

## VAWG Consultation results

80 responses received.

1. I am ...

93% female  
5% male  
1% Prefer not to say

2. What year were you born?

Varies from 1945 to 2007

3. Where are you from?

I live in the borough – 46%  
I work in the borough – 11%  
I socialise in the borough – 32%  
I am a local business owner – 1%  
I represent a community or voluntary group – 5%  
I am a student – 1%  
Other – 1%  
I manage a local business – 0%  
I am a town or parish councillor – 0%  
I am a borough councillor – 0%

4. Do you typically feel safe or unsafe in the following spaces

My local community – Safe, 55%: Unsafe, 42.5%: Does not apply, 2.5%

At home – Safe, 90%: Unsafe, 6.3%: Does not apply, 3.8%

At work – Safe, 50%: Unsafe, 2.5%: Does not apply, 47.5%

When socialising – Safe, 51.3%: Unsafe, 43.8%: Does not apply, 5%

5. Are there any particular spaces where you feel unsafe?

Yes – 83%  
No – 16%

6. Please indicate which spaces make you feel unsafe

My local community – 31%  
My home – 4%  
Where I work – 1%  
Where I socialise – 17%  
My commute/when I'm travelling – 33%

Where I'm educated – 0%  
Other – 10%

7. Answer this question only if you chose 'my local community' for question 6.  
What is it about your local community that makes you feel unsafe.

Key themes:

Lack of lighting  
Lack of police presence/police patrols  
Lack of CCTV  
Groups of people/groups of youths  
Lack of safe spaces/women only spaces

Comments:

*"Lots of recent teenagers coming and causing trouble in the area makes me more anxious to go out for a walk"*

*"Lack of lighting, lack of cameras, lack of community officers, lack of sexual health services that sexual assault victims can get to"*

*"lack of police presence in parks, country lines from london / crowborough esp the ones who organise illegal raves where there is no support if anything happens and so many of the girls are vulnerable and is know for its drugs tuckshop @mashdownforest"*

*"I would never walk around at night alone, even in the roads surrounding my house. Alley ways freak me out even though they are generally well lit but there is not adequate street lights on for me to feel safe alone. I also find getting into taxi's alone very scary."*

*"Mixed sex changing rooms at local leisure centres and swimming pools. Mixed sex toilets at some theatres and restaurants".*

*"Everyday I learn about women/girls that have been assaulted or sadly on occasion murdered by men in Kent. Therefore I feel unsafe in my community because of this."*

*"Unlit alley ways, no CCTV cameras in unlit areas (particularly rural East and West Malling), no community patrol"*

*"Parks big expanses of ground"*

*"There is a local park area which seems to attract large gangs of male and female teenagers who I've seen shouting and yelling abuse at other people"*

*"Street lightning, lack of police control, gangs"*

*"I live in flats and need to take my dog for the toilet late at night on grass areas around the Slade area and Tonbridge Castle. There is very limited lighting around the grass by the slade school, Tonbridge Castle car park, and Tonbridge Castle walkways towards the swimming pool. It is very dark and I have felt very uncomfortable on a number of occasions but don't have a choice but to use these areas as they are the only grassy patches. I carry a rape alarm every evening. The only other grass patch is by St Peter & St Paul's Church but this is even worse, the path towards the churchyard is pitch black and I have felt uncomfortable"*

*"Don't like walking alone at night, feel unsafe".*

*"People using off road motorcycles at night, often near Pilgrims Way. The cyclists race up the road where I live and I can hear them all night riding around the streets and Pilgrims way. I don't feel safe going out, or confronting them".*

*“weird men”*

*“Anti-social behaviour, groups of youths, dark areas, quiet areas, men”*

*“Not enough street lighting on Dry Hill Rd”*

*“No lighting in passageway between Royal Oak Shipbourne Road and Dernier Road”.*

*“It’s hard to put your finger on specifics. The environment doesn’t feel safe when there’s dark areas, boisterous groups, poor lighting etc. It all leads to a sense that an areas not safe”.*

*“The local neighbourhood is very mixed with social and houses that have been bought by the tenants. The alleyways could be dangerous as they are used by e scooters etc. Even the Just Eat delivery chaps on scooters ride them in the middle of the estate that just has footpaths!”*

*“The increased presence of overly aggressive police officers who are regularly seen harassing people of colour without cause. I have personally been sexually assaulted by a police officer in Tunbridge Wells, which I could not report as the police in both Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge & Malling previously failed to adequately support me or investigate when I was the victim of other violent crimes. They do not keep us safe”.*

*“Too dark, not enough lighting. Never seen police around apart of the high street SOMETIMES”.*

*“Unlit areas on the housing development street between the Waitrose and the Angel centre”*

*“The lack of street lighting and lack of other pedestrians/cars around. At some times in the day the big groups of young adults/children that hand around and yell abuse or follow you”.*

*“Lack of women only spaces and events (I mean anyone who identifies as a women, including trans women, we need to be inclusive)”*

*“Woodland walk. Footpath between Streamside and Darwin drive. Footpath between Denbeigh drive and white cottage road. Poor lighting”.*

*“Local community: being Tonbridge (or Sevenoaks) town centres. Tonbridge suburbs; larger villages. Poor/unrepaired lighting, particularly on routes to and from public transport (stations), car parks, or on-street car parking.*

*Poorly lit /maintained alley-ways/short cuts*

*Toilets that are not single-sex (even if they are working, & well-lit, with lockable doors). There is always only one entrance/exit.*

*Groups of youths/men hanging outside restaurants, pubs etc - often blocking pavements. Absolutely no visibility of police or PCSOs. I visited Saffron Walden Oct 2022 and was simply astonished to see a policeman walking the beat during the evening. I don’t think I have seen that in West kent in many years”.*

*“Not enough police presence”*

*“Extremely dark streets and alleyways. Large groups of young people”.*

*“Lack of street lighting on public footpaths”*

*“Specific areas and pathways are poorly lit. Many youths on high street outside bars etc being abusive”*

*“i dont feel safe walking to hildenborough train station mill lane and watts cross and noble tree road. lone middle aged men in cars and vans have been trying to 'offer me lifts' there is no lighting on much of watts cross road and all of mill lane, no cameras, i have had men throwing wine bottles at me while i am walking at night from the train station cars have been driving very close to to kerb in mill lane hildenborough no room for pedestrains and motorists have*

*been doing road rage. also the zebra crossing i have had a number of road rage situations as motorists don't want to stop for pedestrians. i dont find graveyards safe, it encourages predators, graveyards need cctv, all of kent's footpaths, i never go alone on Kent's footpaths, I feel unsafe in parks in tonbridge and Hildenborough"*

*"Clear anti social behaviour, criminal activity and drug taking in plain sight"*

*"The recent reports of crime and stabbing incidents".*

*"Everywhere is crowded"*

*"Walking down the high street from the station in the evenings and when its dark outside".*

*"Walking on street to get home where street lighting has been turned off; no other way home. It's uphill so can't run (I have MS). very dark, sometimes cannot even see pavement. Too many dark and places for "others" to lurk unnoticed; street trees/bushes not maintained meaning having to walk very close to unknown parked cars or in the road to get passed".*

*"THERE ARE ALWAYS THE SAME GROUPS OF PEOPLE IN THE PARK WHO MAKE ME FEEL UNSAFE WHEN I'M WALKING MY DOG. THEY ARE GROUPS OF ADULTS WHO ARE DRINKING/DRUNK USUALLY ON THE BENCHES AT RIVER LAWN & GROUPS OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HANG AROUND NEAR THE SKATEBOARD AREA WHO SHOUT AT ME"*

*"Dark footpaths which provide a shortcut in North Tonbridge, side streets off the Racecourse Park, where young people gather in small groups"*

8. Answer this question only if you chose 'your home' for question 6. What is it about your home that makes you feel unsafe?

All Comments:

*"lots of burglaries in the papers, cold callers and threatening aggressive bully of a neighbour who i feel targets me when they know my husband is out. one of my children is an active addict so never feel save as worry our home will be targeted. have to say police have been amazing when they have had to attend any MH crisis"*

*"People using off road motorcycles at night, often near Pilgrims Way. The cyclists race up the road where I live and I can hear them all night riding around the streets and Pilgrims way. I don't feel safe going out, or confronting them".*

*"There has been a man hanging around the houses in the street looking suspicious. It has been reported to police".*

*"harassment from neighbours and their friends"*

*"Possible damage to property. We have installed cameras and a ring door bell to help".*

*"controlling and financial abuse , toxic neighbours"*

9. Answer this question only if you chose 'where I work' for question 6. What is it about your place of work that makes you feel unsafe?

All comments:

*"As mentioned above, I work for a KCC school which is primarily a female majority of staff but I would love for a sexual harassment policy to be introduced"*

*which covers things like "male banter" because that definitely goes on in the staffroom at my work and I am not comfortable with it but don't feel I can speak up about it at the moment".*

*"Side street with not enough lighting, especially at back where there is open access to a car park".*

*"in the past i have had abusive managers and men trying to harrass me for fun as older woman"*

*"Move away from single-sex toilets"*

10. Answer this question only if you chose 'where I socialise' for question 6. What is it about where you socialise that makes you feel unsafe?

Key themes:

Lack of lighting

Lack of CCTV

Lack of public transport

Drunk men/groups of men/men's behaviour

Comments:

*"Lack of lighting, lack of cameras, lack of community officers, lack of sexual health services that sexual assault victims can get to"*

*"Tonbridge High Street can be unsafe as the evenings are darker earlier. This applies to the area around and in Taco Bell. The river can also be unsafe after dark".*

*"don't go out as the town but it's safe enough if you don't go to parks or walks on your own".*

*"There's often men in pubs who follow me and my friends, make us uncomfortable, touch us inappropriately etc and get angry when we challenge their behaviour"*

*"The town Late at night and local area late at night"*

*"Pickpockets, taxi drivers, walking home at night"*

*"Low lighting, drunk males. Lack of women only transport".*

*"People/ crowds"*

*"men trying to talk to you and following you around"*

*"As a women being out after dark always keeps you on edge"*

*"a group of women led by a manipulative women that I believe is racist and insecure and has used these women to discriminate and isolate me from groups and I have been subjected to aggressive and abusive behaviours, which have lead me to suffer mentally"*

*"Walking to and from the local community centre if I am on my own. They hold lots of events down there and it is always nice to meet up with friendly faces and have a chat".*

*"Big groups of people behaving badly and being intimidating towards others"*

*"Real lack of public transport, very few buses and trains and getting to and from the station involves walking about a mile. There's no bike racks at East Malling station and the ones at West Malling repeatedly have bikes stolen. If I could cycle to and from the station, I'd feel much safer. Also a lack of cycle paths along commuting areas. If I am out socialising, I have to leave earlier than I want to guarantee public transport."*

*"No safe spaces available"*

*"i don't go to pubs as i feel unsafe with lots of drunk men around me"*  
*"Clear anti social behaviour, criminal activity and drug taking in plain sight"*  
*"Move away from single-sex toilets"*  
*"Large groups of people, no quiet places"*  
*"It is generally unsafe for women and girls when out at night and drinking. It is never a safe option for women to be out alone during the night"*  
*"The walk to/from down streets where lights have been deactivated/turned off. All other comment as above previously answered".*  
***"THE DRINKING ADULTS IN THE PARK AT RIVER LAWN HAVE TAKEN MY DOG FROM ME & FORCED ME TO HAVE MY PHOTO TAKEN WITH THEM TO GET MY DOG BACK. THAY HAVE ALSO SHOUTED AT ME BECAUSE MY DOG ALWAYS WANTS TO PLAY WITH PEOPLE ON SCOOTERS & BARKS AT THEM. THEY VERBALLY ABUSE ME BECAUSE THEY SAY THAT THE PEOPLE ON THE SCOOTERS DONT KNOW THAT MY DOG WANTS TO PLAY & THEY THINK THAT HE'S BARKING BECAUSE HE'S AGGRESSIVE. I'VE EXPLAINED THAT I KNOW MY DOG & HE JUST WANTS TO PLAY BUT BECAUSE I CONFRONTED THEM, THEY DON'T LIKE ME. THE KIDS HANGING AROUND THE SKATE PARK ARE INTIMIDATING. THERE IS A PARTICULAR GROUP WHO HANG AROUND SMOKING DOPE & HARRASING PEOPLE. I NOTICED THAT THE STRUCTURE BY THE SKATE PARK HAD BEEN RE-PAINTED BUT THE KIDS WERE SPRAYING GRAFFITI ALL OVER IT, THEY SAW ME LOOKING AT THEM & THREATENED ME. THEY SAID THAT IF I TOLD ANYONE, THEY WOULD STAB ME. I AM 53 YEARS OLD & WAS SHOCKED THAT YOUTHS WOULD THREATEN ME LIKE THIS. I TOLD MY FRIENDS & THEY SAID THAT I SHOULD REPORT THE ADULTS & YOUTHS BECAUSE WHAT THEY ARE DOING/SAYING IS A HATE CRIME. I SAID THERE'S NO POINT BECAUSE THEY'VE BEEN THERE FOR YEARS & BECAUSE I CAN'T BE THE FIRST PERSON THAT'S EXPERIENCED THIS, THE COUNCIL/POLICE OBVIOUSLY AREN'T INTERESTED IN DOING ANYTHING ABOUT IT"***

11. Answer this question only if you chose 'my commute/when I am travelling' for question 6. What is it about your commute/when you are traveling that makes you feel unsafe?

Key themes:

Lack of lighting/too dark

Lack of CCTV

Other people around/groups of people

Comments:

*"The walk to snodland train station can be very daunting, the lighting is particularly bad and lots of trouble goes on with teenagers"*

*"I do not feel safe when arriving alone at New Hythe station in the dark. Have previously been followed. Limited lightening, frequently smashed glass everywhere"*,

*"Walk down long, unlit road from Hildenborough train station, with few other pedestrians around at 7pm"*

*"Lack of cameras lack of security"*

*“if traveling alone or with my children, and there is a group acting antisocially or are just loud and I am unsure of what their behaviour may escalate too. Or men that approach us for no apparent reason. More about my perception of what if etc”*

*“travelling back from london no matter what time there is usually drunks shouting and swearing. road rage is another huge problem in the town threatening behaviour from other drivers and their passengers. security great in Tonbridge”*

*“Mobility issues”*

*“Walking at night feels unsafe”*

*“I feel unsafe walking from Hildenborough village to Hildenborough train station before sunrise and after sunset”.*

*“The pavements are poorly lit particularly on Noble tree Road and Ringshill which are also flanked by woods/bushes”.*

*“Ringshill also has narrow pavements or in some areas no pavement, this, plus a 60mph speed limit makes walking on Ringshill feel very unsafe”.*

*“Unlit alley ways, no CCTV cameras in unlit areas (particularly rural East and West Malling), no community patrol”*

*“Commuting to/from Aylesford train station can feel unsafe in the winter months. There is no parking at the station and walking to and from Bailey Bridge car park can feel really unsafe, particularly when there are very few other people using this route. There is no bus route available from Aylesford either to Aylesford train station, or indeed to any other station (eg Maidstone West or East) as the bus services have been stopped”.*

*“on the train there’s loads of wierd people or rude people”*

*“The canal path from cannon Bridge to the town lock is not lit after dark for a large part. Also the path is slippery with wet leaves and close to the river which often is running high and fast”.*

*“I have to use my torch on my phone to walk home along this stretch from work. Others I notice choose to walk in the pitch black and I don’t see them coming towards me”.*

*“It can take me by surprise and I feel unsafe as a result”.*

12. Answer this question only if you chose ‘where I am educated’ for question 6. What is it about your place of education that makes you feel unsafe?

One Comment received:

*“all the girls schools bullying is off the scale, it’s not classed as gangs but it happens in the grammars everyday - video and shame other students, reverse racism, spread untrue rumours, post videos without permission. also children forced to have radical therapy if they are gay. arranged marriages - even now. police involvement in online bullying right away would reduce it. lack of funding or lack of comms to address the overwhelming issues and teach”.*

13. Answer this question only if you chose ‘other’ for question 6. What is it about the other place that makes you feel unsafe?

*“Dimly lit area with men passing through with hoods up, littering and drinking taking place by the lake”.*

*"Lack of lighting, lack of cameras, lack of community officers, lack of sexual health services that sexual assault victims can get to"*

*"Groups of teenagers, sometimes antisocial mums, who think it's acceptable to shout and swear at their very young children".*

*"underage house parties, so many issues with girls being sexually assaulted as they are drunk or have taken drugs. maybe parents could register a party not so they have police presence but as a deterrent for this kind of behaviour open spaces"*

*"There are too many hiding places along the river. For example, I don't use the pathway next to the little bridge which leads from the High Street to Sainsbury's car park"*

*"If I walk in the park after sunset or before sunrise, there is very little light".*

*"Just don't know who could be following me whilst walking".*

*"I walk early and late sometimes with my dog and there are a few odd people around"*

*"The fact that there is graffiti on fences down dark paths makes me believe there are groups lurking in the areas down for example the footpath which runs from The Ridgeway to Dernier Road".*

14. What do you think the Council, Police and Partners could do to address Violence Against Women and Girls and feelings of safety in public places?

#### Key themes

Have more Safe spaces/safe routes or women only spaces

More Police patrols/police presence and/or trusted staff

More lighting – along footpaths, at railway stations, in car parks

Run self-defence classes/provide personal safety items

More education for boys/men

Promote Ask for Angela and similar schemes

Increased CCTV

#### Comments:

*"Introduce a walking map of classed safe routes of getting around with lighting and cctv"*

*"Have some police patrolling the area during the darker months of the year in the evening".*

*"More lights, increased security measures/cctv at new hythe station. It's isolated and unsavoury area at nighttime. Advertise the British transport police railway guardian app and number on the platforms".*

*"Consider rail pastors in the area as a safe presence".*

*"Better street lighting during commuting hours and encourage walking so that there are more people about, or provide a bus service for commuters"*

*"Adress lighting issues, address security concerns and use of cameras, address lack of community officers, address lack of sexual health services that sexual assault victims can get to"*

*"More community policing".*

*"Harsher sentencing for carrying knives, Dropping litter, harassment. More cctv and more visible police presence. Youth clubs, options for older teens to do."*

*"a lot of the violence and threats come from other girls too which might be surprising, lots of girls have been attacked and don't speak out as the problem"*



escalates. as a parent if you call to say you know your vulnerable child is meeting a dealer that they help. free alarms campaign - 'we want you to be heard' incentives to complete this questionnaire so you gather accurate data. send out to schools colleges"

"Some of the car parks have not got adequate lighting - the one on Priory Road for example. I don't think there is enough street lighting in general and I think the council could offer self-defence classes for women/girls. I would also like to see mandatory sexual harassment policies introduced in every work place, even those run by small businesses/not council run. I used to work in the motor trade (a very male dominated industry) and sensuality harassment was rife!"

"Spaces feel safe generally around TMBC, I moved to this area because I would feel safer than my previous town. However, the plans to introduce parking fees will make town centres quieter and will impact on these feelings of safety, affecting women and other vulnerable groups adversely as they did in my previous area. Desolate town centres are appealing to predators".

"Promoting things regular people can do to help if they witness any sort of violence, misogyny or - more likely - discrete unpleasant behaviours they feel uneasy about would be beneficial".

"In terms of travelling safely, I prefer cycling to getting a bus or taxi, so safer cycle routes to Hadlow would help, but this is probably too indirectly linked to VAWG, but like the parking aspect above, recognises the wider policy & decision making across TMBC/KCC that needs to consider how women will be impacted".

"Highlighting safe stop offs for anyone who feels like they are being followed could be good, like Ask for Angela type arrangements in businesses open after 5pm".

"Pub staff should be aware of men who approach women they didn't arrive with, keep an eye on repeat offenders, share information with other pubs and be more supportive when women loudly ask the man next to them to stop touching them"

"More local cctv, more officer presence"

"Be seen more."

"Wardens"

"More reliable lighting and officers patrolling the streets"

"Require singles sex toilets and changing rooms to be provided at all sports facilities, theatres and restaurants".

"Improve lighting and CCTV as well as number of patrols (foot and car) when it is dark".

"More police on the streets"

"Ensure same sex spaces are provided and strictly enforced. More cameras and lights in car parks"

"More physical presence of police officers or an equivalent authority"

"Publicise safe spaces for women in public, shops, venues, targeted open spaces"

"Teach boys/men not to assault, rape and murder women".

"Cameras in taxis, CCTV in public places, table bag hooks in restaurants and bars"

"Additional street lighting, CCTV in rural areas (will also aid in catching fly tipping), increase police or community warden presence. Create safe hubs/locations in rural areas where people can run to if being followed that

*provides a phone or access to an emergency line. Regular community safety events for young people especially those who walk to and from school/work or use train or bus stations, provide security advice, free self-defense classes (short and quick i.e. how to defend from being grabbed), panic alarms, torches, any other safety equipment. Stalking advice. Re-ignite community safety groups such as neighborhood watch but with more emphasis”.*

*“If there are reports of this, attendance by the police to catch them and give a warning about unsuitable behaviour”*

*“Better street lighting”.*

*“Woman only train carriages and mini bus services. Raise awareness and encourage use of women only taxis. Visible police patrolling at late/last train times with male and female officers. Free or low cost self defence training local locations”. Ebikes at the station so women don’t have to walk home”*

*“More police patrol”*

*“Be visible around the station and on platforms where you have drunk and loud men late in the evening”.*

*“More lighting is needed on pathways across the area. Women have no choice but to use these unlit paths at night especially during winter and why shouldn’t we”.*

*“Educate men”,*

*“More street patrols”.*

*“The Police could make online reporting much easier. At the moment the online reporting tries to categorise the issue right from the start and then asks far too detailed questions. For example when trying to report nuisance motorcyclists the online systems demands to know where they are - and although I can hear them I am not going to put myself at risk by going out to look for them. Also, the system asks me who I am and where I live, which makes me feel like the culprit rather than the victim”.*

*“i don’t think they can do much about it whatever’s put in place it will still happen”*

*“Install good lighting and clean the path of leaves each year”.*

*“Making women feel safe is the job of the community, we too often put the responsibility onto women themselves. The police hasn’t at the moment got the best reputation, and such little funding is available to make stations, streets and towns safe (good lighting, police presence etc.) that I am quite at a loss. Be present. Be visible. Be caring. Educate.”*

*“More police presence. Better lighting. More CCTV.”*

*“Improve street lighting”.*

*“Better lighting. Looking at landscaping to avoid trees and bushes too close to the walking route”.*

*“More street patrols in Tonbridge town centre. More street lighting Dry Hill Rd, Tonbridge”*

*“More education to men/boys of how their actions may appear threatening”*

*“Have police officers on the street like they used to be.”*

*“More Police presence and no unlit passageways”.*

*“Better street lighting. Better education in schools. Ensure bus shelters, stations etc are well lit and aren’t isolated. Consult more broadly. Do the research”*

*“Engage with local women and gather information in confidence. Women also need to feel safe when approaching council employees. There is nothing worse than meeting judgemental, patronizing people, lacking in empathy”*

*"Provide safer and secure lighting. Also to have the local presence of a police offer or similar to make us feel safer - as I do not drive any more, I will not leave my home when it gets dark unless I am with my husband."*

*"Police funds redirected to groups that support mental health support for both victims and perpetrators, more education about violence against women - especially in boys schools but also at community centres and pensioners groups, so they know the impact of their behaviour at all ages"*

*"Issue panic alarms with flashing lights, self-defence workshops that provide advice on how to keep yourself safe or classes."*

*"Increase their presence on the streets. Improve lighting especially in alleys".*

*"Police could give talks in schools to teenage boys about what they can do to make girls and women feel safer. Don't blame the girls and women for being independent."*

*"More lamp posts and cctv in more areas than just high streets and shops mainly".*

*"Improve education. Improve lighting and services for women ie taxis"*

*"Improve lighting near the small bridge between Angel centre and waitrose and other dark spots in the town"*

*"Better street lighting (especially in remote places/villages), more police presence"*

*"Aside from making cycling easier for us, the issue isn't how to make things safer for women, it's how to stop (some) men being dangerous. Educating men - what is and isn't acceptable, how to call out all forms of abusive behaviours including emotional and verbal domestic abuse. Education in schools. It's not just about making things safer for women, it's about stopping the danger in the first place".*

*"More police presence. Cut down on all the drug dealing going on using scooters and bicycles and people dealing from their houses."*

*"Improve lighting this will create less opportunities for attacks"*

*"A greater active physical presence outside of cars. A better maintenance and repair record of lighting. Provision of single sex facilities clearly marked as such. With appropriate facilities and cleaning. Mixed gender facilities can be very intimidating and often not clean".*

*"Have you engaged the local secondary schools - please note the school catchment areas do not reflect the borough boundary. So worth asking schools further afield eg Maidstone, Tun Wells and Sevenoaks as all will have students from TMBC borough who perhaps have to travel"*

*"More safe space"*

*"Better street lighting. More police presence".*

*"Improved street lighting, better youth facilities to prevent young boys loitering around with nothing to do"*

*"Endure all pathways are well lit. More police presence late at night in Tonbridge"*

*"more lighting, less hidden areas at train station, more visibility, pavements on both side not one side, cameras, educate males, encourage women to get bodycams or free bodycams for women and girls. police patrolling by train stations, educate boys in all schools including public, education and notices in men's toilets to educate men to stop attacking women. situation awareness workshops for women, more free personal alarms, bystander information,*

women safety advice in parish magazines, women only train carriages, women only buses, women personal safety groups in towns and villages”

“More visibility of police and action over minor offences to show that action will be taken. More council patrol officers or PCSOs or some sort of presence. More cameras as well.”

“single sex spaces, CCTV, more patrolling and staff, clear messaging, prosecuting”

“Be more visible”

“More security measures and safe spaces for women”

“Engage with men to foster caring masculinities”

“Better lighting, more police presence, more support for women on their own in venues”

“Make men accountable for their actions and the way we feel. Especially when alone”

“Improved surface, similar to the footpath this becomes to the west of some concrete post. Improve lighting”.

“Teach men and boys to leave girls and women alone, that they don’t need to approach them. Bring in tougher sentences to hopefully stop men committing crimes against women, make it easier for women to speak out and be heard when they do bring this to the police.”

“Ensure there are trusted staff at travel hubs (bus/train stations, car parks). I never see police patrolling my area around West Malling and my nearest police station is Tonbridge”

“Council-well maintained facilities irrespective of town or country space VAWG-more advertising of help available. Could be “more known”

“Police- committed officers or specials patrolling in evening shifts to highlight presence”

“More organisations encouraged by council/police to adopt “ask Angela” and other initiatives”

“A couple of things come to my mind: 1) I think it's the low literacy in general with new generations of boys and young men are picking up the same old-fashioned habits from their parents (mainly men role-models). 2) This also means to teach people in general to recognise signs of abuse (all sorts). 3) To have more police officers walking the at least the High Streets later in the night would help “

“More police visible in the evening in the High Street and the station”

“Speak to men about their treatment / views on women and how it could impact them. Too often the onus is placed on women to deal with the problem - e.g. don't walk alone / late at night / don't dress provocatively. These are not solutions to the problem as they impinge on a female's autonomy and freedom and do not address the status quo.”

**“IT IS ALREADY ILLEGAL TO BE DRINKING ALCOHOL IN A PUBLIC SPACE & TAKING DRUGS BUT I ASSUME THAT BECAUSE IT'S BEEN GOING ON FOR YEARS, the Council, Police and Partners OBVIOUSLY TURN A BLIND EYE & DON'T ENFORCE THE LAW. AT LEAST THERE COULD BE CCTV AROUND THE PARK & SIGNAGE SO THAT DRUNKS/KIDS ARE DETERRED FROM HARRASING PEOPLE”**

“Patrols down the darker areas such as the side streets between the park and the High Street, security lights activated by motion”.

“Additional lightning and community police wardens”

15. Would you be interested in helping us address the concerns you have raised?

Yes – 53%

No – 46%

16. Answer this question only if you answered yes to question 15. How would you like to help? For example, in person focus groups or other engagement events etc.

Comments

*“Any”*

*“In any way possible I am a victim of SA and would like to help anyway”*

*“Focus group”*

*“free alarms campaign - ‘we want you to be heard’ incentives to complete this questionnaire so you gather accurate data. send out to schools colleges. look at verbal abuse in the home from teens, my child doesn’t target his siblings but many do and threaten them so they are too scared to tell their parents. maybe need to look at this in a different way - if you educate and stop those who are doing it then the victims would not need support. anonymous forms direct to local police like crimestoppers to complete online might help. more counsellors in schools - they are amazing as know from experience that young women open up to them more than teachers.”*

*“This depends on the engagement plan, focus groups would be fine.”*

*“I dont know as I dont drive it is difficult to get to places but near home yes.”*

*“Happy to engage with any groups in person or otherwise”*

*“Focus groups, engagement events etc. I am a Commissioner for KCC however i am filling out this form as a resident of Tonbridge and Malling.”*

*“Community focus groups would be useful, as well as engagement with Police/PCSOs.”*

*“Events, member of local WI do we would be happy to engage”*

*“I’m not sure. Speaking or writing about my own experiences of violence and the impact it has had on my life, how even ‘minor’ harassment is intimidating”*

*“Am a researcher in VAWG and keen to support”*

*“Educational events teach girls they can speak up and they shouldn’t feel ashamed or guilty when they do. Support groups etc.”*

*“in person focus groups, anything with events regarding educating younger men on the this topic. I also am from Eastern Europe and speak or understand Slovak, Czech, Hungarian and some Polish, plus I have a certificate from Child Protection Company: “Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults” so perhaps I could help out with attending some events with people from EE if there is a need for such support.”*

*“I WOULD LIKE MY VOICE TO BE HEARD BUT I WANT TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS BECAUSE I AM AFRAID OF SPEAKING OUT.”*

17. Please provide your email address if you would be happy for us to contact you

44 people provided their email addresses.