

Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for Pangbourne Meadows

Supporting Evidence

Why has West Berkshire Council chosen to consult on a proposal for a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for Pangbourne Meadows?

The council and partner agencies have gathered evidence that highlights the impact these behaviours are having on individuals and businesses. Restrictions can only be included in the PSPO if there is evidence to show that the behaviours are causing an issue.

The Test

Under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act, 2014 a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) can be made by West Berkshire Council if it is satisfied on reasonable grounds that two conditions are met.

First condition

- activities carried out in a public place in the local authority's area have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, or*
- it is likely that the activities will be carried out in a public place within the area that will have such an effect.*

Second condition

The effect or likely effect of the activities:

- is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature,*
- is, or likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable, and*
- justifies the restriction imposed.*

Pangbourne Meadows has been subject to 2 problem solving occurrences during 2023 and 2024 following significant demand on police resources and reports into both Thames Valley Police and Pangbourne Parish Council.

A multi-agency group convened and for 2024 this commenced in March and comprised representatives from Thames Valley Police, Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue, Berkshire Youth, Pangbourne Parish Council, Youth Justice Support Team and West Berkshire Council to try and address some of the issues.

The area has also been a priority area on the police Tasking and Tactical Coordination Group (TTCG).

Section 34 Dispersal Orders have been issued three times for the Pangbourne Meadows area:

08/09/2023 – 10/09/2023

31/07/2024

01/08/2024

The area around Pangbourne Meadow has seen a large amount of anti-social behaviour. Thames Valley Police compiled a 'Report of Incidents' from January 2024 – 31 August 2024 which highlights the main issues to be off road bikes driving on the Meadow, large groups congregating and acting antisocially. There are numerous reports of vandalism and theft from the groups, and when challenged they have become abusive and/or assaulted the person challenging them. This supports the reasoning for the 2 restrictions on anti-social behaviour and off-road bikes.

Most occurrences took place between 12:00 – 21:00, with a peak between 14:00-18:00. The day of the week that had the most individual dates with incidents was Thursday (6 individual dates) with most offences took place Thursday to Sunday.

The largest crime type was community ASB, followed by criminal damage. However, some of the criminal damage reports indicate that the damage is occurring regularly, for example damage to the public toilets and tennis courts. There is also a safeguarding aspect in relation to the young people involved who are becoming intoxicated and then jumping into the river or riding dirt bikes.

This is an area where families and children often congregate and these incidents are having an impact i.e. dirt bikes riding around the meadows whilst a Scout Fete was on, and a canoeing lesson for 10-year-olds cancelled because a group of individuals were throwing bottles and live fish at them.

Below is a list of the incidents reported to Police.

06/01/2024 18:00- 43240008276 Drug offences - Bowling Green Recreation Ground. Male found in possession of cannabis.

06/01/2024 18:14- 43240008264 Drug offences - Bowling Green Recreation Ground. Male found in possession of cannabis.

17/03/2024 18:25 - Criminal damage Recreation Ground. Group broke the automatic locking mechanism of the recreation toilets and defecated on the middle of the floor.

21/03/2024 15:30 - Whitchurch Bridge RG87DA. Glass bottle thrown on Whitchurch Bridge which smashed against a moving car.

22/03/2024 19:00 - 43240140846 Criminal damage - Pangbourne Meadow Village Hall. A group have come into the village hall, pulled the pipe in the disabled toilet off the wall and emptied the contents of the nappy bin on the floor.

05/04/2024 15:45 - 43240155837 Criminal Damage - Recreation Ground. Two young men ripped the slates off the top of the toilets at Pangbourne Meadows and verbally abused a member of public.

14/04/2024 14:00- 43240184250 Theft - Pangbourne Bowls and Tennis Club. Group of young males regularly cycling on the tennis courts, leaving tyre tracks/ skid marks. When asked to leave members of the public have been verbally abused. The males threatened to lock players on the tennis court. The males have been stealing padlocks to enable them to gain entry to the court and verbally abusing users of the tennis court.

17/04/2024 17:00 - 43240176324 Criminal Damage - Bowling Green Recreation Ground RG87BY. Group have entered the bowling green and smashed paving stones

and thrown bowling balls all over the green. They have also turned the hose on and sprayed it all over the pavilion. Verbally abusive when challenged.

17/04/2024 18:45 - 43240244522 Road Related Incident - Bowling Green Recreation Ground. E-scooter warning issued for under-18-year-old illegally riding an e-scooter through the recreation ground area.

11/05/2024 13:30 - 43240218578 Community ASB - Bowling Green Recreation Ground

11/05/2024 13:30 - 43240218578 Community ASB - Bowling Green Recreation Ground. Male on scrambler bike riding around Pangbourne Meadow wearing a balaclava. There is a scout fete on the Meadow and caller is concerned as there are young children around. Several further reports of up to six bikes driving dangerously around the meadow during the fete.

11/05/2024 14:09 -43240218624 Community ASB - Bowling Green Recreation Ground. Further report relating to occurrence 43240218578.

12/05/2024 20:08 -43240222430 Community ASB - Pangbourne Meadows RG87DA. Groups of youths being antisocial playing loud music and using open flames to barbecue.

18/05/2024 14:41- 43240231636 Concern for Safety- Whitchurch Arch. Group of 13/14 year olds doing back flips into the river.

20/06/2024 14:22 - 43240289998 Suspicious person - River Meadow Public Toilets RG87BY. Young people racing around the meadows on dirt bikes doing wheelies and drinking alcohol.

20/06/2024 17:09 - 43240290326 Assistance to other agencies - Dolphin House Whitchurch. Request for assistance from fire service, possible arson as a large log has been set on fire.

25/06/2024 20:16 - 43240299866 Suspicious person - Whitchurch Arch. Caller has seen a group of youths assaulting a goose. The group has caught the goose by its neck with a rope and are taking the goslings away from the parents and taunting them.

25/06/2024 21:58- 43240299972 Drug offences - Whitchurch Arch. Two males caught smoking cannabis. One given a community resolution.

27/06/2023 03:56 - 43240302579 Community ASB - River Meadow Car Park. Persistent issue with off-road bikes driving across the Meadows in a dangerous and antisocial way. There is no vehicular access allowed.

30/06/2024 15:00 - 43240308533 Public order - River Meadow Car Park. Individuals riding around the recreation ground and field. The caller was threatened by the bikers when challenged them.

04/07/2024 22:38 - 43240317411 Drug offences - Whitchurch Arch. Police encountered four males on a bench, one made off on electric bike. Males searched and one issued a community resolution for drug offences.

18/07/2024 20:43 - 43240342219 Assault without injury - Bowling Green Recreation Ground. Group of youths fighting ten males against one. Group have been antisocial all evening and disrupted a scout group before assaulting the male.

19/07/2024 13:37- 43240343341 Theft- Dolphin House Whitchurch. Groups of teenagers took two kayaks from the Dolphin Centre and used them in the river without permission.

19/07/2024 21:38 - 43240344303 Assault without injury - Whitchurch Arch. Two SUVs and several motorbikes driving up and down the track dangerously and playing loud music. When caller went to challenge the individuals, they have been assaulted by two teenagers who hit caller on their lower back and shouted abuse at caller.

22/07/2024 16:38 - 43240348974 ASB environmental - Whitchurch Arch. Two males riding a motorbike on the Meadow in a non-vehicular zone whilst there are people around.

31/07/2024 14:19 - 43240365378 Community ASB - Dolphin House Whitchurch. Motorbikes racing on Pangbourne Meadows.

31/07/2024 15:34 - 43240365570 Assault without injury - Dolphin House Whitchurch. A large group of individuals vaping, drinking alcohol and throwing items including rubbish and live fish at caller. A canoeing training session for children had to be cancelled due to the individuals intimidating the children.

31/07/2024 16:40 - 43240365729- Section 34 dispersal order issued for Pangbourne Meadow.

31/07/2024 17:17 - 43240365774 Public order - Whitchurch Arch. 50 young people have been fighting, smoking cannabis and riding dirt bikes over Pangbourne Meadow.

31/07/2024 17:50 - 43240365982 Assault with injury - Bowling Green Recreation Ground. Male has been attacked by a group of unknown people when he was sat in Pangbourne Meadow. and has had to go to hospital. He has been punched and kicked by the group.

01/08/2024 11:03 - 43240366822 Section 34 dispersal order for Pangbourne Meadow.

05/08/2024 16:00 - 43240376142 Criminal damage - River Meadow Public Toilets. Damage to toilets including ripping tiles off the walls and blocking the sink with taps left running to flood the bathroom. Soap dispensers and toilet roll holders also broken and broken into the defibrillator cabinet.

05/08/2024 21:08 - 43240374710 Community ASB - River Meadow Car Park. 20 teenagers drinking vodka and driving dirt bikes around the field.

11/08/2024 12:47 - 43240384350 Public Order- Dolphin House Whitchurch. Individual almost hit by young male riding an e-scooter in the playground. When the individual tried to stop them the male threatened them and swore at them.

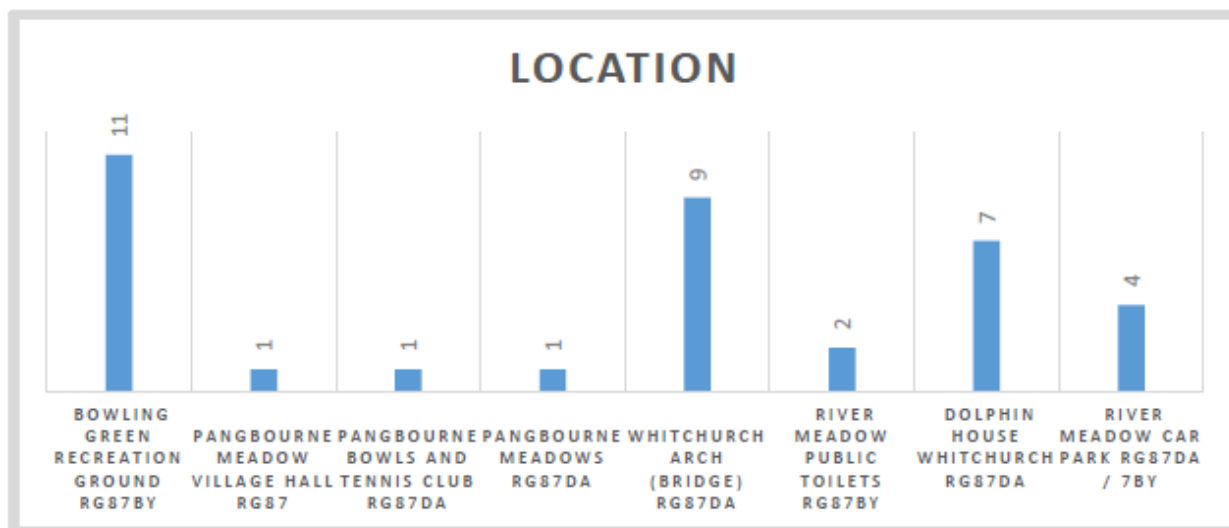
11/08/2024 17:12 - 43240384678 ASB community - River Meadow Car Park. Off road motorbikes racing on Pangbourne Meadow. Caller reports this happens nearly every weekend.

12/08/2024 13:48 - 43240386044 ASB Community - Dolphin House Whitchurch. Around 100 young people drinking, doing drugs and jumping into the river.

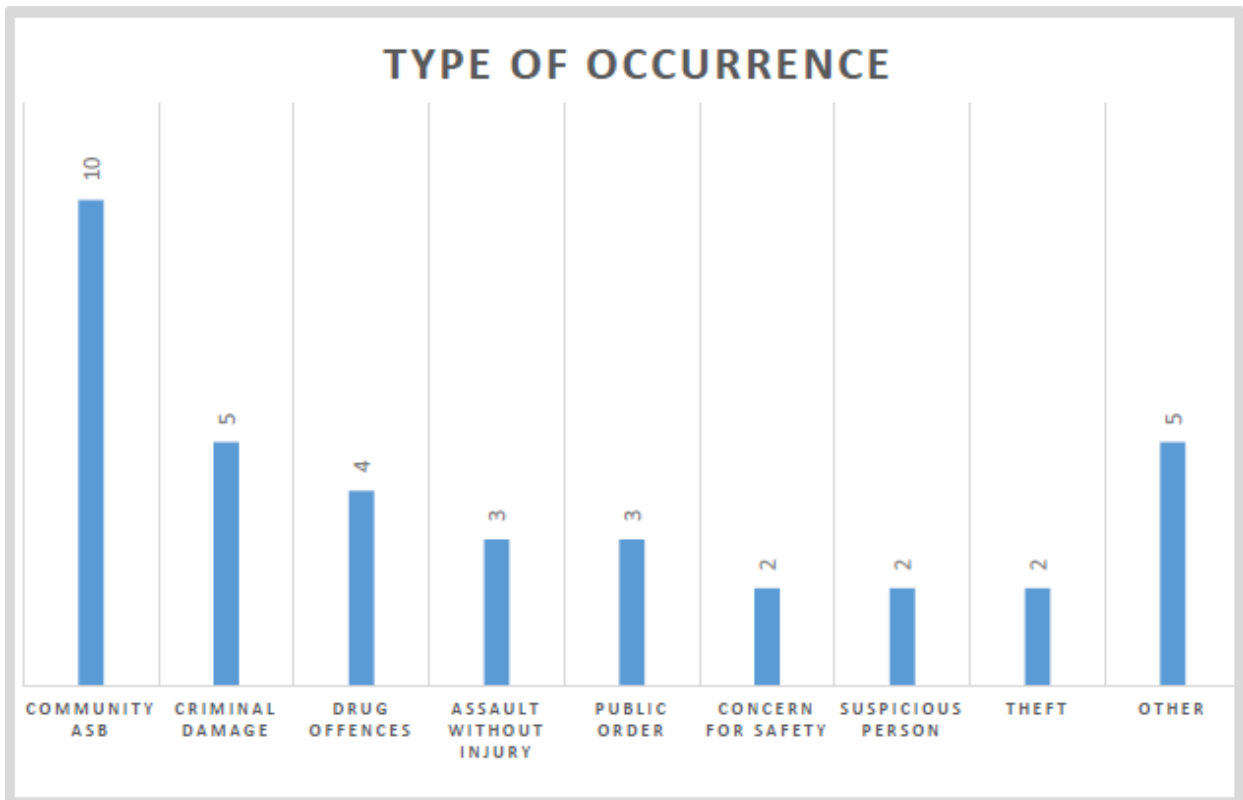
16/08/2024 14:32 - 43240393717 ASB Community- Dolphin House Whitchurch. Group of youths on electric bikes racing up and down the meadow. Caller states this happens regularly.

17/08/2024 19:47 - 43240395854 Rail / Air/ Marine Incident - Bowling Green Recreation Ground. Youths have untied several boats, at least one is going down the river unmanned and sinking.

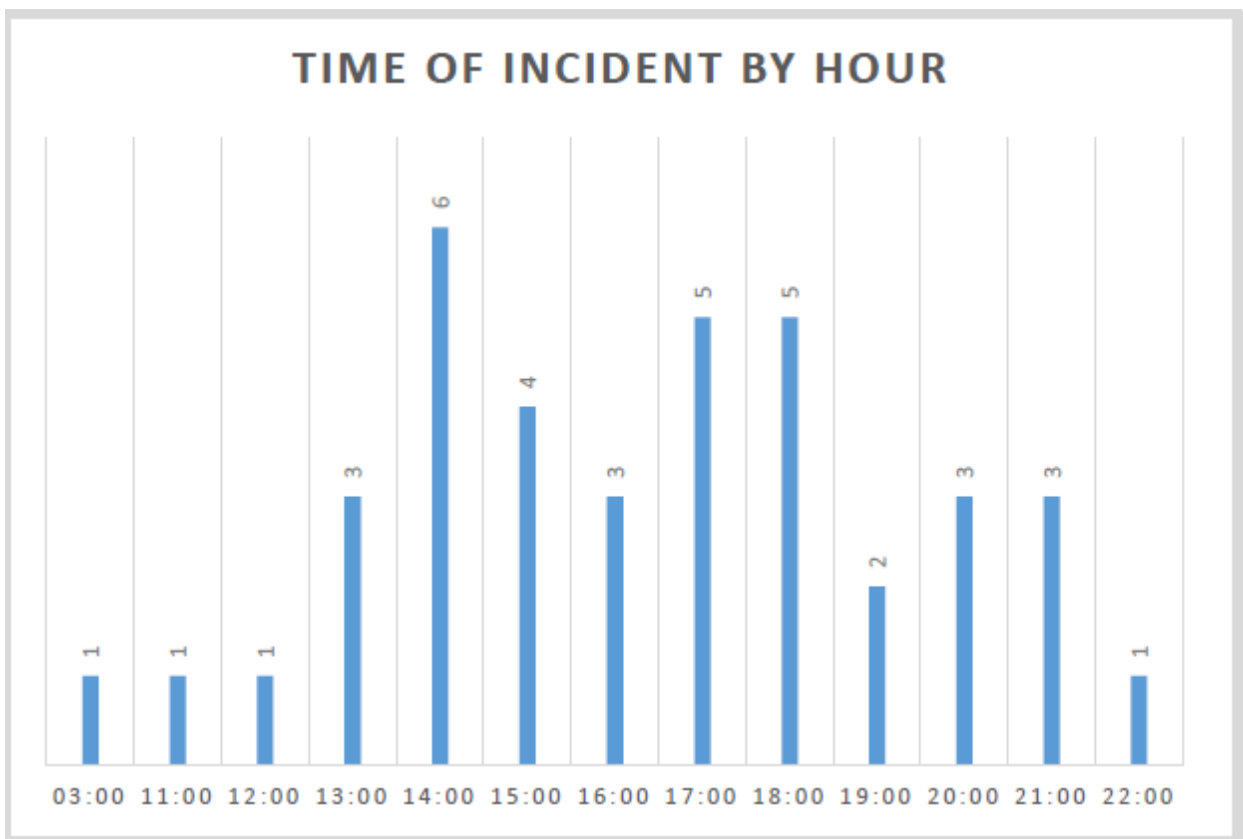
Appendix – tables



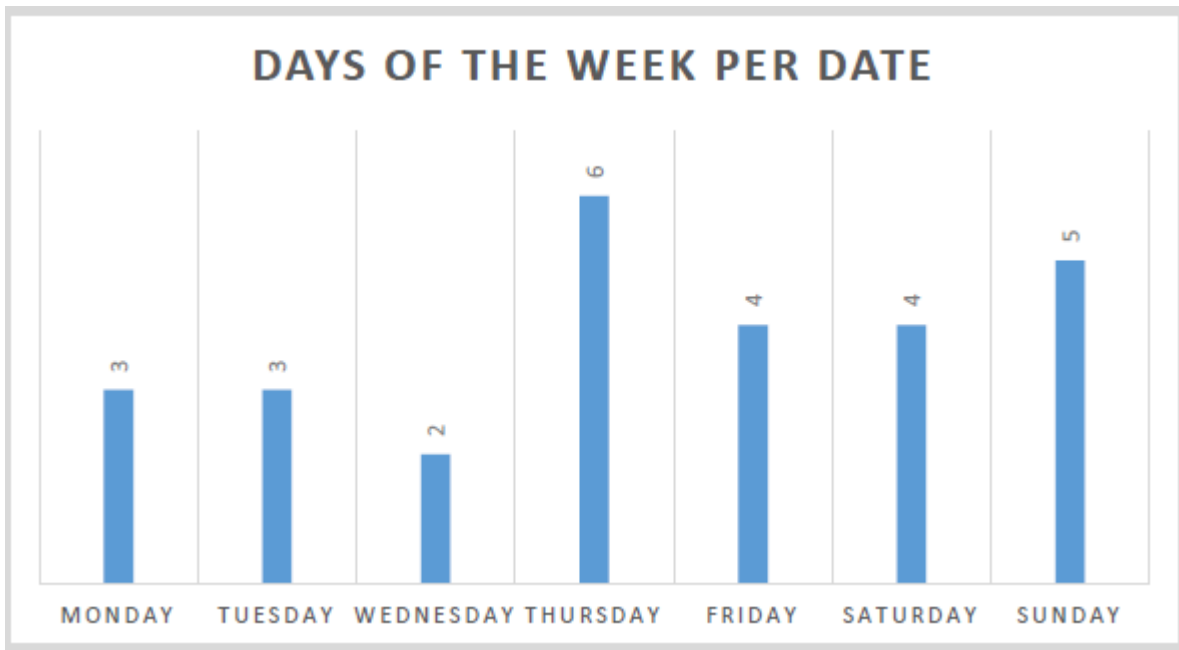
Graph 1 - shows the incidents by location. As described above, some locations are the actual offence location such as the village hall and toilets, however it is likely the Recreation Ground has been put as the general location for all incidents occurring at and around Pangbourne Meadow.



Graph 2 - shows the type of occurrence on as classified on police systems. The “other” category includes one incident of each of the following: Assault with injury, assistance to other agencies, road related incident, air/marine/rail incident and environmental ASB.

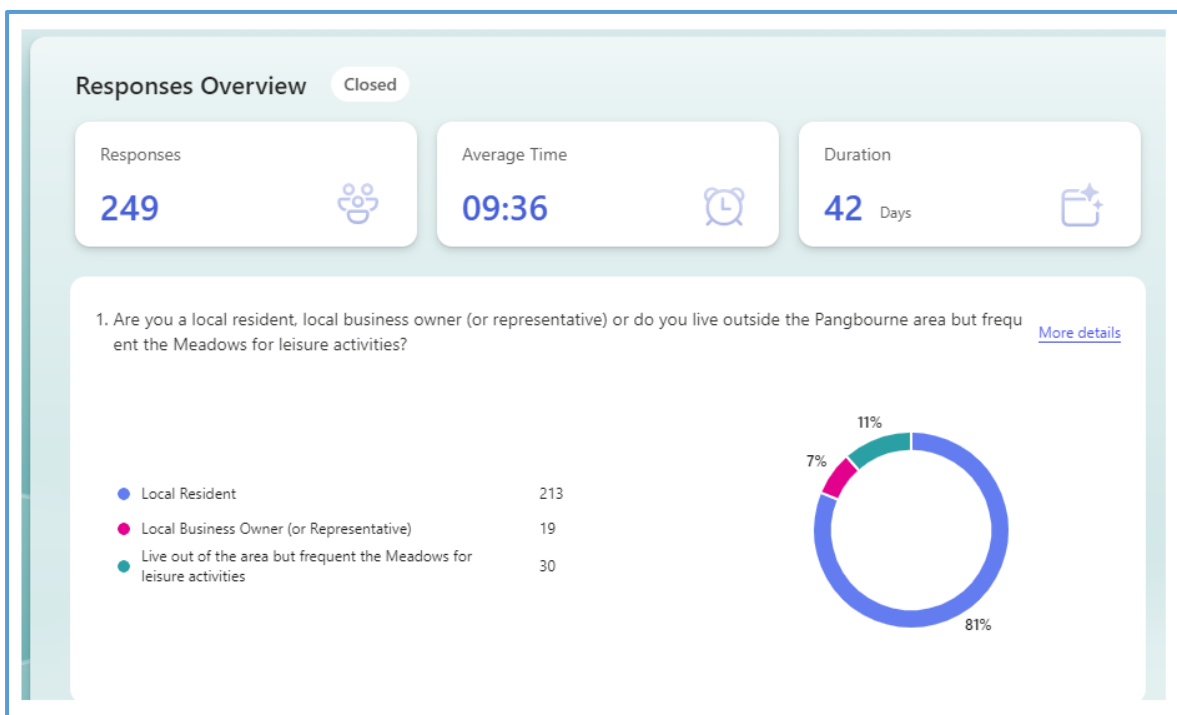


Graph 3 - shows the hour of the day of occurrences. Peak hours are 14:00 – 18:00.



Graph 4 - shows which days of the week have had incidents. This has counted individual dates rather than the number of incidents overall, as there are frequently clusters of incidents one each date which would weight the data. As an example, Wednesday 31/07 had 5 individual incidents. These have all been recorded as one otherwise the graph would show Wednesday as the most popular day for ASB incidents. Instead, the distribution is weighted towards Thursday to Sunday as peak days of the week. This is the same in and out of term time.

Thames Valley Police also conducted a survey via TV alert and received 249 responses, a summary of which is below. The months of main concern are April – October which enforces the proposal that the PSPO is enforceable between 1st April and 31 October.



2. What issues have been occurring at Pangbourne Meadows?

[More details](#)

245
Responses

Latest Responses

"I am a boater and live on my boat one field down(towards Purley) on the Th... "
"Anti Social behaviour from the group of kids in pangbourne all over the villa... "

...

72 respondents (29%) answered littering for this question.



3. What impact have these issues had on you? (your family, business or leisure activities? eg have you cancelled, changed or postponed plans due to issues?)

[More details](#)

237
Responses

Latest Responses

"Thankfully limited, but I don't feel safe walking back through the meadow w... "
"Fear of safety"

...

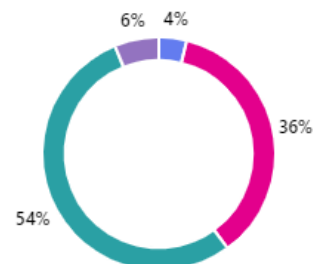
83 respondents (35%) answered meadows for this question.



4. In your experience, please indicate when the issues have typically arisen?

[More details](#)

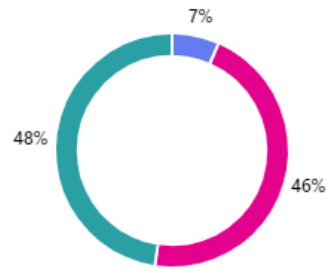
● January - March	17
● April - June	159
● July - September	237
● October - December	27



5. In your experience, please indicate the times when issues have typically arisen?

[More details](#)

● Morning	29
● Afternoon	203
● Evening	211



6. How safe do you feel when visiting Pangbourne Meadows? (1 = Safe and 5= Do not feel safe at all)

[More details](#)

3.21

Average Rating

