away from the area due to how let down we feel by the Police, Local Council and Crime Prevention agencies.

Frightened. Frightened to leave our property - especially to go on holiday. We are obsessive about checking our cameras. We are suspicious of everything and everyone. It has affected our sleeping patterns.

Attempted burglary happened at 1815 in the evening so my 3 children were in my house and were witness to the altercation. For a few weeks they wouldn't be left alone downstairs when me or my wife went upstairs. They are still very aware of any cars or vans driving down the cul de sac in the evening and are worried the burglars may return.

Wife was terrified for weeks, ended up coming back from a holiday early to be with her.

Words can't express, I was devastated and furious in equal measures. It was just horrible. The road to recovery was long and difficult not to mention the financial impact of £11,000. I no longer let my cat out, I feel it is not safe to do so but am depriving him of his freedom.

We are still obviously very upset. Many of the items cannot be replaced and had great sentimental value. we have had considerable expense in increasing security. Yet we still remain afraid they will return. we are constantly looking at cctv cameras. We also feel for the more vulnerable in the village who are petrified

We felt threatened and unsafe in our home for a while

Living alone, this made me feel very vulnerable. I never leave the house without setting the alarm and have increased the number of cameras from what was ordered originally.

Scared and vulnerable. We have a beloved pet dog and a baby.

Frightened , less safe in our home and our village

I was extremely worried that they would come back especially as they had now marked my house with a large clean patch on my roof. 2days later there was an attempted burglary at my friends house who also had the same clean patch on her roof. I am not sleeping very well as every little noise wakes me.

This happened in broad daylight and we were shocked at the brazenness of the thief and angry that he felt confident enough to wander round the village taking his time trying vehicle doors and checking out property.

Feel like moving away from the village. Feel like we are going to be broken into and it is just a matter of time. Spent a lot more money on security.

Very cautious about everything. This together with other crimes in the Smeaton has affected my freedom to live a full life. I am taking so many precautions.

Made my wife nervous and we have re evaluated all our home safety accessories increasing financial burden

Very insecure. Do not like leaving the house unattended

Wary of leaving the property overnight.

Organised Crime clearly on our doorstep!!! Very suspicious of unfamiliar vehicles. On the look out all the time.

We still feel insecure in our home, frightened to have or own anything that might attract the attention of burglars. We have even considered moving away from the village due to its high crime rate.

We do not feel safe or secure. We are always alert and have increased security round our home.

Totally terrified 😬

It makes you concerned about what might happen at your own property, especially if you're not there.

It has made us feel far less safe in our own home. On alert, and worried if we are away from home.

Very worried and frightened for our safety. Considering moving away from the area.

Much more safety conscious and sadly, suspicious of all unknown visitors to the village.

It worried us, particularly as the burglary had, apparently, involved the theft of a firearm.

The level of crime is increasing rapidly and this is very concerning. Criminals appear to be increasing in confidence and are quite brazen

You don't feel safe anymore . We lock the door now even if we are going in the garden or across to the utility room. You feel reluctant to go away and leave your house for any amount of time. It makes you quite paranoid about making sure you have left outside and inside lights on incase you get back after dark.

This incident was disturbing for me for a while and it did prompt me to take some extra security measures.

Got to be vigilant all the time and aware of vehicle's 24/7

Cautious, vulnerable when staying overnight alone.

Cautious, anxiety at staying overnight in my house alone

Fitted camera and alarm

nervous and vulnerable

Yes indeed.

Always on edge and we can not leave the farm

Terrified. Every door is locked on entry. Electric gates are now padlocked as well on an evening. My grown up daughter won't stay in our house Alone. We leave lights on all night. Don't feel safe in our beautiful village anymore considering moving to another area.

More anxious about being safe in my own home.

We now feel less secure and my wife, in particular, is more reluctant to stay in the property on her own overnight.

Very uneasy now when I'd said just over a year ago the village had a very relaxed and friendly atmosphere. People are very much on guard at all times. We now never leave our garage door opened and have had CCTV and now a new modern alarm system fitted. It's a shame to say but we treat anyone we've never seen before walking around the village as a suspicious activity.

Time to move out of our lovely rural village and relocate somewhere else.

we are on high alert all the time, We have subsequently installed bollards behind our electric gates, added additional security cameras and lighting.



**Q1c: Was the support you received from the Police and agencies appropriate and why?**

My family suffered a violent and traumatic incident which was handled very poorly by the Police and local agencies. The initial response was one Police Officer who took 45 minutes to arrive at my address. The follow up investigation was dreadful, I had to constantly chase the assigned CID officer for information and resorted to utilising the Victims of Crime service in order to get a response from CID as the officer dealing with the case continually failed to get back to me. No perpetrators have been arrested or prosecuted for this incident as far as I am aware as I have still received no further information about my incident.

The Police don't seem to have come to the area when suspicious vehicles have been reported in time to stop and catch the criminals. It takes too long.

I received a very good response from the police. They arrived within 10 minutes and questioned the guys. I also had a visit the next day from a pco which was reassuring.

Reported the incident online to the police and received an acknowledgment. However it wasn't until several days later that I was contacted about my CCTV coverage. The response time was disappointing.

Support somewhat limited to date . Appears to be lots of talk but little improvements

Police were a waste of time despite telling them I knew who the people were who robbed me. The officer who attended told me the case was closed when he left. Totally unacceptable.

Limited for 1 and 2. My wife dialled 999 as she was in the house alone for 3 above. It was early hours of the morning when she heard voices through the window. The police arrived 28 minutes later as they didn't know where Kirk Smeaton was and had been sent to Kirk Sandall! For 1and 2- minimal, no updates. 3. - issue re going to wrong place was unbelievable. "

Yes I think it was appropriate. An officer visited me same day and forensics the following day - though no prints were able to be taken. I felt it was appropriate since nothing had been stolen. The burglar alarm 'worked' in that it presumably scared off the intruder.

Someone contacted me for an interview. At the time nothing more could be done.

Limited support

Yes at the time.

Initially good . But no follow up. We still don't know if arrests/prosecutions were made.

Yes. Attended promptly and did what they could.

When I phoned initially Police helpful and came to collect plates within an hour. They were from a stolen BMW in London 24hrs previous. No follow up received re arrests or prosecutions.

Yes they were good at the tome

Our local policeman is very supportive.

Support from the Police was appropriate & we acted on their recomendations at the time. Better door & window security, CCTV & intruder activated floodlights.

The police were attentive and responsive, but haven't apprehended the criminals.

Not reported

No not really got a crime number and a forensic guy who didn't find the broken door piece

We didn't receive any support, but our neighbour reported it.

Support on the night was good but we know it is unlikely anything further will be done.

Have not approached any support services. They don't seem to do much to help the situation from what I can see.

Yes. Forensics and detectives quickly followed up. With follow up well-being support offered too

Yes. The police arrived that evening to collect the cartridges.

The police help where possible but there is no communication between forces and we are on the edge of North, South and West Yorkshire. There is no method of asking other forces to identify offenders

Yes I was impressed with the response I got from the police. Arrived very quickly and did a thorough search around the property and fields. On the following day a police officer came and marked all objects in the garages and outbuildings so they could be traced if stolen. They then did a follow up a week later to see if I was okay.

The response by police, neighbours and friends was prompt and very reassuring.

Police helpful but nobody caught

initially yes. But we have received no updates since immediately after the burglary. There is much CCTV in the village and we know this has not been looked at - their faces etc could have possibly be seen when fleeing if they had been looked at. The car was found by us as we hid a tracker in it. again, as far as we know the cctv where it was found has not been looked at

The police came and took finger prints but that was it

As we have not yet been personally targeted we have not received Police support other than discussions held during monthly meetings.

Yes. Very helpful! Considerate, thorough, and informative. Cant fault the service we got!

No, a careless thing to them.

No

No we had no details to give them so no further follow ups were done

Police attended, took prints. Referred to victim support.

After reporting the incident, nothing further happened.

Not really. They do their best but the cross border issue is causing huge issues with response, sharing communication and feels like an easy fix. There is a general lack of police visibility around the village.

Initial support was sufficient at the time and in the days following but have no information regarding the investigation since.

No, I had to investigate, punishment was pathetic for the offenders.

Very little, couldn't do anything.

None

Unable to comment no communication received

## **Q2: Everyone should complete this section**

### **Q2a: How do you feel about crime in the Smeatons currently?**

Very nervous and frightened. These are organised criminals who are weaponised. We feel very vulnerable and uneasy. We have thought about 'arming' ourselves.

It's terrible. I'm very fearful and feel vulnerable. I don't know how to protect my family and myself - these people don't care and carry weapons.

It's outrageous the level of crime in our village. Fly tipping and quad bikes are bad enough in beautiful, rural countryside but the incessant numbers of car thefts and house break ins are not at all what you would expect from a nice village like this. The criminals are brazen and relentless. One family even had armed or weapon-bearing thieves. The fear for your children or elderly parents and those on their own is horrifying.

I never thought about crime that much in the past, but it seems that we have aggressive robberies in this and neighbouring villages every few days presently.

Frightened, scared, insecure, vulnerable & unsupported by the justice system & crime agencies. We feel that there has been little or no progress made to reduce this unacceptable crime rate, which appears to be increasing!

Very worried. It's concerning with a family for ourselves and our neighbours, some who are elderly.

It's making everyone paranoid and jumpy. Could do with faster response from the police.

It feels out of control. There appears to be more instances of crime in the village than in other locations.

It's escalated quickly and is frightening. Not having confidence in the police to attend is worrying.

The crime in the Smeaton is out of control. 2 or 3 times a week we have some incident.

The number and severity of crimes occurring in the area is extremely alarming. It feels like the Police and Local Authority are dismissing what is happening here. The community has many elderly, vulnerable persons living here of which a high number live alone. It feels like the apathy being demonstrated by Police and Local authority is being taken advantage of by the criminal fraternity who are continuing to target this area. I have been a victim of 3 incidents at my home in the last 5 years. 1 attempted burglary, 1 theft from my garden and 1 violent armed robbery. I feel that crime in Kirk Smeaton is being ignored by the Police and Local Authority.

At an all time high. Out of control.

Feel as though the village is under siege which is having a significant impact on our lives ie concerned to leave the house unoccupied. Having lived in the village for 30 years, it feels as though crime (theft) is at an all time high. Easy rich pickings.

Over the past year we feel the criminal come to Smeaton and commit crime with impunity. We are not protected from crime and feel that the only action is to defend ourselves. This situation will continue until a life threatening incident occurs or there is a death and it makes the evening news.

It appears to be in the increase . It is more violent with burglars carrying weapons

Concerned at the apparent recent escalation of crime in our villages

Very concerned. I only moved here recently thinking it was a safe place to live, how wrong I was. We are constantly being attacked and the attackers know they can get away with it, so they keep coming back. There is no deterrent.

The amount of crime has increased exponentially.

This includes the violent burglaries by masked gangs and the unscrupulous traders exploiting elderly people on their own."

Extremely concerned. The people involved appear very blasé - operating in broad daylight.

Disappointed with lack of police presence.

Worried. It's getting worse and more severe. There is a growing feeling that the crimes are becoming far more organised and someone is going to get seriously hurt before anything really gets done.

Worried who's next? It's happening too often.

Higher than it has ever been.

Both my family and neighbours are very fearful of similar repeat crimes. This will be the third similar incident just on our street, and there seem to be similar incidents by similar perpetrators in the smeatons and surrounding villages on a more regular basis.

The village feels like it has become target possibly because of the increased traffic resulting from diversions from the A1 because of the long term roadworks and rat runs created which may have made the village more viable to criminals and more aware of its easy proximity to multiple escape routes across county barriers"

Worried

Appears to be reflective of current increase in rural crime across many local villages sadly

Frightening

There is a worrying increase in crime, it appears that both villages are being targeted

Worried. Appear to be being targeted.

Definitely gotten worse in the past year, possibly linked to the higher volume of traffic using Smeaton as a diversion from the A1.

It is becoming more frequent in the last year

Very worried.

It feels like we are been attacked , it is a constant and blatant

Not enough police presence

It is growing exponentially and is terrifying.

Disgusting feeling we could be the next

It's getting beyond a joke. It seriously needs sorting out. Villagers don't feel safe in their own homes. You shouldn't have to live like this.

It is horrible and just getting worse, the criminals are so brazen with it too!

Crime has increased significantly in the last 3 months

Friends and neighbours have been targeted and affected

It is now a big worry. Many of the incidents have been in broad daylight and have involved elderly residents. The perpetrators appear to be confident that they will not be caught and are not afraid to come back again.

It's getting worse

"Crime in the Smeatons seems to have been steadily increasing in the last few years to the point where incidents, sometimes multiple incidents are weekly occurrences.

That the criminals feel able to target our community with impunity is very worrying and a sad indictment of how they view the police response to crimes in our area."

This has increased and is worrying

Very worried.

Terrible 😞

Concerned, too many incidents in too short space of time.

At 88 years old and living alone.....unhappy?

Crime in Smeaton villages has never been as bad. We have lived here 20 years and never been concerned until last few years. The more we hear about it, the more scared we get. We are all on a village WhatsApp group, so we get to know what's happening, and we try to look out for each other. Everyone is extra vigilant. It is getting really bad, we have become a target for crime.

Very worried and frightened. As an elderly person I feel very vulnerable, I no longer sleep well and am constantly on alert. We have had extra cameras added to our alarm system. I feel I now need extra personal protection against these thugs. I have never felt so vulnerable in my own home before. The violence!

It's frightening and seems to be something every other day

Nice to see the police driving through the village but still don't feel it is enough.

"It's very nerve racking, suddenly you have to be 100% on your guard every part of the day.

every little noise you hear makes you scared, in case it's someone sneaking around.

Life just isn't the same when you don't feel safe in your home. 😞

It's out of control. We're being targeted by gangs of thieves.

Frightening

Very worried

There is obviously an increasing of burglary in the villages many of which are of an aggravated nature.

Very worried

It has increased considerably recently.

Not good , it's a worry every day thinking your gonna get robbed or attacked off hooded nutters

We bought a bungalow in Little Smeaton in November 2022. Since moving here we are extremely worried about the increasing level of burglary and attempted burglaries in the Smeatons. There is no doubt crime is rapidly increasing in this area and the amount of blatant daytime incidents is very very concerning.

It's worrying how much crime is happening at the moment.

It seems that we are experiencing more than our share of burglaries and opportunist thefts. Being on the edge of 3. Counties and so near the motorway system makes us an easy target. I am more Nervous and worried.

Very concerned- we have 2 elderly neighbours who are really concerned too

Very worried and nervous about when it will happen next and that it will escalate even further. Cannot believe there are do many different groups/individuals who are targeting the Smeatons and at all times of day. They don't seem to be bothered when they carry out the thefts and who is around which I even more concerning. there are also many elderly people in the village

It is scary how many crimes are being reported. A lot of vehicles passing through due to A1 works. Also a lot of quads and bikes passing our home, often at antisocial hours

Far too often very concerning

I feel that the impact of the long repairs to the nearby A1 have caused extra traffic through the village by people who have seized the opportunity to target a small, quiet rural community to commit crime and make a quick getaway.

There appears to have been a prolonged increase in crime, particularly burglaries, committed in broad daylight by groups of men. I understand that the police have lots of draws on their resources but I feel this needs a more robust and proactive approach than we have seen.

On the rise and little being done other than words

It has escalated over the past year to uncontrollable levels. The types of crime are now really frightening, with criminals entering homes with iron bars and faces covered.

Excalating and nobody getting caught

There is very little to stop the criminals doing as they please.

Very worried about the increase in crime in both Little Smeaton and Kirk Smeaton

Very worried as it is happening to often

Easy pickings as we have no Police presence.

It is completely out of control, surely the police know who the perpetrators are. We need more presence from the police.

A lot more reporting of crimes and attempted crimes over the last two years. Possibly not reported or widely known before the pandemic and more widespread use of WhatsApp etc.

Disturbed that the village seems to have been targeted recently. Anxious about staying overnight on my own given the violence experienced in recent weeks incidents.

Disturbed that the frequency and violence has increased. There are lots of old people who live here who I am concerned for.

Worried about the recent increase in crime activity in both villages

It's unacceptable people can come day or night and think they can take whatever they want and leave families feeling not secure in their own home

it is happening now a few times a week. We hear that some have been caught when doing other crimes but just baled and let straight out to carry on. Surley they could be monitored better, tagged etc

The crime wave is taking an especially nasty direction. It's regular and often involves suspects with weapons. There seems to be hardly a day that goes by without an incident. We don't feel safe in our houses.

It's really bad. Incidents are relentless.

Hearing of more break ins, and more violence or threat of violence used. Village feels less safe at night.

The level of crime has dramatically increased in the villages. For example just with 500 yards of my house, of recent there has been, a burglary, where the house was ransacked, one car was stolen, another car was broken into in attempt to steal it, and a van was broken into and tools stolen. Plus we are aware of several cars driving through our villages with false number plates.

Criminals appear to be raiding our community with impunity and with alarming regularity. Their cockiness would indicate that there is little chance of being caught, let alone punished. We feel that our village is under siege. Being terrorised is not a feeling that I ever thought that I would feel. It seems that all one needs are false vehicle number plates, a balaclava (optional as good CCTV face shots have been submitted) and you can just drive around both villages and simply take what you want!. These simple precautions appear to render you completely untraceable.

Shocked at the increase. Having lived here for nearly 30 years the current levels of crime are something we have never experienced before

"In common with a multitude of locations round the country there are clear indications re an increase in a range of crimes with increased threats of violence

Like neighboring locations ..Ackworth, Wentbridge for example there is a need for vigilance and awareness. Its particularly difficult for farmers and business owners locally.

The question above is not expressed particularly well. To the point that it's a leading question. For example, we would hardly put that we felt 'delighted' that the incidence of crime is on the increase. By inviting an emotive response , there is a chance that people will



be encouraged to respond in a way that doesn't encourage some clear rational thinking about how to tackle these issues communally and in liaison with the police."

Very concerned

The level of crime in our villages is totally unacceptable.

The organised gang crime associated with car theft and the potential for serious violence is particularly disturbing.

If feel that our village is being constantly targeted.

The situation appears to be getting worse.

Let down badly.

Very concerned, suddenly wary of cars and people around the village.

I am aware of an increase in reported crime.

Really high

Crime is quite clearly on the rise in both Smeaton villages. It is very concerning and makes one believe it is only a matter of time before one is targeted.

increase appears to be car theft; tools from work vans & sheds/garages

Rising

Rising

Terrified they are escalating and happening day and night. Masked or not. Now armed.

Although we have not been a direct victim of crime, the aggression and frequency of the crime is extremely unsettling. I have 4 young children and am finding the worry of it hard on all of our mental health.

Very high rate of crime. Just waiting to be the next victim.

It seems to be out of control with no end in sight.

Clear shift in level of crime and the level of threatening and violent behaviour. Feels like we are unprotected as help is too far away.

It is horrendous! It seems to be almost every day that there's a report of something else happening.

Concerned as it is targeting the vulnerable people it seems

Very scared

Too much crime.

We have been to the last two of the meetings and left feeling no reassurance.

We appreciate the police problems, but have little confidence in them making any impact."

Feel unsafe.

Very disturbed and anxious.

The switching off of the street lights overnight is disgusting. It's an open invitation to promote this sort of activity.

From the reports we have had, burglaries seem on the increase.

I feel it is getting more aggressive and someone will be getting seriously hurt

It seems that we have at least two crimes a week in the villages which for the population is disproportionate, from aggravated burglary (four men with iron bars) to opportunistic thefts in broad daylight from sheds and tradespersons vans. My partner lives in north Leeds where reported crime is much lower than here. It feels like criminals target is due to our proximity to the motorway network, and the lack of joined up policing due to us being on the boundaries of three counties. That said, we pay significant amounts of council tax due to the property valuations in the village but appear to receive little for this especially in the matter of urgent police response for serious crimes.

Shocked that there is so much crime happening across the two villages

It is a very frightening time for all the villagers

Concerned

Over the last months crime in our area has got significantly worse (especially since the A1 was closed and more vehicles in and out of village) but what is the most worrying is the change from petty crime to violent, aggressive crime.

We are moving to the village from Campsall, we have had numerous attempts of theft it is very disappointing to hear that the police are not communicating between borders better.

As a member of the Smeaton WhatsApp group I see incidents being reported then see the same incidents happening in Campsall a couple of days later.

The police services appear very disjointed.

I'm very concerned, the rate of crime - including violent crime has increased at a dramatic rate, it's very frightening presently.

There does appear to be a targeted approach by certain criminals in this and surrounding villages. We also have a lot of speeding and children riding quad bikes without helmets.

It's increasing

Extremely worrying. The level of violence is even more alarming.

Severe, appears to have declined in safety

I feel vulnerable and fearful. A family backing on to me was a victim of a brutal robbery - that's too close for comfort. I feel like people are watching us, sizing us up for potential crime. Or they're here in the depths of the night up to no good, poaching or lamping.

Escalated very quickly!!! Used to feel very safe, but now the opposite

Worried about the increase.

Worried, scared and constantly looking around to see who is watching us

Annoyed that they can be in the village in broad day light and not feel threatened

It's a worry. I have lived in Kirk and Little Smeaton over 20 years and it does seem to have escalated recently. There is definitely more 'organised' crime, such as gangs stealing cars etc.

Very insecure, crime on a rapid rise and little seems to be getting done to stop it

I think it is disgusting that criminals prey on the elderly and vulnerable people there doesn't appear to be any police immediate response available. I would hope if we are unlucky enough to be burgled that if I ring the police they would arrive in time to apprehend the culprits

it seems to be more common since all the extra traffic has been detouring through the village,

"The level of threat is escalating, and we are powerless

Very concerned

I am elderly and I worry about having my keys in my pocket and making sure all my doors and windows are locked

I feel it is getting out of hand, and I've never known it this bad in 24 years of living here

It's on the rise -

The number of crimes in our villages over a short time is worrying and hard to understand why our village??

Feeling very vulnerable, especially as we have so much traffic on New Rd

Concerned about the violence being used. Seems to be out of control.

It is very worrying.

On our doorstep we know people who were subject to a violent crime and whilst we feel safe walking around the village, crime has exponentially increased."

Sad and worried.

## Q2b: How does it make you feel?

We are constantly worried and fearful. Nothing seems to deter these gangs and they will attack day or night.

Extremely worrying. You feel like a sitting duck all the time, wondering if you will be next. It's no way to have to live.

We've heard for years that a lot of the crime is 'cross border' and the fact police have not 'joined the dots' and linked neighbouring crimes just over the borders with crime in the Smeatons has perpetuated the police's belief that we are not a high crime area.

Makes us scared to be in our own homes and also scared to leave our homes.

We don't feel safe anymore In our own home. We have even considered moving out of the village because of it. These lads don't come alone, there are 3 or 4 of them. We wouldn't stand a chance against them if they were violent.

"Very scared to be home alone, always lock the door in the day, don't like answering the door when I'm home alone.

Frightened, vulnerable, angry at the lack of progress, suspicious.

My family and I feel very vulnerable and worry every time we either leave our home or go to bed. We believe it is a matter of 'when not if' we will be another victim of crime due to the issues that are constantly ongoing in our village.

Vulnerable, Paranoid and desperate. Someone is going to take matters into their own hands and the consequences will be life changing.

Frightened. Anxious. Uncomfortable. Waiting to be the next target.

It's a shame that our lovely village is under siege. Frustrated, angry and extremely concerned that someone may get hurt soon

Anxious all the time and extremely nervous. This feeling is exacerbated with the daily reports of attempted break-ins or thefts. The feeling of dread is amplified whenever there is a need to leave the house (shopping, appointments etc. We try to get others to visit us so that we don't have to leave our home)!

"It makes me angry that the criminals are able to consistently target our community in this way. And frustrated and annoyed that the police have until now consistently regarded the Smeatons as a low crime/priority area.

It's extremely disappointing that it is only now, after a lot of pressure from the community that the police seem to have realised this."

Powerless, fearful, angry, vulnerable.

Scared, anxious, unable to sleep.

Nervous anxious and reluctant to leave our house 🏠

Frightened

Disappointed and very concerned

Very nervous

Again very insecure and do not like leaving my property unattended

Nervous and reluctant to leave the house unoccupied.

Installed cctv as a precaution to deter criminals."

Vulnerable, outraged, scared, angry, ashamed - you don't want to live in an area associated with crime. We don't want to move but we want to feel safe. It's a shame for those people who want to have nice cars but risk having them stolen.

Very unsafe

Very anxious & unsafe when at home alone.

Fearful; insecure; hyper aware of who is in the village and their motives for being here; suspicious; worried about coming home, or being home alone; angry that criminals are negatively impacting my enjoyment of my home and village environs; worried for my own and others safety; feeling victimised as a village.

Scared

More nervous now than when my home was broken into 4 years ago

I'm worried some people will take matters into their own hands or start a vigilante group.

Unsafe and vulnerable.

It's scary to think these types of people are lurking around, particularly for those that live alone

I put all the lights on in the house and put the radio on at the front of the house if I'm at the back.

I no longer feel comfortable in my own house and worry when I am away from home.

That there could a very serious incident soon

Scared. Angry.

Anxious unsafe in our own homes

I feel angry and worried.

Disappointed at the change in society Saddened for the future , frightened for children , the elderly and folk living alone

Scared. I feel like i don't want to live here anymore. Angry that these people just seem to do what they want and get away with it. We work hard for what we have and then some low life thinks they can take it away from u without a second thought.

As an elderly woman living on my own I feel extremely vulnerable. I have all the usual security gadgets ie video doorbell cameras and alarms but they don't seem to deter the predators.

I feel nervous and anxious

Every time we go out or away I feel concerned and worried.

Frightened, and scared

A little paranoid and constantly looking over my shoulder at anyone who appears to be unfamiliar to the village.

Vulnerable

Frightened and extremely vulnerable

Vulnerable and frightened

Still feel threatened.

Anxious

Extremely worried and afraid, especially when in the house on my own.

Very nervous

Scared

We, in this household, are feeling very anxious and constantly on the lookout wondering if it's going to be our turn to be targeted.

Frightened

Very anxious.

Anxious

It makes me feel quite worried and frightened for our safety and our home. I feel I am constantly checking the windows and doors and looking outside.

Worried and not as secure. Makes you feel very wary and not as safe as we should.

Vulnerable and somewhat afraid

Very concerned- especially by the level of violence shown in at least 2 local burglaries.

Really worried and anxious. I do not like my 16 year old daughter to be in on her own after school for fear we might be burgled while me and her dad are out at work or on a weekend.

At risk and vulnerable.

Unsafe

I live alone and have enjoyed living in a rural setting for many year both before and since my working life. I would not wish to change that so I am determined that recent events will not influence my everyday enjoyment of life here.

As someone with a young family it makes me very worried, these crimes are brazen and made in the knowledge that there could be people inside the house at the time. It is only a matter of time until someone is seriously hurt.

Angry and frightened

Very frightened in an area in which we used to feel safe. These crimes are happening at random times throughout the day and night, making us feel unsafe at all times.

Vulnerable and unsafe

It's worrying and makes you think twice about future purchases such as the type of vehicle I may purchase or my family possibly becoming a victim of a robbery in the street as this is the next step these people will take.

I feel very vulnerable at the moment, knowing that crime is increasing. We are rural villages which seems to make us easy targets.

Again very worried

No faith whatsoever in the Police.

Worried for the safety of the villagers.

Wary about security, watchful/suspicious of who is around and unknown vehicles. Concerned about security whenever we leave the house empty.

Anxious, disturbed that the village and our residents seem to have become a target

Cautious, anxious, distrusting of vans and cars driving slowly in the villages

Quite anxious.

As above

It makes us nervous to be in the village - also sorry for the police. They have been superb in attending village meetings, seriously enhancing presence in the village, responding much quicker etc - i feel they must be as frustrated as us that once caught the courts just let them out on bail

It makes us feel afraid and frustrated as there seems to be no stop to the activity. This frustration leads up to the government as we have no confidence that if criminals are caught that their sentences will not be a deterrent.

Smeaton no longer feels a safe place to live. I feel under seige

As a woman living alone, very concerned

We are very wary of leaving our house, for fear of a break-in.

We feel very angry that criminals feel so confident that we are helpless, so-helpless, that we are unable to resist anything that they want to inflict upon us. I feel that the full seriousness of events will only become apparent when someone gets hurt (victim or perpetrator).

Anxious and suspicious in general. We are worried that we will be targeted again

As above.

Extremely nervous

Vulnerable and concerned - both when we are here and when we are away on holiday.

It makes me angry that we can't relax and have to be on guard at all times.

Very unsettled - masked raiders targeting close neighbours.

Sad.

Heightened sense of the need to be safe in our home.

Uneasy:

The national detection rate for burglaries is disturbingly low and, although the local force is hard working and ready to listen to the concerns of residents, there does not seem to be any acceptance that this is a major reason why confidence in the police is as low as I can remember. If there is no regional strategy to pool resources along with an analysis of successful practice in the region or nationally then I cannot see how our police force can begin to meet the challenge of the bold, organised gangs who carry out these thefts and burglaries.

I do fear that we will have to learn to live with this threat to our safety and security. "

Unsettled

My main concern is for the elderly and most vulnerable in our villages as the perpetrators of these crimes seem to operate with impunity.

Not been personally affected, but am concerned at some reactions/opinions which frighten vulnerable people unlikely to be targets.

Angry and sad

Terrified, unsafe, not trusting no one.

It is worrying that the village is a target of organised crime and we are not getting the support from state that we are entitled to. It makes me feel worried and angry.

Very concerned this is going to lead to violence and resident being injured.

Acts are taking place in the day time as well as night. No one is safe.

Police will take far too long to get to a crime. Lacking in any police presence."

Makes me feel nervous, vulnerable and cross



Extremely unsettled and vulnerable for self and others. Creates less open and social dialogue and everyone suspicious of everyone

Annoyed and disappointed and isolated

Not safe

Very vulnerable.

Unnerved that there are more people driving around the villages evaluating whether I am vulnerable and an easy target.

Upset knowing that police are not available to help quickly if I am in immediate danger."

Worried that I may also be targeted again.

Angry, but not surprised, with unacceptable cut backs.

We feel that the villagers have to evolve a strategy of their own, whatever that might be.

We have to tap into the resources of the two villages."

Vulnerable.

Very nervous and unsettled.

This is clearly not good news.

Vulnerable

Very suspicious of everything untoward in the villages. Worried when I leave my home unattended and threatened of potential violence to me and my kids when we are at home

The police seem more interested in meetings to placate the public than they do with actually policing rural areas. We are sitting ducks in this area, we need policing. Not meetings discussing our feelings

I live on my own so it is making me feel uneasy

The present crisis makes me feel very vulnerable

More cautious than I would like about protecting our home and family

We have only lived in Smeaton since September 2023 . When we moved here we thought the crime rate was low. We were very surprised to hear about the recent crimes. Feeling vulnerable and not safe in our own home.

Worried, scared for the more elderly in the village and suspicious of everything. Very uncomfortable.

Concerned for my family, leaving the house for holidays and breaks.

Worried about leaving my elderly Mum on her own

Concerned if alone at night

Worried for my young family whenever I am away for work or working unsociable hours.

We feel anxious about our move, we believed we were moving to a safer neighbourhood for our children.

We have invested in more security on the property."

I worry about my home, my property, including my car when I leave the house - or when I go to bed at night. I always put my house alarm on at night when I go to bed.

I've seen the effect that armed burglaries have had on friends in the village, they were very distressed by the whole experience. "

Vulnerable as my partner often works away leaving me home with two children

Increasingly nervous

Scared and very concerned especially as I work away several nights a week and my wife is on her own.

Wife is scared whilst I am nights, constant fear of robbery. Results in us not changing our cars as I feel they will just be stolen

Quite honestly, me and my husband are contemplating moving away and this was the village I always wanted to live in.

Frightened. Feel extremely vulnerable . Makes me want to move

Scared and anxious

I feel as though I am not getting the service from the police.

Nervous and worried for elderly villagers. Scared to leave the house unattended but scared to be home alone.

I feel worried. My parents live with us and it makes them feel scared.

Same as above

It makes me feel anxious about leaving my home and during the night my husband is disabled also we are elderly and we certainly feel much more vulnerable than before.

Sick, these people are scum bags and deserve locking up and all rights removed. I would guess if they are caught they would be in receipt of benefits!!!

Powerless

It makes me very nervous to walk around the village

I feel very uneasy about being in the house on my own, especially overnight.

Very angry

Somewhat afraid, particularly as I am an older lady on her own.

Scared and vulnerable.

Insecure, particularly when leaving the house unattended.

Fearful. Worried about the impact on the community and ""who's next""."

Vulnerable!

## **Q2c: What impact is it having on your life?**

We stay in more - frightened of leaving our property. If we need to nip to the shop - one goes and one stays at home (we don't go together anymore). One now sleeps in a room at the front of the house, the other at the back - so we can hear and see from all angles. We don't sleep well.

Worrying. It's affecting my health.

Having to live differently with the threat of dangerous people around, not knowing when they will attack my home or me. If I hear a growl from my dog I pick up my phone put 999 in it, turn TV off and check my CCTV, as I think they be targeting me next.

Feel more isolated, behind closed gates and locked doors , such a different village to years gone by

Not sleeping very well always listening to any little noise.

The ongoing crime wave in Kirk Smeaton is having a significant impact on my family. We have invested heavily in home security. Built a panic room in our property. We have constant disturbed sleep and worries about leaving our property. My daughter will not walk alone in the area or visit friends without an adult being close by. My wife is receiving treatment for anxiety related issues due to the criminal activity in the area. We worry constantly about when the next occurrence will be and what will happen. We are considering moving away from the area due to the level and severity of crime. Why should we be forced to move away from our home ?

Uneasy at night times. Considering uplifting family and moving to new area.

High levels of anxiety. Unable to relax without thinking about how safe we are.

Very draining with the worry

Sleepless nights waking up at the slightest sound.

Not sleeping very well always listening to any little noise.

Haven't booked a holiday because I'm frightened of leaving the house

It is having a massive impact. It is a worry every time we leave the house unattended even though we have cctv and a house alarm. It is also worrying when inside the house. We now leave window blinds open at night to be able to monitor any movements on the street. I have put measures in place to be able to defend myself if I am targeted. I have never in my life felt the need to do this and is a totally unacceptable way to live. A persons house is his castle and once inside everyone should feel safe. I cannot understand why this gang has not been apprehended given the amount of technology available to the police e.g, anpr. Surely these vehicles can be tracked once reported. More effort is needed.

It is making me nervous to leave the house or to leave my child in the house alone. I am becoming suspicious of strangers in the village. It is making me consider moving elsewhere. Potentially abroad.

Not getting a proper goodnight sleep. Flinching at the slightest noise

You feel as if you daren't fully close your blinds because you need to see any car lights approaching. It's making me feel quite miserable that people think they can try and enter your property and take what you have worked for. I keep praying they will pick on the wrong house and pay the price.

Sleepless nights, jumping at every sound, paranoid, expense on additional security.

We are wanting to move as I am nervous on a night and wake up if I hear the slightest noise and look out of the window and check on my daughter whose bedroom is down stairs. We are leaving lights on all over the house and becoming paranoid if we see a strange car anywhere. We saved a long time and work really hard to live in what we thought was a lovely safe place to live. Now we are living in fear.

There's been talk around the village of a need for ANPR cameras, private security and other more extreme measures.

We are unable to relax and sleep well. It is dominating the village chat and conversation. We are all just waiting for the next attack. Someone is going to get badly hurt or killed.

I leave more lights on when I'm out, am more nervous about being away from home and am particularly concerned about what I would do on returning home if I found miscreants at or in my property.

I am also concerned about others in the same position as myself - I have 4 friends in the villages who also live alone, and there are 2 other females on my street who also live alone. None of us are young.

Increased use of finances to improve safety in our home and surrounds , feeling more isolated behind kicked gates and doors

Feeling unsafe

When away from my property, I am wondering if and what maybe happening. We always lock our gate and are in the process of getting a dog

My wife is anxious.

Don't like going out in the dark, suspicious of every person I don't recognise. Need to constantly move cars so they are not on the road. Worried that every person I don't recognise is a criminal looking for cars or possessions.

I'm overly protective of my home/car. I don't go out much anymore. I don't sleep well.

Extra vigilance, a bit more anxiety and fear. Who will be next is how it feels.

Wanting to move to a different area

Recently retired from a job of great responsibility, we have elevated stress levels, poor sleep patterns & feel an inability to enjoy the luxuries that we have worked hard for all our lives.

I must say I'm a bit jumpy myself. I have many alarms around my property and have quite a few disturbances from small animals, deer and suchlike setting them off.

I worry constantly about being broken into again and the possibility of violence.

We take much more notice of strangers in the village and take more precautions. We don't want the dog around the village at night any more and have installed cctv

I've had to purchase a monitored alarm system to feel safe locked in my own home. I now don't know if I will feel safe leaving the back door open when we play in the garden in the summer.

Don't sleep well at home. Constant worrying about possibility of break in.

I am on edge , when I am around the village I am always alert for suspicious cars or people

Feel restricted in our own village

Expense of putting in new security measures such as doors, windows, CCTV cameras and doorbells. There's a psychological effect with this of feeling constantly observed/observing and monitoring.

Being reminded of the criminal element multiple times daily due to home surveillance and the messages on the village chat group. This escalates the feelings of fear, watchfulness and insecurity.

It makes me feel anxious and helpless. I've got a spinal cord injury and have to use a wheelchair. If our house was burgled I would be particularly vulnerable.

Very suspicious of anyone I don't recognise. We paid for cctv installing. Extra security. We're suspicious of every little noise. Scared to leave house empty of people. Not enjoying this village life at all.

It has a great impact on my life worrying every time I go out or even go to bed that I will be the next victim

It's a real concern. We've always had a burglar alarm but in recent years we've upgraded our locks and installed CCTV cameras around the house. These are measures we've never had to consider before, even when we lived in big cities.

We recognise the need for personal responsibility when it comes to protecting your home and property but we're reaching the point where you think what more can we do and why aren't the police similarly stepping up their efforts to protect us? Hopefully they now are."

This impacts on my life as my partner works away and I am alone in the house and I have difficulty sleeping as I am anxious and worried

Constantly checking on security . Never leave door unlocked during the day. Constantly closing garage door .

We lock ourselves in ,even in the day,if we have to go out for example,shopping ,or appointments ,we are constantly wondering if we are going to be targeted next

Focus is not as it should be on life, more on preventing unwarranted opportunities for others.

Doors constantly kept locked. Worry.

I get worried about leaving the house to go on holiday etc. We have we are in our 70s and shouldn't have to be frightened and stressed about being a victim.

I don't feel safe leaving a window or door open , even in hot weather. Never go anywhere without my phone and jump an any unusual sound.

Anxiety at some point most days

Always feel uneasy and don't like being in the house on my own.

Not sleeping very well

We have been looking at what can we do to improve our security. In particular we have had lights fitted at the front of the house in the hope that that might make us less likely to be a victim.

Feel unsafe and on edge

"Extremely worried. We are both in our 60s and my husband has had some serious health issues since we moved here. I worry we would not be able to protect ourselves if we suffered one of the types of crimes which are happening regularly here.

We should be able to feel safe in our home and in our community.

Makes us more security conscious, making sure doors are locked at all times. On the watch for suspicious activity all the time.

Taking more care with the alarm and locking my gate. definitely more aware of strangers and odd behavior. Taking a weapon to bed!!! Whether I would use it or not is debatable. Unable to sleep as well.

We've had to invest in alarms, locks and CCTV and are still concerned when we go away. Reports are coming in constantly from the local WhatsApp group- another burglary happy at lunchtime today. We are all on edge and feelings are running high. As a data analyst I would really like to see the crime stats over a 5 mile radius encompassing N, S and W Yorks as I think this would show a much different picture

Worry about leaving home unattended. Do not like to be at home alone.

You don't feel safe anymore . We lock the door now even if we are going in the garden or across to the utility room. You feel reluctant to go away and leave your house for any amount of time. It makes you quite paranoid about making sure you have left outside and inside lights on incase you get back after dark.

Don't like leaving my property unattended

Reassurance and gratitude for the concern shown to me by neighbours and friends has made me feel as safe as I can be in this ever changing world.

My family are all worried, the children aren't aware of the extent or nature of the burglaries but the crime spate is common talk at school and their feeling of safety in their homes has clearly been negatively affected.

Increased stress

Feeling very frightened and anxious when at home or leaving our property unattended.

Can't rest ,making us uneasy

We have made investments in the patio locks as well as cameras fitted around my home

It makes me feel diassapointed, uneasy worried and uncomfortably suspicious of well meaning people on our streets. This is something I had not experienced before the recent rise in crime

Very aware of anything that is out of the ordinary and being suspicious of anyone you don't know

Can't relax either at home or away.

Completely paranoid about locking doors ensuring cameras are on and security lighting is working

Feel more insecure. Had electric and lockable gates fitted at front otherwise would not ever consider buying a new car as vehicles seem to be the main target.

Reticence to stay on my own.

Always alert to non residents, especially in vans crawling around the village

Raised anxiety and stress levels. Anxious about staying overnight in the house on my own.

I'm more aware of looking at vehicles and strangers.

Always on alert for camera activated or noise on a night

we are constantly looking at cctv Cameras, checking every car we see in the village, afraid to go on holidays, worried about older neighbours, partner not sleeping, dog petrified at every noise

It has made us stay at him more, go out less and have to spend more on security as we done believe the police can protect us.

I feel afraid to go away and leave the house empty.

Implementing more security measures at home.

We are continually apprehensive,, especially when we leave our house unattended.

My wife and I fear that our property will be next. We are reluctant to have our grand children stay over night. On occasions when I am away on business both my wife and I are terrified. Our sleep has been affected and our stress levels have increased. We should not have to live in fear like this. We have spent money in extra security measures including alarm system, CCTV, window alarms and ring doorbell.

We have had to increase security; it makes us nervous going away or leaving the children in the house.

Although we haven't (yet) experienced theft from our property in LS, we have experienced this several times in Headingley in Leeds including a car and in our property in France. (A whole greenhouse). The impact is always negative and it is well known that this can last for a long time. Theft and any criminal activity affects people in a range of ways. Angry, frightened etc.It should also encourage the implementation of greater security and awareness. There should also be an emphasis on victim support accessible through the Police.



Nervous about going out and making sure everything is locked and secure.

The need to be constantly alert. The cost of security related work.

It's just frustrating, the fact that they think its acceptable to break into peoples houses, garages etc. and basically help themselves.

Makes us more suspicious of vehicles entering the Close.

A no retreat, no surrender approach.

We have just ordered a complete new security system for the house - never needed it before!

We have stepped up our personal security.

Not sleeping and don't want to leave property

I spend more time than ever worrying about my safety and security within my own property. I am also concerned that if there were more than two perpetrators just how quickly I could reload my shotgun.

There's an atmosphere of heightened anxiety leading to innocent people being photographed, reported, confronted. Sense of proportion would help. Also sad to see how easily some use it as an excuse for a rant about "immigrants" - however irrelevant that is to the case being discussed.

More cautious, less trusting

More cautious, less trusting

Can't sleep without lights on. Gates chained. Double checking everything's locked considering moving areas.

It is creating paranoia. Afraid to come home in case we disturb criminals and hard to sleep in case the attack at night. We have had to make a safe room at home.

Felling insecure.

Much more wary about leaving the house and a bit nervous overnight. Suspicious

Creating anxiety levels to increase and more uncomfortable when out and about in the village

It's hard to think about anything else at the moment so stress levels are high at times. It's hard to relax and getting to sleep is difficult so there are days when we're exhausted. We usually enjoy odd weekends away with friends but the fear of what we might come home to puts a damper on things.

More vigilant and worried about possible further incidents

Makes my family feel fearful of people coming onto our property, and not wanting to leave the house empty

Very uncomfortable about leaving my home, especially when going away.

Occasional bad nights sleep through worrying about this."

Very concerned about safety in my home - no longer feel safe.

Considering metal gates.

There is a tension.

We worry that something more serious is going to happen, where someone will be hurt or injured.

No going out and paranoid.

"Although I have not had a break in at this property (yet), I have suffered 3 burglaries at other homes. I have lived in and know the feeling of violation that it leaves you with.

I now sleep with the light on all night, which is not very conducive to a good nights sleep."

We are being as careful as possible, ensuring everything is locked up, lights left on and neighbours informed when we are away.

Always wondering what will happen tomorrow.

I've fitted an alarm, monitored and set when away and at home, watchful of people around my property and glad I have a large and noisy dog. But always vigilant.

It's affecting how I work and spend my time

I worry that when I get home from work that my home may have been broken into.

I am spending more time on securing the house and often check during the night if I hear any noises

Worrier when at home on my own

My anxiety levels are going up and impacting on my mental health. I don't want to leave the house in case we are broken into .

Having to have further security put in my home, worried to leave the house and generally more on edge, especially at night. Having to continually secure the property even when you're in your own garden!

Life is not the same. I dare say most in the village now don't feel safe in our homes. I don't feel particularly confident if we were to encounter a break in that we wouldn't be in serious harms way.

Looking to finish work so Mum not on her own during the day.

If husband away, keeping phone nearby and cricket bat under bed.

I have become very security conscious and, constantly checking cctv and checking at the window for suspicious cars. This is quite the opposite reason why I moved to Smeaton 12 years ago from a high crime area near Leeds.

Anxiety of the move.

Same as above, I worry about my home and car, every time I leave my home I worry about what I will find ( or not find ) when I get back.

We are spending more on security and it does make you very nervous

Feel I have to be very careful about walking around alone

Mentally stressful!

Constant security checks, locking of doors, sleepless nights, thinking of leaving the village.

Just trying to protect ourselves as best we can. We have a small townhouse but have numerous cameras, locks, alarms etc. If I wake up in the night, which is most nights, I always check out the windows. It's the nature of the crimes that's scary, multiple masked men forcing their ways into a home; we're just doing whatever we can to prevent being targeted. Regarding the cat, I have invested in a large pen so he can at least go outside in a safe space.

Nervous about leaving the home.... Had to install cameras etc to safe guard

I'm concerned for the safety of my family, I keep my doors locked and don't go out for long.

Now getting ready to sell our house and move to another area of the country

Cautious of anyone in the village.

I sometimes work away and I worry about Mum and Dad, especially with the burglaries during the day. Mum has started locking the door if she goes upstairs and she is very anxious. I don't like leaving them as I feel they are vulnerable to the cold callers who appear to be either praying on older people or scoping places to be targeted later.

We ensure house alarm is now set at all times

Sometimes I feel uneasy especially when I'm in on my own and worry about my husband and my dogs

we are much more aware of the need to secure our home, not just at night but during the day too  
hyper tension, just waiting for our house to be robbed!

We're always on edge, wondering "what next". Makes us question whether we should live here.

I have lived in the village 60 years. I now worry about closing windows that I used to leave open and I go around and check the doors regularly. I've paid to have my alarm replaced. I've asked people not to tell me when something is going on in the village as it really frightens me. I am worried about noises in the night

It us causing me stress and anxiety. It is a real and scary situation

Nervous now

I am more aware of the necessity for safety measures throughout the home. Therefore, I have had several alarms installed. Doors are always locked and gates kept locked.

Making sure all doors are locked!

Worried about the impact on older people, especially those who live alone.

Fearful of being on one's own in the house.

Worried about what we will return to if we go away.

More security conscious.

## Names of respondents: (optional)

Tricia Storey	Hodgson	Melanie Campbell
Bernard Storey	Carol and Glyn Howard.	Matthew Hartley
Deanna Hayton	Joan Jewsbury	Amanda and Daniel
Leah Barnett	John Leydon	Lighton
David Auchterlonie	Marjory Young	Laura Thorpe
Gemma Maiden	Mick Lambert	Carl Vitty
Karen Snelling	Angela Gibbons	Jan Sycamore
Chris & Suzanne W	John Snelling	Eleanor Holt
Denise Kriens	Ian Elwess	John Sycamore
Jo Brown	James Stephenson	Kerry Grafton
Tom	Steve Joyce & Jean Varley	John Goodchild
Cate Keller	Elaine Lenc	Mrs Karen Hirst
Kathryn Lewis	Keith Pepper	Mrs & Mrs B Williams
M n m	mark barnes	R.Lankester
Maz	David Brown	Patricia Morritt
Ben Muse	Elaine Illidge	Steph Rogers
Craig mellors	Roger Hulley	Debbie Briggs
Susan Jane Ayar	Lee & Carol Readman	Ann & Adam Harris
Scott	Livock	Pat Helm
Sarah	Brian and Gi Cheesman	
Adrian Hirst	Mrs A P Poskitt	
Louise Middleton	Dave & Sue Williamson	
Maureen Stewart	D Withington	
Colin Atkinson	Waite	
Jayne	Evelyn & Tom McDonnell	
Pamela Hulley	Anne Webb	
Neil M. Smith	Rodney howdle	
Valerie Moody	Jane Cooper	
Margaret Donlon	Ben Hall	
Cathy Paget	Helen Cockerham	
Rebecca Drew	Iain Cockerham	
Tim, Helen and Freya Jones	Kay lowe	
Matt Pickard	M Fairbairn	
Julie & Adrian Smith	Judi Leavor	
Miss Jill Slater	Mr Nicholls	
Lynn Dodgson	John Mynett	
Deanna Hayton	Margaret Higginbottom	
Lisa West	Norman & Dianne Gundill	
David Petrie	Chris Smith	
Tracy Lankester	Alistair Brown	
Roz Brown	Joanne Howdle	
Wendy HOBSON	Mrs Josephine Carr	
Kate	Sarah Sutcliffe	
Helen Atkinson	Jackie Holdsworth	
Michele Holmes	Pamela Graham	
	Iain Carpenter	

**Postcodes of respondents (required)**

WF8 3LG	WF8 3JZ	WF8 WF8 3JY
WF8 3LA	WF8 3LX	WF8 3LZ
WF8 3JT	WF8 3LX	WF8 3JS
Wf8	wF8 3LD	WF8 3JY
Wf83lf	WF83LG	WF8 3LE
WF8 3JT	WF8 3LE	WF8 3JS
WF8 3LE	WF8 3LS	WF8 3LE
WF8 3LG	WF8 3JZ	WF8 3LF
WF8 3LH	Wf83lg	Wf83lf
WF8 3LG	WF8 3JS	WF8 3LF
WF8 3LH	WF8 3LG	WF83LF
WF8 3JT	WF8 3JT	WF8 3LF
WF8 3LE	WF8 3LG	WF8 3LW
WF8 3LZ	Wf8 3js	WF8 3JS
WF8 3JZ	Wf8 3lf	WF8 3LF
Wf8 3df	WF8 3LX	Wf8 3 sp
WF83JT	WF8 3LE	WF8 3LG
WF8 3JT	WF8 3JS	WF8 3LZ
WF8 3LA	WF8 3JS	WF8 3LD
WF8 3LF	WF8 3LG	WF83JZ
WF8 3LE	WF8 3LD	WF83LF
WF8 3LZ	WF8 3LD	WF8 3LG
WF8 3LZ	WF8 3LE	Wf8 3LA
WF8 3LA	Wf83ld	wf8 3sp
Wf83le	wf8 3ln	Wf83sp
WF83SP	WF83LF	WF8 3LF
Wf8 3ls	WF8 3LE	Wf83lw
WF8 3LA	Wf8 3jz	WF8 3SP
WF8 3JS	WF8 3LF	WF8 3LA
Wf83ld	WF83LE	WF8 3LF
WF8 3LE	WF8 3LD	WF8 3LE
WF8 3LG	WF8 3LF	WF8 3JS
WF83LD	WF8 3JU	WF8 3LF
WF8 3LF	WF8 3LD	wf83js
Wf8 3lx	WF8 3LP	WF8 3LH
WF8 3LD	WF8 3LZ	WF83LG
Wf8 3lg	WF8 3LE	
WF8 3LE	WF8 3LG	
WF8 3LE	WF8 3LX	
Wf83lf	Wf8 3lf	
WF8 3LZ	WF83LE	
WF83LZ	WF8 3LX	
WF8 3LB	WF83LG	
WF8 3LG	WF83LG	
WF8 3LX	WF8 3JS	
WF8 3JZ	WF8 3SN	
WF8 3LE	WF83LG	
WF8 3JY	Wf8 3le	
WF83SP	WF8 3JZ	
WF83JS	WF8 3LE	
WF8 3LF	Wf8 3jz	
	WF83LG	
	WF8 3LN	