

Communities Presenting Well

Tackling Anti-social behaviour in Dartford

A presentation by Steven Knowles- Senior Housing Officer, Dartford Borough Council.

A photograph of a multi-story brick building with several satellite dishes mounted on its exterior wall. The building is surrounded by trees and a cluttered area in the foreground with overgrown vegetation and some trash. The sky is overcast.

Housing Estate Management Team

My team's role is to provide a Tenancy and Estate management service to approximately 4500 properties.

The majority of our estates tend to be high density low rise blocks with a few properties in rural Dartford.

Approximately 76% work relates to anti-social behaviour & nuisance, the other elements are made up of void & lettings, tenancy & estate enquiries and parking related matters

Community Definition

- The community is all the people who live in a particular area or place.

He's well liked by people in the community.

The community has set up a campaign to save the park.

The growth of such vigilante gangs has worried community leaders, police and politicians.

(<https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/community>) Visited February 2020

- Community, also called biological community, in biology, an interacting group of various species in a common location. For example, a forest of trees and undergrowth plants, inhabited by animals and rooted in soil containing bacteria and fungi, constitutes a biological community.

(<https://www.britannica.com/science/community-biology>) Visited February 2020

- A community is a group of people who share something in common. You can define a community by the shared attributes of the people in it and/or by the strength of the connections among them. You need a bunch of people who are alike in some way, who feel some sense of belonging or interpersonal connection.

(www.artofrelevance.org › 2018/02/20 › how-do-you-define-community)

Legal Community

The Localism Act 2011 (c. 20) is an Act of Parliament that changes the powers of local government in England. The aim of the act is to facilitate the devolution of decision-making powers from central government control to individuals and communities.

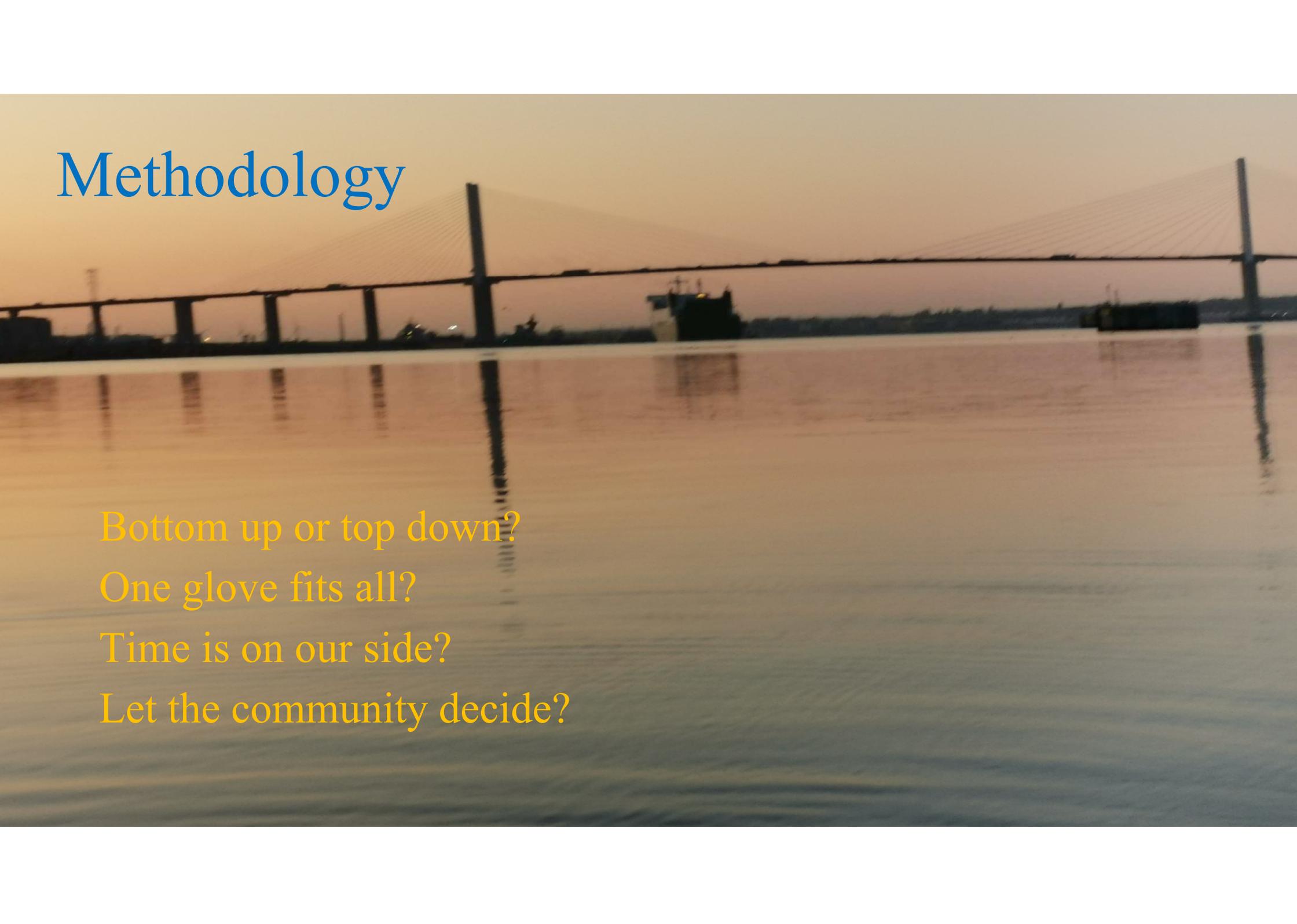
Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 An Act to make provision about anti-social behaviour, crime and disorder, including provision about recovery of possession of dwelling-houses; to make provision amending the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, the Police Act 1997, Schedules 7 and 8 to the Terrorism Act 2000, the Extradition Act 2003 and Part 3 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011; to make provision about firearms, about sexual harm and violence and about forced marriage; to make provision about the police, the Independent Police Complaints Commission and the Serious Fraud Office; to make provision about invalid travel documents; to make provision about criminal justice and court fees, and for connected purposes.

Are we community focused?

- Back in 2016 we looked at how we provide our services through a series of communications with residents, partnerships and other services users. But also looking inward at our own practices.
- We identified that there was some 'good old services' operating from the 80's, 90's and early 2000's but there was a huge disparity on how resources are allocated alongside a perception of what the 'council' does.
- Evidence suggest that at the time of review that the majority of our work was responding to anti social behaviour, nuisance and estate related issues around rubbish, security and parking!



Methodology

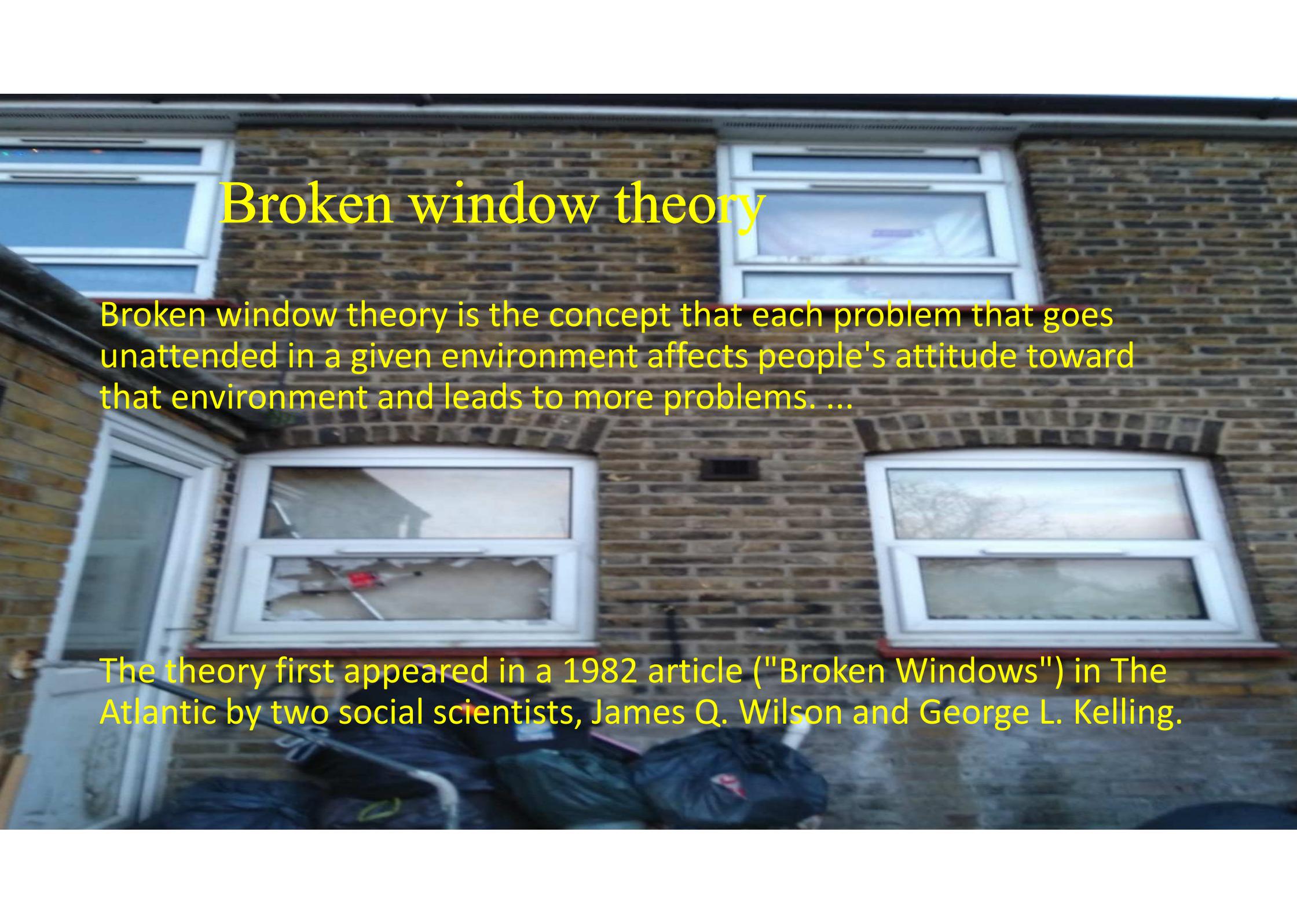


Bottom up or top down?

One glove fits all?

Time is on our side?

Let the community decide?



Broken window theory

Broken window theory is the concept that each problem that goes unattended in a given environment affects people's attitude toward that environment and leads to more problems. ...

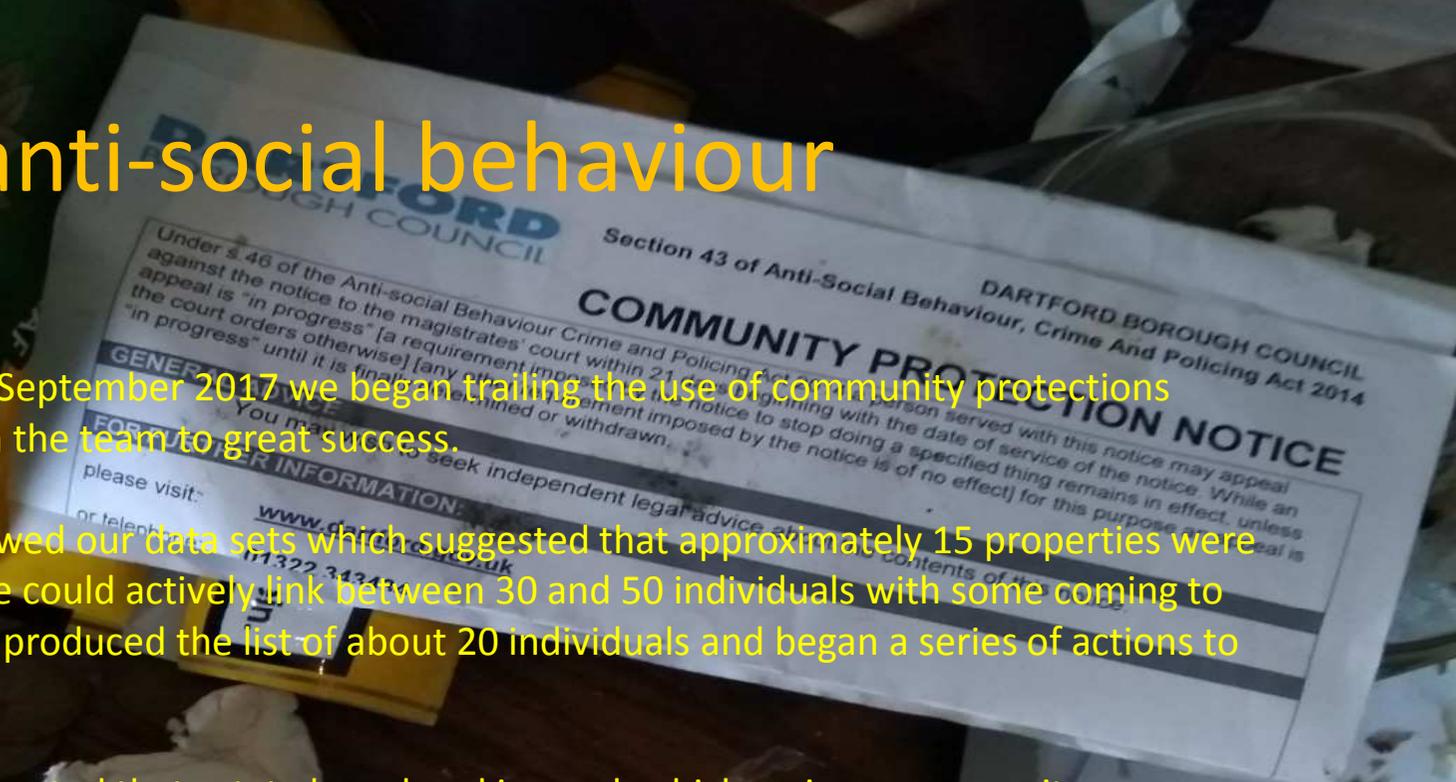
The theory first appeared in a 1982 article ("Broken Windows") in The Atlantic by two social scientists, James Q. Wilson and George L. Kelling.

Tackling anti-social behaviour

Between January 2017 and September 2017 we began trialing the use of community protection warnings and notices within the team to great success.

In December 2017 we reviewed our data sets which suggested that approximately 15 properties were considered as a concern. We could actively link between 30 and 50 individuals with some coming to notice more frequently. We produced the list of about 20 individuals and began a series of actions to tackle the behaviour.

Interestingly, the review we noted that estate based parking and vehicle nuisance was quite a frequently reported issue that we dealt with.



Community Warnings/Notices

Before a CPN can be issued, a written warning must be issued to the person whose conduct is complained of. A prior written warning is required before service of a CPN, even where informal or verbal warnings have previously been given about the conduct in question. Issuing a written warning is an important decision, giving notice that if it is not complied with service of a CPN may follow.

Where a written warning has not been heeded, a Community Protection Notice may be issued by an authorised person to an individual (over the age of 16) or to a body whose conduct he is reasonably satisfied meets the criteria. The authorised person must base the decision to issue the CPN on evidence, whether his own or that of one or more competent third parties.



Gilbert Close – 16.08.2018



Gilbert Close – 14.09.2018



Statistics

- Since January 2017 we have issued over 1150 Community Protection Warnings.
- 170 persons and businesses have been issued with a Community Protection Notice.
- Two residents (same household) have been found in breach of a CPN and court issued two Criminal Behaviour Orders.
- Two unsuccessful legal challenges brought by residents of the same household.

Any Questions?

