# Concerns rise over increasing crime in Trawden after village accolade



Residents of Trawden, a village located in Lancashire, England, have expressed growing concerns about an increase in crime that they believe has accompanied its recent recognition as "one of the best places to live in the North-West" by The Sunday Times in 2022. This idyllic village, often referred to as "Britain's kindest village," is home to about 2,700 people, a significant portion of whom actively contribute to community life through volunteering.

Since receiving this accolade, locals have reported a spate of burglaries, with many homes targeted and vehicles stolen. Chantelle Smith, a beautician who has lived in Trawden her entire life, noted, "We had a spate of burglaries after we were named one of the most beautiful places to live which is ironic. It seemed to attract criminals," speaking to the Daily Mail about the unsettling shift in her community’s environment.

In addition to burglaries, residents are facing incidents of anti-social behaviour, including disputes over parking, particularly during school drop-off times. Smith mentioned that “shouting arguments” have become commonplace, attributing the tension to a lack of parking space on the narrow rural roads.

Notably, the village has also seen targeted criminal activity against farmers, with reports of thieves on electric bikes stealing equipment and livestock. Sue Hemingway, a retired nurse, corroborated this, stating, "Farmers have been robbed of quad bikes, tools and machinery. It's a real problem and seems to be getting worse as police are more and more stretched." This sentiment underscores a growing sense of vulnerability among the farming community in the area.

The community's commitment to volunteerism has thrived in Trawden, with many locals taking on roles at essential facilities like the village pub, library, and shop, all of which are run by volunteers. Jamie Hargreaves, who manages the Trawden Arms Community Pub, reflected on the community spirit, saying, "I've had the freedom to make it the heart of the community." This dedication to supporting one another has fostered initiatives like the Trawden Forest Community Centre charity, which was established a decade ago to ensure the survival of local amenities. Sara Swann, a trustee of the charity, indicated that the shop contributes significantly to community welfare, having donated £45,000 back to local volunteer groups over the past year.

Despite the community's resilience and spirit of cooperation, the recent uptick in crime has not gone unnoticed by local authorities. In response, Lancashire Police organised a drop-in session at the Trawden Forest Community Centre, allowing residents to discuss their concerns and learn about crime prevention measures. Local councillor Sarah Cockburn-Price acknowledged the challenge of increasing crime rates, stating, "There has sadly been an increase in crime in Trawden recently."

Farmers appear particularly distressed by the wave of thefts. Neil Greenwood, a local farmer, made headlines when he apprehended two individuals he suspected of trying to steal from his property. However, this led to his arrest for false imprisonment, highlighting the tensions and complexities surrounding rural crime enforcement.

As Trawden grapples with these challenges, residents remain committed to nurturing their sense of community. While they acknowledge the rise in criminal activity and the issues it brings, they also express their affection for the village and determination to uphold its status as a kind and welcoming place. In the words of Rob Beauchamp, a gym owner and local resident, "It's a wonderful place and everyone pulls together."

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)