# Balaclava-clad vandals cost Woolton charity £3,000 in flower damage as police enforce dispersal zone



In the picturesque village of Woolton, located in Liverpool, residents are reeling from a disturbing trend of vandalism that has escalated over the past three years. Recently, a local charity, Woolton in Bloom, reported that a gang of individuals clad in balaclavas caused substantial damage, ripping out around £3,000 worth of flowers from their pots and carelessly discarding them on the ground. CCTV footage captured the young vandals as they uprooted the plants and hurled them at passing cars, leaving citizens concerned about their safety and the wellbeing of the community.

Kerry Peacock, a representative of Woolton in Bloom, expressed the deep frustration felt by locals. Speaking to BBC Radio Merseyside, she stated, “Every time we've put plants in this year they have come and pulled them out.” This destruction not only negates the efforts of those striving to beautify the village, but it also fosters a sense of intimidation among residents. “We are intimidated by these people," Peacock added, emphasising that the charity is a collective village effort that deserves respect and support.

This incident is part of a broader pattern of anti-social behaviour plaguing Woolton. In August 2023, Merseyside Police introduced a 48-hour dispersal zone in the village in response to rising incidents of public disorder reported by worried residents and local businesses. Such measures aim to tackle the perceived increase in threats to community safety, as statistics reveal a notable number of crimes, including violence and criminal damage, reported in the area.

Furthermore, the gang mentality that seems to have taken root in Woolton resonates with similar patterns across Liverpool. For instance, a Ukrainian Peace Garden in the Baltic area of Liverpool was recently damaged by vandals who set off fireworks and caused a fire, demonstrating a troubling disregard for public spaces. Merseyside Police condemned these acts as “appalling” and are currently investigating the incident, highlighting an urgent need for community vigilance and protection of communal spaces.

The issue of youth-related crimes is not new to Merseyside. Reports indicate that in late 2023, police responded to various incidents involving balaclava-clad youths engaged in criminal acts, including attempted break-ins at local schools. Such behaviours reflect a broader societal challenge, where grievances may contribute to the breakdown of communal respect. Police are working to combat this trend, but local residents are left feeling vulnerable as they witness the erosion of their peaceful environment.

As Woolton continues to grapple with these issues, the community's resilience and dedication to restoring their village remain unwavering. Residents and local organisations are determined to reclaim their spaces, fostering a spirit of unity amid adversity, while authorities strive to impose solutions that effectively address the root causes of these disturbances.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2060781/pretty-village-garden-ransacked-balaclava-clad-gang> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cjkpmynk4e8o> - In November 2023, a Ukrainian Peace Garden in Liverpool's Baltic Green was severely damaged by vandals who set off fireworks, started fires, and destroyed parts of the garden. The garden, established during Liverpool's hosting of Eurovision 2023 on behalf of Ukraine, featured plants native to Ukraine. Merseyside Police condemned the actions as 'appalling' and are investigating the incident. ([bbc.co.uk](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cjkpmynk4e8o?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.merseyside.police.uk/area/your-area/merseyside/liverpool/woolton-village/social-media/top-reported-crimes-in-this-area> - Merseyside Police's Woolton Village area report indicates that in December 2024, the most commonly reported crimes were violence and sexual offences (11 incidents), anti-social behaviour (10 incidents), criminal damage and arson (5 incidents), and other thefts (5 incidents). This data highlights ongoing concerns about crime in the Woolton area. ([merseyside.police.uk](https://www.merseyside.police.uk/area/your-area/merseyside/liverpool/woolton-village/social-media/top-reported-crimes-in-this-area?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.thefreelibrary.com/Balaclava-clad+thugs+smash+up+house+on+derelict+Primrose+Court;+...-a0755040541> - In June 2023, two men wearing balaclavas threw bricks through the windows of a house on Primrose Court in Huyton, Liverpool. The incident was captured on CCTV, showing the suspects hurling bricks at the property. Merseyside Police are investigating the attack, which has raised concerns about safety in the area. ([thefreelibrary.com](https://www.thefreelibrary.com/Balaclava-clad%2Bthugs%2Bsmash%2Bup%2Bhouse%2Bon%2Bderelict%2BPrimrose%2BCourt%3B...-a0755040541?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.inkl.com/news/new-police-powers-after-antisocial-behaviour-in-woolton> - In August 2023, Merseyside Police implemented a 48-hour dispersal zone in Woolton Village following numerous reports of anti-social behaviour from residents and local businesses. The order, under Section 35 of the Anti-Social Behaviour & Policing Act 2014, empowers officers to direct individuals causing or likely to cause crime or nuisance to leave the area for up to 48 hours. ([inkl.com](https://www.inkl.com/news/new-police-powers-after-antisocial-behaviour-in-woolton?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.inkl.com/news/balaclava-yobs-found-hiding-in-bushes-at-south-liverpool-high-school> - In October 2023, a group of youths wearing balaclavas attempted to break into St Julie's High School in Woolton, Liverpool. Upon arrival, police found three individuals hiding in the bushes. One of the suspects was found in possession of cannabis. Merseyside Police confirmed the incident and stated that the group had 'definitely learned their lesson.' ([inkl.com](https://www.inkl.com/news/balaclava-yobs-found-hiding-in-bushes-at-south-liverpool-high-school?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.merseyside.police.uk/news/merseyside/news/2023/november/criminal-damage-caused-to-ukrainian-peace-garden-in-liverpool/> - In November 2023, Merseyside Police reported that a 15-year-old boy had been identified and interviewed regarding the criminal damage caused at the Ukrainian Peace Garden in Liverpool. The incident involved setting off fireworks, starting fires, and damaging sections of the garden. The teenager was released pending further enquiries. ([merseyside.police.uk](https://www.merseyside.police.uk/news/merseyside/news/2023/november/criminal-damage-caused-to-ukrainian-peace-garden-in-liverpool/?utm_source=openai))