

# Task 8

This task asked participants to note down the places where they feel safe or unsafe at different times of the day across Matfield and Brenchley.

## Brenchley

### Daytime & Safe

- School (4)
- Working population (3)
- Generally safe (2)
- Daytime walkers
- Pensioners
- Sports
- cafe
- Young families arrive
- Village hall
- Car parks are full but where are the people
- Grays
- Post office
- Activity around GPs, church, dentist, Little Bull bar, Post Office

### Daytime & Unsafe

- Traffic (2)
- HGVs (2)
- Footpaths/pedestrians (2)
- No police presence
- Turning right up Coppers Lane
- Pixot Hill/Windmill Hill
- Brenchley memorial
- Speed limit Crook Rd
- Cinderhill – *No history of issues but could feel wary if alone*

## Daytime Summary

The overriding opinion was that Brenchley and Matfield are generally safe places to live. Busy areas such as the school and areas used by commuters were deemed the safest during the day due to a high presence of people. The unsafe areas were predominately due to traffic and large HGV lorries that travel through the villages as well as road safety due to poor pavement widths and the condition of pavements and roads. Particular places for concern for safety were Pixot Hill, Windmill Hill and Crook Hill. It was felt by one group that the commuting window could do with lighting in winter to keep walking safe.

## Evening & Safe

- Sports clubs (3)
- Generally safe (2)
- Few people
- Commuters
- Films
- Evening classes Pilates
- Pubs/restaurants
- Dog walking

## Evening & Unsafe

- Lack of lighting (4)
- Footpaths/pedestrians (2)
- Traffic (2)
- HGVs
- Blind lane
- Lighting outside school
- Cyclists
- Quiet
- Church Close traffic
- Elderly fear driving at night
- Parks

## Evening Summary

The sports facilities in the village were identified as safe places during the evening although it was generally considered to be safe. As in the day time, road safety was a concern as well as lighting around the village particularly outside the school and in car parks. This was down to traffic levels as well as HGV vehicles particularly along Blind Lanes and Church Close.

Suggestions made to improve the area included the need for traffic calming measures and motion sensitive lighting in the car parks. A suggested way to achieve more people around the village could be to put on more events in the village halls such as more films show at night and more family friendly film evenings.

## Night Time & Safe

- Quiet and dark is positive with little light pollution (4)
- Generally safe (3)
- Very quiet few cars (2)
- No people – pub close

## Night Time & Unsafe

- Parking (2)
- Eerie
- Speed of traffic (especially Church Close)
- Lighting an issue – elderly fear driving at night

## Night Time Summary

Participants felt that parish was generally safe at night although it was very quiet with few cars. The majority of residents felt that the quiet and dark were a positive thing due to little light pollution, but others felt it was eerie. Inadequate lighting was however specifically mentioned as a reason for elderly residents fearing to get out and drive at night. Suggested ways to improve would be to introduce a weight restriction to 7 tonnes and 20mph speed limit.

## Matfield

### Daytime & Safe

- Activities (3)
- Walkers (3)
- Feel safe (2)
- Grays (2)
- Busy throughout
- Schools
- Sports facilities in Brenchley
- Cafes in Brenchley
- Cyclists
- Clubs
- Village hall

### Daytime & Unsafe

- Traffic (8)
- Parking (5)
- Speed (4)
- HGV lorries (3)
- Commuter / school run (2)
- Lack of pavements (2)
- Village green
- Sunday motorbike speed
- A21 Kippings Cross Junction
- Brenchley Road/ Crossroads
- Maycotts Lane is a rat run
- State of repair of roads
- Walking to school unsafe from Matfield

## Daytime Summary

Traffic was cited as the major concern for safety in the villages with parking and speed of traffic specifically being highlighted. Large HGV lorries that travel through the villages as well as road safety due to poor pavement widths and the condition of pavements and roads were also mentioned. The commuter and school runs were considered to be the main contributors to this. Particular places for concern for safety were the A21 Kippings Cross Junction, Brenchley Road crossroads and Maycotts Lane. Suggestions were a need to redirect HGV routes to major routes e.g. Maidstone to A21 Pembury Junction via Colts Hill as well as other traffic calming methods. Activities during the day and walkers however made the area feel generally safe in terms of crime as well as Grays.

## Evening & Safe

- Feel safe (3)
- Sports activities (3)
- Village hall meetings (2)
- Like seeing stars
- Scout and guides
- Pavements
- Pubs alive

## Evening & Unsafe

- Traffic (4)
- Speeding (4)
- Commuter/school run (3)
- Parking (2)
- Pavements (2)
- HGV traffic
- Congestion and accidents
- Littering
- Buses

## Evening Summary

The villages were considered to be generally safe with village hall meetings as well as sports facilities in identified as specifically safe places during the evening. As in the day time, road safety was a concern particularly the school run and commuters with those crossing the road to the school being particularly dangerous. Parking in inappropriate places making narrow roads and the state of the pavements were contributing factors to the general feeling of safety during these times. A more visible police presence was suggested by one group as a way of improving a feeling of safety. Although the major safety concern of traffic could be improved through traffic calming and more pavements.

## Night Time & Safe

- Feel safe (3)
- Very quiet (2)
- Pub (2)
- Tennis until 10pm
- Sleepy
- Dark skies are good
- Dormitory villages

## Night Time & Unsafe

- Pavements/footpaths (3)
- Cars parked unsafe for other drivers
- Street lights where appropriate
- Lack of activities
- Fly tipping
- Littering

## Night Time Summary

Participants felt that parish was generally safe at night although it was very quiet. Pubs contributed to the feeling of safety due to a greater presence of people. Inadequate pavements were considered the most unsafe elements of the village with lighting suggested to improve this as well as a one-way system through Brenchley. Again, the dark skies are considered to be a good thing which shouldn't be altered detrimentally. Improving activities at night such as using Grays as a village club or youth club or better advertise activities going on in halls could improve safety. As would ensuring the retention of the public houses as it would detrimentally change the village socially without them.