

Committee	COUNCIL MEETING
Date	15th July 2019
Agenda Item	15

Poll of public feeling

Cllr Caulfield recently undertook an informal poll of public feeling in Halstead, and below is a report of his findings:

Nearly 900 votes were cast which were broken down as follows:

1. Over-development - 349
2. Too much crime and anti-social behaviour - 186
3. Lack of a permanent police presence - 131
4. Over-subscribed healthcare and education services - 70
5. Lack of a by-pass - 41
6. Empty shops - 41
7. Lack of amenities and facilities for visitors and residents - 21

The results are in line with what you would expect and it is very likely that if we were able to influence No1, then issues such as health and education would be resolved as a result.

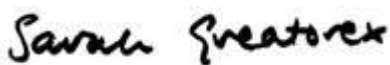
I believe the issue of crime and ASB is more one of perception than reality. This area gets around 40 crimes per 1000 head of population, compared to the likes of Harlow or Southend, where the number is around 300/400. It's all relative however and with a smaller population it can sometimes feel as if we're under siege. The perception and fear of crime is usually far greater than the actual risk.

There is no doubt that struggling police resources let us down from time to time and anecdotes of police failing or refusing to turn up to deal with crimes are commonplace. There is an atmosphere of "Why bother, they won't do anything." From social media it would seem that most residents believe that a permanent police presence in the town would make a big difference.

In respect of No7 I asked what facilities were considered to be lacking and doctors' surgeries, clubs for adults with learning disabilities, playground equipment for those using wheelchairs, sensory garden, youth clubs, Skills workshops and programmes for teens were cited. I doubt many of those would come under the remit of HTC and a couple would have to be needs-tested.

These results might prove useful to other working groups, and champions.

Recommendation : that HTC notes this report



Sarah Greateorex Town Clerk