

Norwich City Council

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

REPORT for meeting to be held on 12 March 2009

CASTLE GARDENS

- Summary:** The purpose of the meeting is to consider the action already taken by the Safer Norwich Partnership to address the problem(s) of anti – social behaviour in the Castle Gardens.
- Conclusions:** The issues leading to the misuse of the Castle Gardens may not be able to be solved simply by policing and this will be an opportunity for members and those involved in day to day activity in the Castle Gardens to meet and discuss the issues. Also to ask how the City Council and its contractors, the Castle Mall and the Castle Museum can adopt an approach towards improving the appearance and use of the site.
- Recommendation:** For Members to note the brief overview contained within this report and to base their questions with the focus on the issues and causes of anti – social behaviour and how solutions could be achieved.
- Contact Officer:** **Scrutiny Officer** – 01603 212491
stevegoddard@norwich.gov.uk

1. Anti Social Behaviour in the Castle Gardens - Causes and Solutions

- 1.1 The available data suggests that the majority of the reported crime in the Castle Gardens is that of anti – social behaviour, **please see appendix A**. This is often reported as rowdiness or nuisance behaviour by young people. Year on year – 2005 to 2009 anti – social behaviour appears to have increased, but there may be an explanation in that people are encouraged to report more which may have contributed to the increase in data.
- 1.2 Has the attention that the Safer Norwich Partnership has given the site been effective? What actions have been taken in trying to reduce incidences of anti – social behaviour in the area?
- 1.3 In looking at anti – social behaviour in the Castle Gardens it would be useful to ask who it is that commits it and what exactly is it that is being reported as anti – social behaviour? Is there an issue of perception and tolerance? Is there an understanding of the needs of the different user groups of the Castle Gardens? What further can be done to reduce anti – social behaviour?
- 1.4 Consideration also needs to focus on any effect that anti – social behaviour can have on the tourists and visitors to the Castle and the Gardens. The appearance and general ambiance of the area can leave a lasting effect on visitors to the City.

2. Environmental Audit – Other Issues and Crime Types

- 2.1 Data from the Environmental Audit and crime reporting also shows that other issues or crime types are taking place in the Castle Gardens.
- 2.2 A recent Environmental Audit/walk around the area involving representatives from the Police, Council, and the City Centre Partnership witnessed evidence that people have been rough sleeping in some areas of the Castle Gardens. There was also graffiti on the lift to the Castle Museum and the lift entrance. Also there was litter, beer bottles and cigarette ends on the Castle Mound and it was felt on inspection that the Castle Gardens/Moat area was in need of a deep clean. Needles were found in the shrubbery and there were also condoms which could mean that the area was being used by sex workers.

3. Maintenance of the Castle Gardens

- 3.1 By questioning those who are involved with the upkeep and maintenance of the site it may be possible to find out how the layout, design and

cleanliness can have an affect on peoples behaviour as well as the impression that can be created.

- 3.2 Although a public space the Castle Mall Gardens area of the Castle Gardens is privately owned by the Castle Mall. The Castle Mall Garden area of the site is maintained under contract by Norwich City Council. Norwich City Council also has responsibility for the maintenance of the Castle Gardens.
- 3.3 Norwich City Council's Green Spaces Team also looks after the Castle Mound with Asset and City Management having also organised a contract to redress the face where there is a slippage. The work on mitigating slippage at the rear of the Mound has been taken on by the County Council.
- 3.4 Topically - emergency work to repair a broken sewer in the Castle Mound began on Monday 2 March. The work to carry out essential repairs to a collapsed sewer is expected to last up to two weeks and could be taking place at the time of the scrutiny committee meeting on the site. It is estimated that this work will cost £35,000. The questions your Chair has indicated that she may wish to ask the Officers are; what are the long-term affects of this, how has it come about and is it likely to happen again?

4. Invitees to the Scrutiny Meeting

- 4.1 **Nathan Williamson** – Notre Dame Safer Norwich Youth Partnership and some **Young People** who use the Gardens, **Sam Webb** – NR5 Project, **Security** - Castle Mall, **Security** - Castle Museum, **Sgt Pete Sharples & PCSO's** – Norfolk Constabulary, **Paul Wade** – Community Safety Officer for Norwich City Council, **Bob Cronk** – Head of Community Services, Norwich City Council, **Julian Foster** – Citizens Forum, **Stefan Gurney** – Norwich City Centre Partnership Manager, **Simon Meek** – Green Spaces Team , Norwich City Council, **Emily Capps** – Environmental Services, Norwich City Council, Councillor **Linda Blakeway** – Portfolio Holder with Responsibility for Parks and Open Spaces, Councillor **James Bremner** – Portfolio Holder with Responsibility for Community Safety (Apols), **Chris Dady** – Head of Asset and City Management, Norwich City Council and **Jerry Massey** – Director of Regeneration and Development. Also in attendance will be management representatives from the Castle Mall and the Castle Museum.

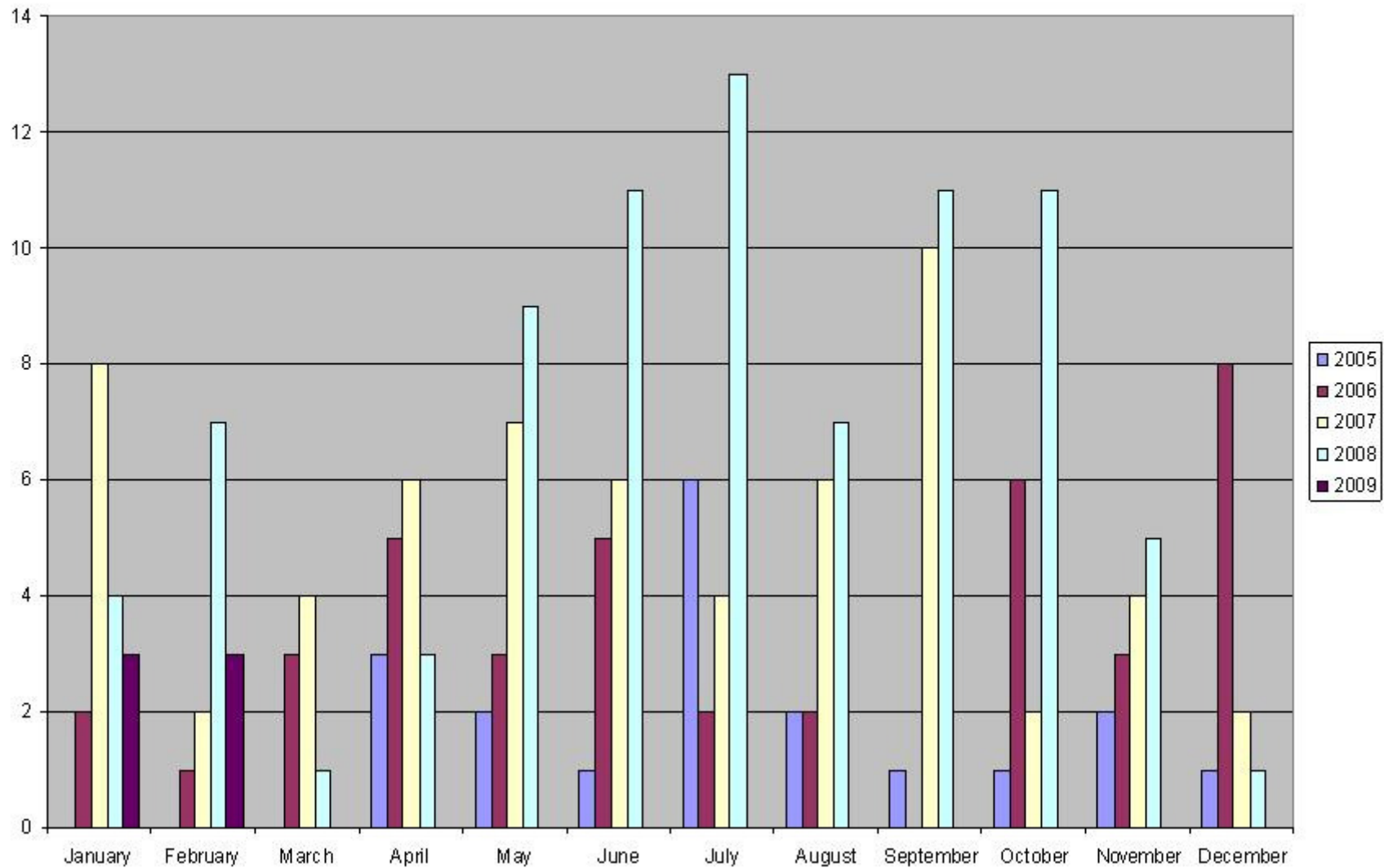
Anti-Social Behaviour Castle Gardens area



April 2005-February 2009

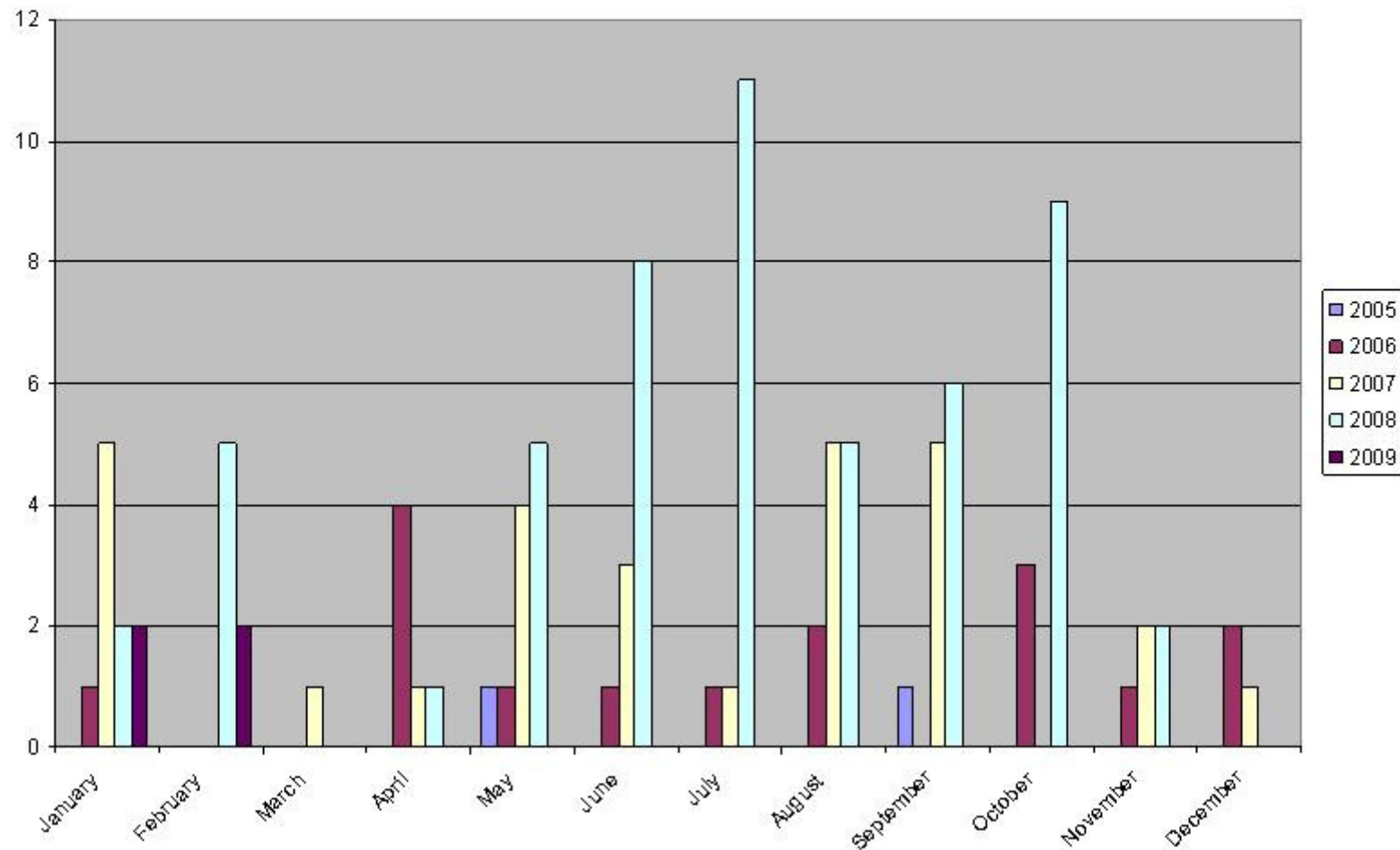
Anti-Social Behaviour

By month April 2005-February 2009



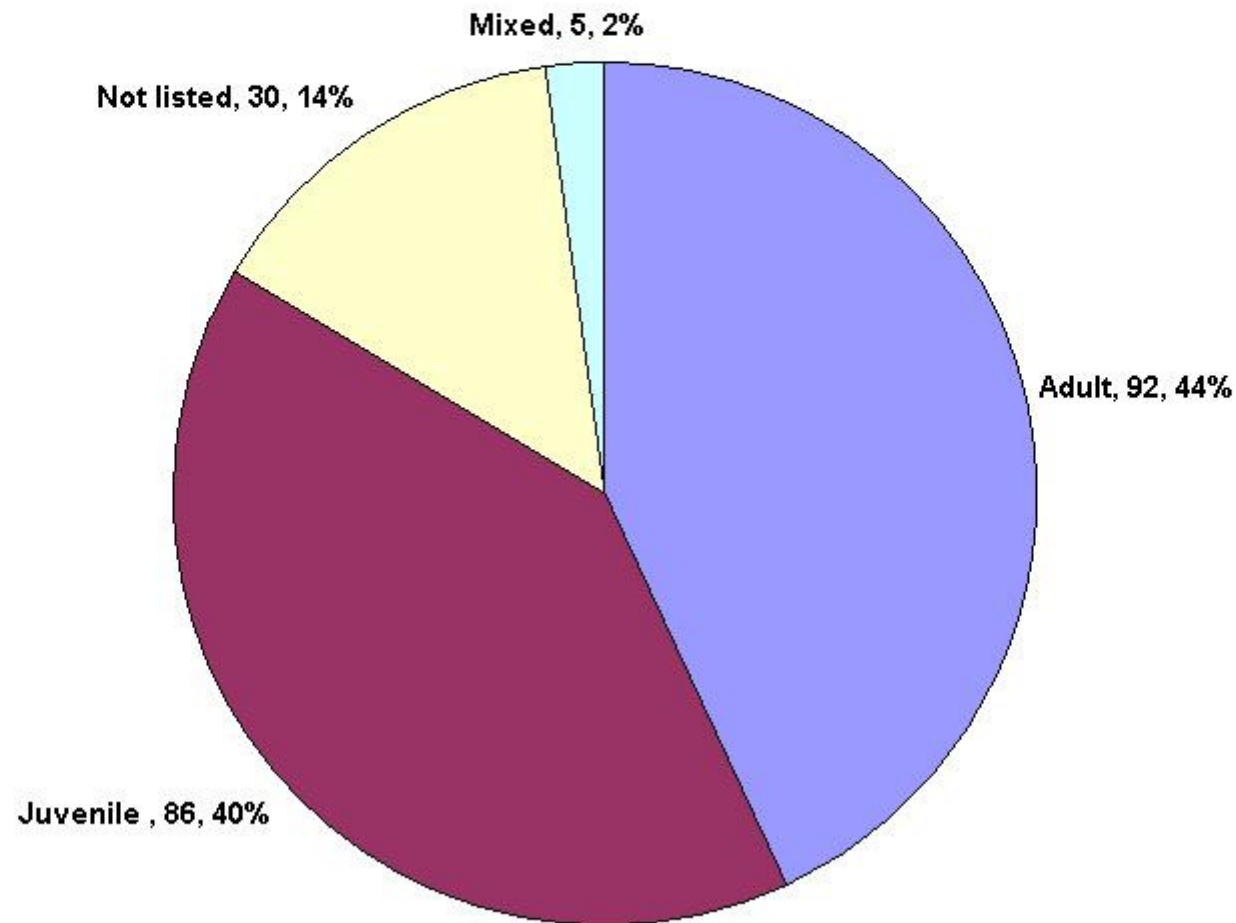
Anti-Social Behaviour

By month April 2005-February 2009
(excluding CADs listed as Castle Meadow)



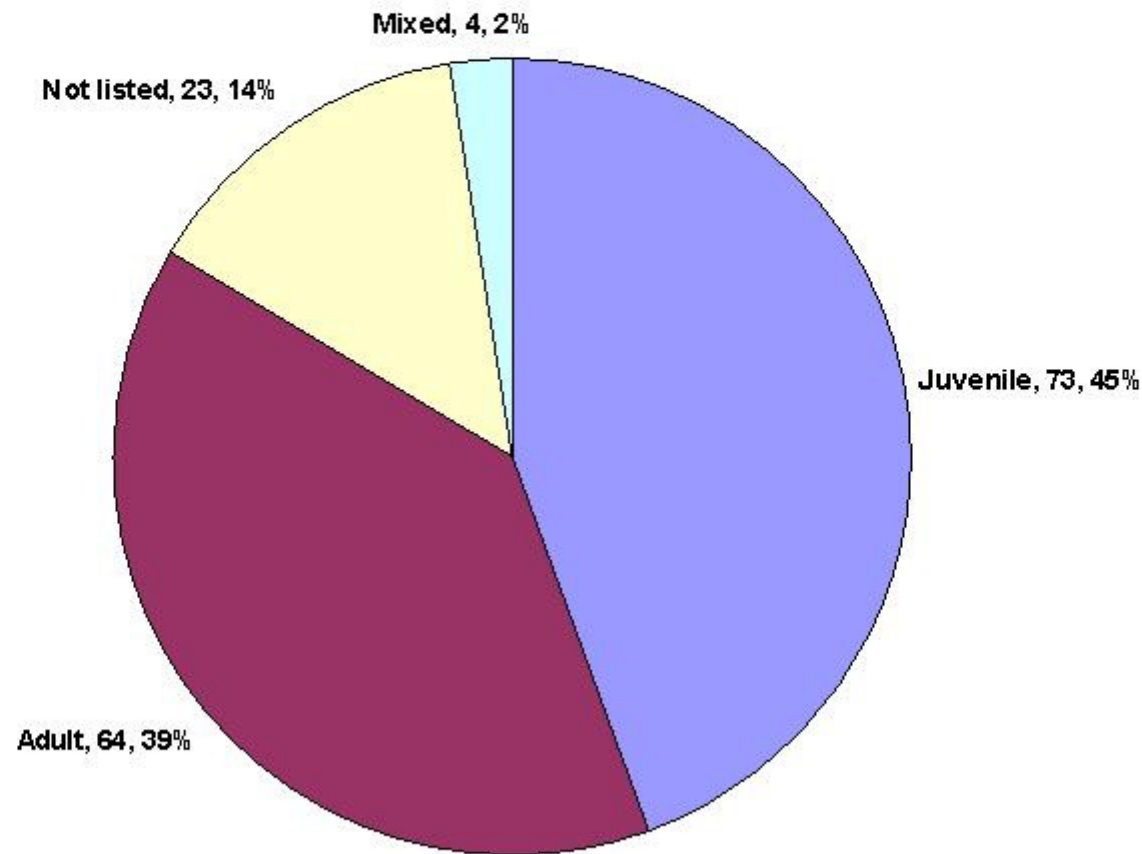
Anti-Social Behaviour

By age group April 2005-February 2009



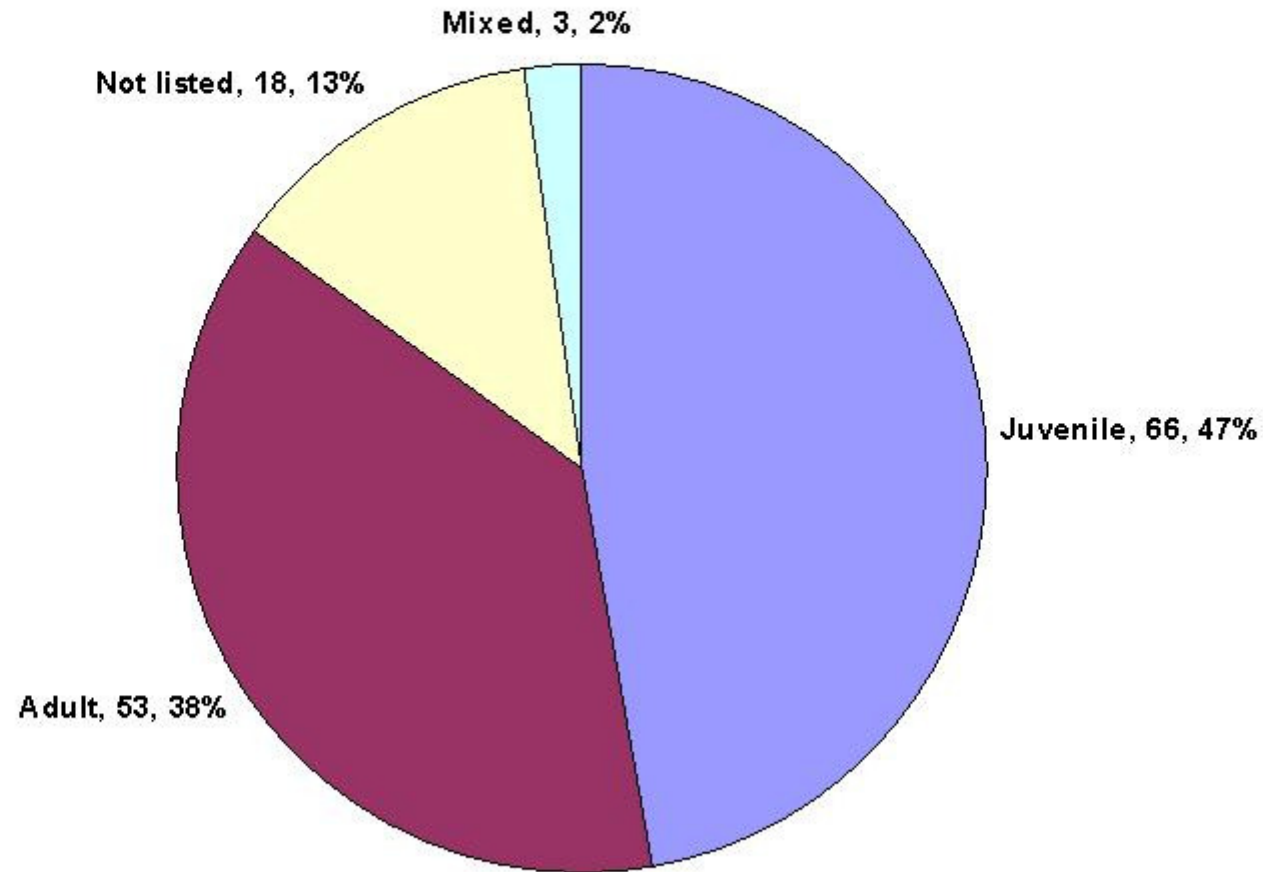
Anti-Social Behaviour

By age group April 2005-February 2009
(excluding CADs listed as Castle Meadow)



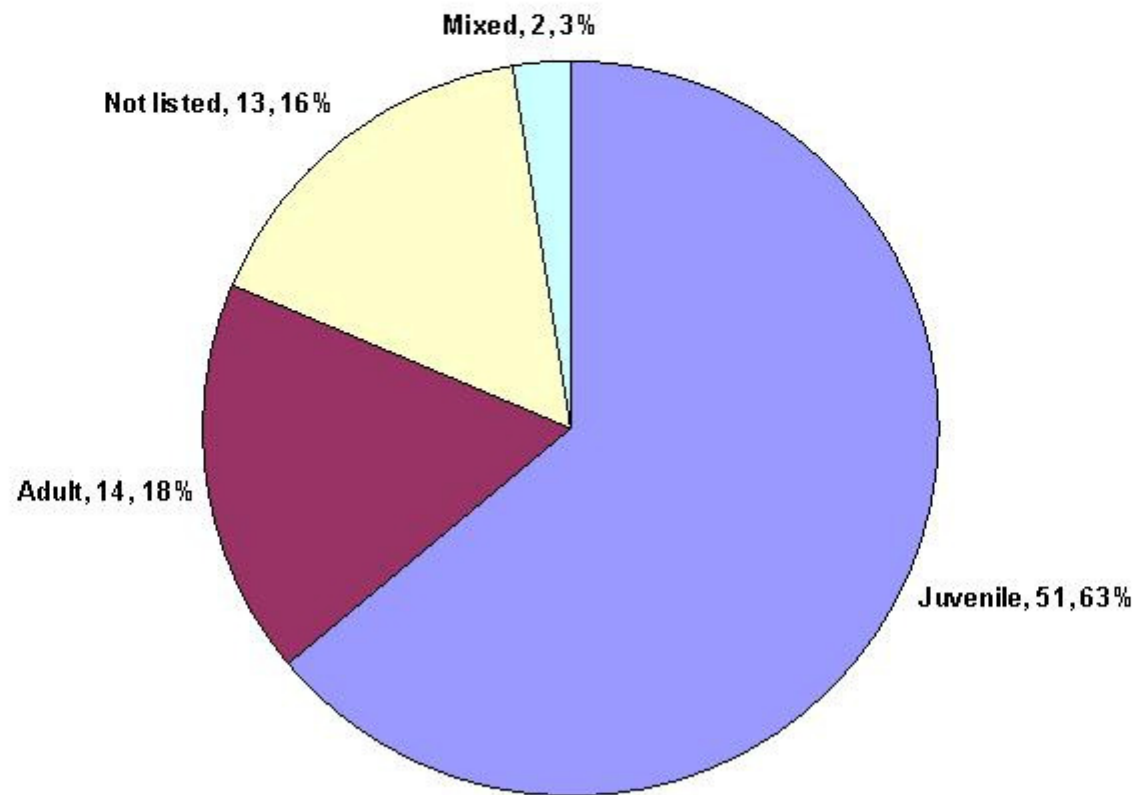
Anti-Social Behaviour

By age group April 2007-Date



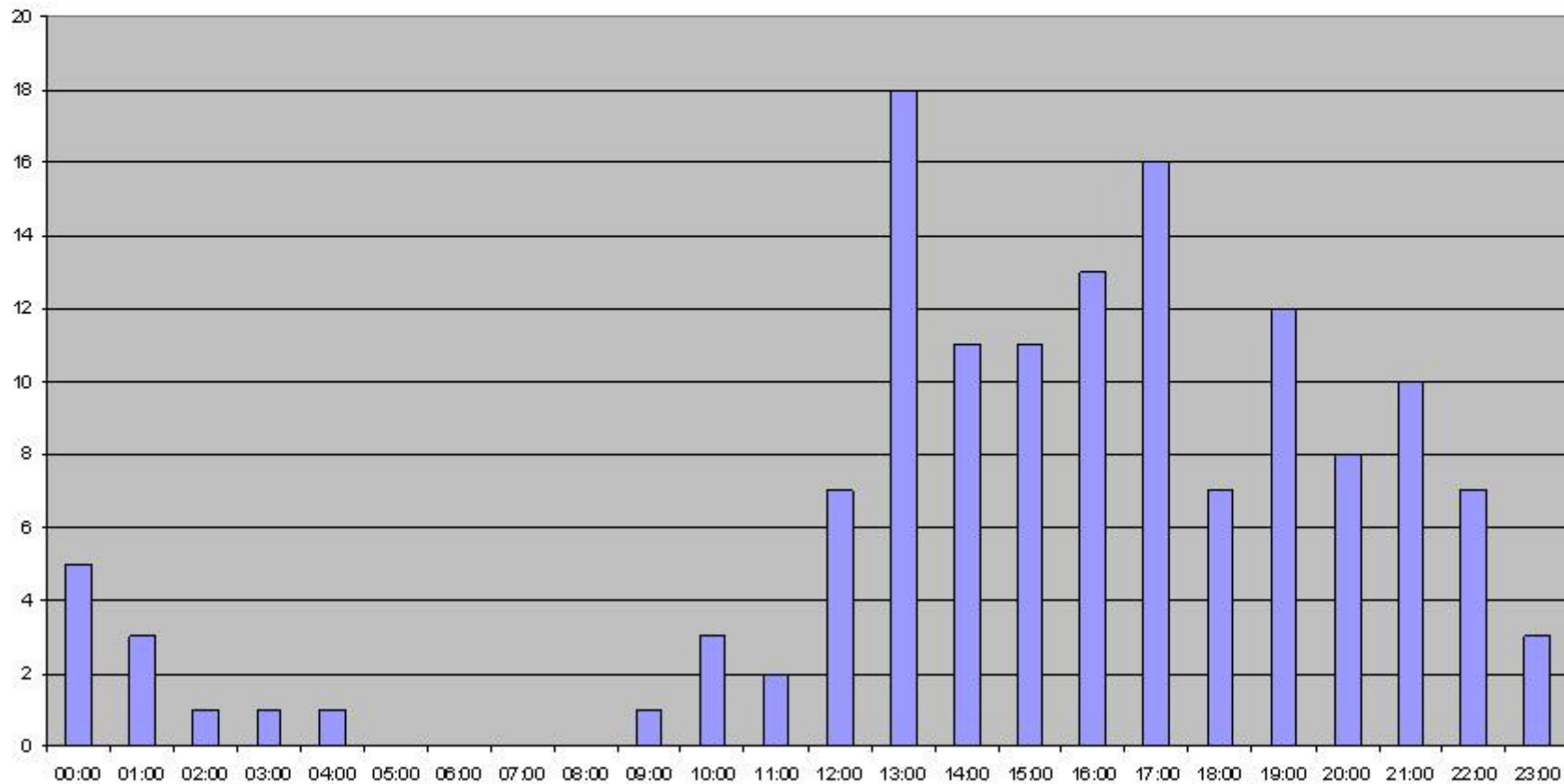
Anti-Social Behaviour

By age group April 2007-Date
(excluding CADs listed as Castle Meadow)



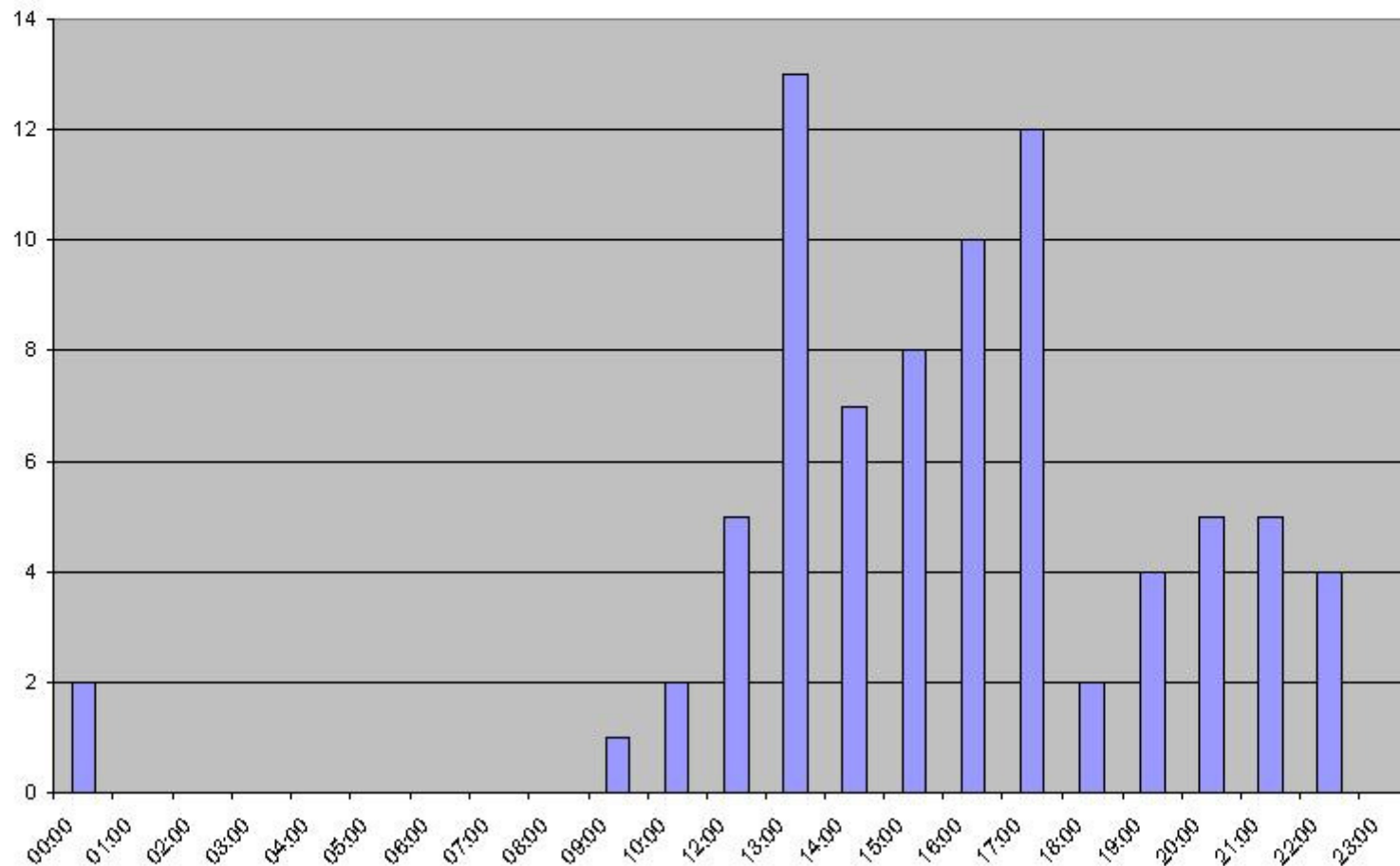
Anti-Social Behaviour

By timeslice April 2007-Date



Anti-Social Behaviour

By timeslice April 2007-Date
(excluding CADs listed as Castle Meadow)



Caveats and Observations

- There have been several changes in operational areas, counting systems and reporting styles over the past few years that make direct comparisons year-on-year very difficult therefore this document is for general guidance only.
- Because of this data concerning the Castle Gardens has been worked both with and without the area 'Castle meadow', this is because the majority of the incidents listed to this area are actually part of the night-time economy issue.
- Year on year there has been a clear increase in ASB within the gardens, and it is clear for the figures that it is shifting towards being predominantly youth lead.
- Whilst no criminal damage figures have been included the link between crime and ASB is a given.
- Because of the way ASB is reported there is a good chance that young adults may also form a large minority, but have been described as 'adult'. For the purpose of this Juvenile is taken to be up to age 18.