



**A** group of teenagers from Glemsford are determined to try and change people's perceptions of 'youth today' through a special film project.

The film project, which was organised and funded by Babergh, wanted to challenge the perceived concerns of Glemsford residents, who in the past have suffered from a series of anti-social behaviour issues in their village.

The group - Kim Willett, Kayleigh Wilson, Nicky Carr, Pearl Prigg, Leigha Taylor and Chelsea Howell - all aged between 14 and 16 years old, called themselves Teenagers Speak Out Loud.

They worked with film makers CSV Media over a course of several workshops held in February and during the Easter Holidays to produce a snippet of life in the village.

The project successfully came to an end with a screening of the film in May, attended by police and community leaders, as well as parents and, of course, the girls themselves.

Chelsea Howell, 15, from Glemsford, said: "We wanted to change things for young people in the village. None of the youngsters are as bad as people say and I think we should be judged as individuals.

"Making the film was really enjoyable."

Jill Barton, Babergh's Arts and Community Development Officer, said: "The project was a real success story and it was down to the hard work and enthusiasm of the girls taking part.

"We knew there had been problems in the village and that many of the teenagers were interested in film making - so the two naturally came together and formulated into a series of workshops and filming sessions."

# New plan to help build safer communities

**C** rime levels in Babergh have consistently fallen over the last three years and a new community safety action plan hopes to improve on this excellent result even further.

Members of the Babergh Community Safety Partnership (CSP), which used to be called the Babergh Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, have just finalised an action plan that will take the partnership forward during the next three years.

A range of information was used, including police reports and members of the public via public Safer

Neighbourhood Team meetings, to produce the new action plan that aims to build on the successes of the previous

three-year plan.

The new action plan focuses on five themes: night-time economy and town centre management, anti-social behaviour and engaging with young people, domestic violence, alcohol and substance misuse and enhancing community safety.

It is hoped these themes will help with long-term preventative work being carried out across Babergh, including working to give young people more of a stake in their communities and bringing communities, young and old, together by promoting understanding.

Paul Little, Babergh's Community Safety Manager, said: "The results speak for themselves. The falling crime levels are

down to a lot of hard work from a variety of organisations across the district working together to make a difference. "The new action plan will see the CSP trying to bring about long-term change within our communities, as well as maintaining the good work already achieved.

"No one is saying Babergh is perfect and without its problems but by working together, we hope Babergh will become an even better place to live than it already is."

STOP PRESS: figures just out show overall crime levels in Babergh have fallen by 8% over the last three years! For further information, please go to [www.babergh.gov.uk](http://www.babergh.gov.uk)