



DOCUMENTATION FROM A
**CONFERENCE ON SAFETY
AND SECURITY INSPECTION
TOURS HELD ON**

DECEMBER 1, 2005

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 **TRYGGARE
MÄNSKLIGARE
GÖTEBORG**
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Security and well-being have a great deal to do with participation, being able to influence events and knowing that you are being listened to. This is what the safety and security inspection tours are about. Being able to make use of information from as many different sources as possible in order to promote the positive community life of the city. Change through dialogue.

Safety tours are being conducted at many different places in Sweden, and also in other countries nowadays. This is something that architect Gerd Cruse Sondén could not have imagined when in a commission in the public interest in Göteborg in 1999 she began to walk together with the residents of Bergsjön in order to try to understand the city district from the point of view of the residents.

In the spring of 2001 the association Tryggare och Mänskligare Göteborg ("A More Secure and a More Human Göteborg") was formed, and Gerd joined its administrative group. Public health coordinator Karin Alsén in the city district of Tynnered had worked together with Eva Holm of the City Planning Authority on safety tours, and the idea of developing a method for safety and security tours together with Gerd began to take shape. After a few months a manual for safety tours came into being.

The word soon spread that there was a manual which residents and people active in the area could use together in order to identify improvements, increase security and reduce anxiety.

The manual was useful for many people, at the same time as safety tours initially created confusion about what one could usefully expect to achieve with the method. The safety tour became a way of carrying on a dialogue about the local community, a way for residents to bring out their understanding of their neighbourhood, and a way for administrations, housing corporations and others to acquire detailed information on how the neighbourhoods they are asked to administer actually work and what people feel about them.

Experiences have subsequently grown at different locations across the country, and the manual has been revised to fulfil a number of different needs. In some cases it has been adapted for school pupils; it has also been used to study town squares from a security angle, and it has acted as the basis for town planners considering in-fill construction and new housing developments.

The National Council for Crime Prevention (Brå) and Tryggare och Mänskligare Göteborg decided together to organise a national conference about what has been learned from these experiences. Safety tours provide opportunities for discussing both social and political aspects, and result in proposals for tangible changes. This information, deriving from experience, would provide a suitable basis for different types of processes of change.

Walking together and having the opportunity of ventilating one's anxieties, and coming up with proposals for solutions in itself helped to create a sense of security and what should be a natural dialogue in a democratic society.

At the current time work is continuing on improving the manual further on the basis of reflections made at the conference. See: www.tryggaremanskligare.goteborg.se

We hope that you are inspired to study this publication.

Göteborg on April 10, 2006

Borghild Håkansson
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WELCOME TO GÖTEBORG!

They came from Båstad, Västerås, Stockholm and elsewhere in Sweden. Some of them without any experience of safety and security inspection tours, others with their bags well packed – everyone with the desire to listen and take a slice or two of the cake.

Jan Hallberg, vice chair of the Göteborg city executive board, was happy to welcome more than 250 participants and 16 speakers to the Medicinarberget conference centre in Göteborg.

For the first time an all-day conference was organised on safety tours, hosted by Tryggare och Mänskligare Göteborg ("A More Secure and More Human Göteborg").

Safety tours are about caring – from both directions.

"It is a challenge for every city to ask its citizens to join in and do their bit to achieve a safer and more secure city. But somebody also has to listen – and do something. If a citizen has come across a wall with graffiti, a dark street which feels unsafe and then been on the telephone for more than an hour trying to find out who he should approach, and then when he has communicated all these observations, later discovers that nothing has been done about the matter, that citizen loses confidence in society and democracy.

We listen to each other, we talk together, we become visible. In this way we can create a society in which people's views are integrated rather than sectorised."

Jan Hallberg also emphasised the importance of not merely "repairing" after the event, but also bringing security and safety issues into the planning of new neighbourhoods and housing projects.

"As in the shaping of the Eriksberg area on the north bank of the river in Göteborg. In this case security and safety issues have been involved right from the planning stage when the townscape was designed."

Jan Hallberg also stressed that knowledge about security, causes and effects must be disseminated to all social operators. One has to be able to see the connections between cause and effect.

"We have to mobilise the residents on all levels. Security, safety, what is clean and smart – everything is connected!"

A more safer and secure city is not just about walking about in safety, it is also a question of democracy.

"Meeting places, forums, where people who do not meet every day can get together, are missing."

The safety tour is, therefore, a tool for producing everyday dialogue, out of which democracy will be enriched.

"The day when everybody starts to ring up about street lights that are out and overgrown shrubbery, and somebody takes the call and get the faults dealt with, then it is starting to work. That's where we must get to."

Lecturer Jan Hallberg, vice chair, Göteborg city executive board

WHAT IS SAFETY & SECURITY REALLY, AND WHO IS IT FOR?

"Security as a concept varies from individual to individual" "And it cannot be measured."

This is what struck education and network coordinator Jan Landström at the National Council for Crime Prevention, Brå, although at the same time he pointed out that there may be a danger in focusing too much on security and crime prevention measures.

"People get anxious when measures are taken to reduce crime."

The very word trygghet (meaning "safety" or "security") is not to be found in the Swedish National Encyclopaedia; on the other hand its opposite, otrygghet ("insecurity"), is described.

Rumours, one's own experiences, newspaper headlines and myths – all of these help to create insecurity – or security. The feeling of security depends on which class one belongs to, whether one is a man or a woman, and on one's ethnicity. And in the situation one happens to be in. At home in one's living room alone or out on a dark street in the middle of the night.

"It is difficult to measure security – but one can get some way towards it by means of interviews and questionnaires. The police conduct security measurements and the SOM (research and conference

center studying society, opinion and media) institute conducts studies over longer periods.

But the scientific basis can, however, be questioned, said Jan Landström.

Does crime in society in general have anything to do with security? No, not for the feeling of security itself.

"Young men feel secure – but it is they who are most often the victims of threats of robbery and violence."

"Elderly women, on the other hand, feel insecure – which we sometimes take as justification of the view that they have a weak grasp of reality, but as they seldom go out, they rarely encounter anything."

Security, or the feeling of security, can be promoted by creating an environment in which people can be happy and dare to stay without feeling uncomfortable. On the other hand, security can not be assigned to a specific environment, said Jan Landström, and went on:

"Being secure is not the same as being safe!"

And finally: "Preventing crime does not always lead to a reduction in security and vice versa. Or, as an elderly man put it when he saw a poster about the safety and security inspection tours in his city district:

"I didn't know it was insecure here!"

Lecturer Jan Landström, education and network coordinator at the National Council for Crime Prevention, Brå



PILOT PROJECT THAT CHANGED THE CITY DISTRICT OF TYNNERED

It is called 'Tunnel-land', the city district of Tynnered in south-west Göteborg. A relatively young city district, where traffic safety was emphasised from the outset by building roads at different levels and lots of pedestrian subways.

One kind of safety was gained, but another was lost. Now they are concentrating on altering the townscape and providing denser housing. And the safety and security inspection tours are providing materials for the planning architects.

"During our first safety tour it turned out that there were several of the participants who had worked in Tynnered for many years who had not seen the large number of pedestrian subways. They drove their cars to and from work in Tynnered. One of them said: 'Now I understand that girls think it is frightening to walk here on a dark evening – that may be why they do not come to our youth centre'."

Karin Alsén is a public health coordinator in the city district of Tynnered. One of the high-priority issues is that of security and safety – "a secure and safe district". People must feel safe to appear in public spaces, on squares, footpaths and cycle tracks. It must be easy to get into the city district and to get home in the evenings.

Tynnered, with its 28,000 inhabitants, is a fairly well segregated residential city district with everything from apartment blocks and terraced housing to villas by the sea.

Isolated islands

The city district consists of a number of "islands", in which each island is an isolated residential area with long paths or tunnels which have to be traversed in order to get to and from means of transport or any of the other residential areas.

"Individuals today do not feel particularly safe when they have to move between the different areas," explains Karin Alsén.

Six or seven years ago Karin Alsén sat with a working group discussing how they should work on safety and security issues. Stress was placed on the physical environment.

"We wanted to find a method where representatives of the authorities, administrations and organisations involved the residents of the city district in the process. Tynnered had to become more secure and healthier to live in."

She came into contact with planning architect Gerd Cruse and with Eva Holm from the city planning authority, who had begun to think about this business of safety and security inspection tours. Karin Alsén got involved and Tynnered became something of a pilot project. The first manual was produced; participants were contacted and then the process got going.

"We got together and walked, either in slushy snow or on a cold winter's evening. It was very exciting to walk together physically, people become more like each other in the evening; in the dark all cats are grey, old and young, professionals and amateurs. Everyone discovered the same things.

And a lot of conversations were struck up."

Female perspective important

"When people talk about safety and security, it is mostly about human relations and not particularly about security measures such as locks and bolts and surveillance cameras. A female perspective is also important. It is really true that "What is safe for women is safe for everyone". During the safety tours we discovered a lot of dark pedestrian subways which, precisely because they are dark and insecure, are not being used. And if they were used people didn't know where they should go when they

emerged from the tunnels. People created their own paths, for example across major traffic routes, just as an example.

The safety tours were documented and minutes sent to the authorities and administrations involved. The documentation formed the basis when Göteborg municipality began to work on a review of footpath and cycle tracks throughout the city.

In Tynnered footpath and cycle tracks were fairly quickly improved. The process then went further when the property management office and the city planning authority were tasked with reviewing the possibilities of making the housing in the city district denser.

As there are large open areas between the "residential islands", more housing can be built; in that way there are more eyes providing increased security.

This is where Olof Sjö Dahl, planning architect at the city planning authority in Göteborg came in, in connection with the start of work on a new local plan:

"Safety and security is not just about better lighting and safer footpaths but also about additional development. In Tynnered, like many other suburbs, built as part of the "million dwellings programme" (to provide a million dwellings in the 1960s) they have gone in for main roads and feeder services into each isolated residential area. They built separate routes for trams and cars and pedestrians. Every residential environment was safe and secure but in the spaces in between there were areas that no one managed. To get down to the shops required a lot of driving, etc.

Gable ends with no windows

Car parks were separated from the apartment blocks, whose gable ends facing the car parks had no windows. No eyes – easier then for cars to be broken into and damage to be done. We are rethinking this now.


In other words, rather than considering pedestrian subways from the aspect of traffic safety we are now re-evaluating them from the aspect of security. Included in future work on the local plan is: more houses and the task of examining security and structure in the city district's square.

"I think that in large part it is the support we received from the documentation on safety tours which means that we can go further in this," concludes Olof Sjö Dahl.

A final comment from the moderator of the Göteborg conference, Johan Öberg:

"The sequence has therefore been that: the public health committee conducted a safety and security inspection tour, whereupon the public health committee sought partners to cooperate in the work of change, and approached politicians who tabled a motion to the city council, which then tasked the administrations with carrying out changes. You have to be a little crafty if anything is ever to be done."

Lecturer Karin Alsén, public health coordinator, Tynnered city district administration and Olof Sjö Dahl, planning architect, city planning authority

Voices	Hans Nahlbom, Hyresgästföreningen ("Tenants' Association"), Mitt Region, Filipstad	
	<p>"Interesting to gain an overview of how people are working at different places across Sweden. I brought away from it how you involve the school in the work on a secure environment, and that you can link together residents, school and municipality – security covers the whole field. The whole day was spent in a very positive spirit all the way from municipalities, the police, to property owners etc.</p> <p>In Filipstad we have started a security project together with ABF (Worker's Educational Association) and the housing firms and tenants association as operators. We have someone employed on a special project who began by knocking on doors and presenting our materials and collecting people's views."</p>	

WHAT IS SAFE FOR WOMEN IS SAFE FOR EVERYONE

“Safety and security inspection tours are good, but we need to emphasise the fact that men and women have different experiences of insecurity and fear. By listening to women’s experiences to a greater extent than we have hitherto done, we can design physical environments where everyone, both women and men can feel safe. Birgitta Andersson, a gender researcher from Lund, focuses on women’s vulnerability.

Women are afraid of men. And men are afraid of men. This is how, a little simplistically, one might describe the situation. Or like this:

“I have not met any man who crossed the street because he met a woman on her own. Nor have I met a woman who crossed the street because she met an unknown woman,” says Birgitta Andersson.

It is the risk of being subjected to violence which both women and men adopt an attitude to. But on women’s part it is primarily the risk of sexualised violence, which means that unknown men may be experienced as a threat in certain situations. Above all in lonely places during the hours of darkness.

“Many of my male students tell me how unpleasant it feels when they are walking in town and catch up with a woman on her own, who then crosses to the other side of the street.”

The problem is a complex one, the difference in power between men and women, sexualisation of the female body, sexual harassment in school, the view of male and female violence and male and female sexuality – everything adds to the experience of risk.

“Experiences limiting women’s freedom of movement in public space limit their opportunities of taking part in society on equal terms with men. Most women carry a tacit understanding of how

they should move, where and when and how they should be dressed.

Public space should be accessible to all on equal terms; this is a question of democracy, maintains Birgitta Andersson. Then she delivers the following:


“When a rapist was running riot in Stockholm, the police encouraged women to stay indoors after dark. It is seen as a woman’s responsibility to look after her own safety and it therefore becomes a woman’s fault if she is in the wrong place at the wrong time and something happens ... no one thinks that it might be the men who should stay indoors, as one male municipal official put it after the rapes in Umeå.

So what can safety tours contribute to greater safety for women? “Always bear in mind that women and men live their lives in slightly different ways. This means that they acquire different experiences and understanding, for example about what creates security. This helps both men and women – what is experienced as safe for women is also experienced as safe for men!

Lecturer Birgitta Andersson, ethnogeographer and gender

IT IS SEEN AS A WOMAN’S RESPONSIBILITY TO LOOK AFTER HER OWN SAFETY AND IT THEREFORE BECOMES A WOMAN’S FAULT IF SHE IS IN THE WRONG PLACE AT THE WRONG TIME AND SOMETHING HAPPENS.





Lena Bengtsson, BRÅ (National Council for Crime Prevention), Kävlinge


“Positive on the whole. Particularly interesting to hear how they work in Frölunda – that they are not only looking at physical measures but more how you work with people. And getting tips from all those people who have conducted safety tours and how they documented them. At lunch I also got good tips from some participants who told me that they asked the residents before they decided which areas they were going to tour, i.e. where in the municipality people felt insecure – then this formed the starting point. We will definitely use the manual in our work in Kävlinge. We will of course do it in our own way, but we have gained a lot of good tips. And we have the means to analyse and measure the effect on the areas we are working with – before and after the work has been carried out.”

VOICES

VOICES

Lars Paulsson, public health coordinator in Bollebygd municipality

“I am satisfied with the day which provided me with some good examples of different ways of how one can work before and after a safety tour. The process itself is the same, but the cooperation between the parties can vary. The Lundby example was interesting, where they worked so closely with the property owner. And this question of how you prioritise – what is important and what is not. The Örgryte example provided inspiration. Negatives? Perhaps there was too much of the same – the safety tours themselves seemed to work in the same way; the work around them is more interesting. On the whole I got to take home some interesting thoughts which can develop our own safety tours in Bollebygd. We have tried it once, but had hoped for a better turnout. Now we know how we should continue the work in the two-year project which was initiated this year.”





“WE BROKE THE CITY DISTRICT DOWN INTO SMALL NEIGHBOURHOODS”

IN OUR DELIBERATIONS EVERYONE IS ABLE TO HAVE THEIR SAY

As early as 1999 in Örgryte a process was initiated for reaching out to all residents. The city district was divided into smaller neighbourhoods and people were invited to come and take part in the deliberations.

The purpose of these deliberations was to acquire information about how residents in smaller residential areas regarded their immediate neighbourhood.

At first sight the work looks simple. Three meetings to be divided up into: **deliberation – safety and security inspection tour – deliberation**

Public health coordinator Lillvi Egerbladh supervise the work.

“The deliberation is designed to be a forum to which citizens are invited in order to give their views, ideas and proposals to promote comfort, well-being and security in the city district.”

At the deliberation the participants are seated around several small tables, six to seven participants and a couple of officials or politicians at each table. One official leads the discussion and the other takes notes.

“We do not promise that everything that comes up will be acted upon, but we will try to answer each point raised.”

Those who want to can subsequently register for a safety and security inspection tour. On this tour, apart from the residents, the police, the city planning authority, parks and landscape administration, city district administration and possibly other people from the municipality also participate,

and they inspect both the physical and psychological environment. People’s lives are discussed – where are the social problems? Where are the good meeting places?

“Everything is noted down!”

The participants then meet for new deliberations. To these deliberations representatives are invited from public services and organisations who have dealings with the problems taken up at the earlier meetings.

A moderator allocates time to each speaker so that the panel will be able to respond to questions on issues that affect their organisation.

“We take care that no new issues are taken up at this meeting.”

And the results?

“We have received many excellent proposals over the years. And a great deal has been carried out.”

Play areas have become safer, potholes on the streets have gone, bushes and undergrowth has been removed or cut back, and a centre has been built where all the pensioners in Örgryte can meet.

“I must say that most of the problems have been dealt with.”

Lecturer Lillvi Egerbladh, public health coordinator in Örgryte city district administration, Göteborg



PROPERTY OWNER & CITY DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION WORK TOGETHER

“Without our joint cooperation it would not have been as good.”

The great measure of success in the safety and security inspection tours in Lundby on Hisingen in Göteborg lies in the fact that both property owners and city district administration together plan, implement and follow up the tours.

Other important partners are the traffic and public transport authority, the parks and landscape committee, the police and of course the residents too. “We have different skills, responsibilities, motives and tasks, which makes for combined strength.

But the safety tour is about more than just a safer city.

The tours must be seen from a democratic perspective”, maintain their advocates.

Bente Greve, head of operations for Lundby city district administration elucidates:

“Today there is often a huge gap between the citizens and the authorities. On the part of the authorities, we have not been particularly good at involving the citizens in participating in and influencing those questions concerning the individual.

We are instead surprised at a lack of commitment on the overarching social issues. But it is the issues that are near at hand that concern people most, and now on both sides we must make a fresh start.

On the part of the authorities, we must find new ways of listening, and the residents, on their part, must be prepared to try out these new procedures.

In the present situation we have to put a great deal of effort into finding successful forms of working and motivating people into taking part. Only when the residents have their own positive experience of the benefits of involvement will we be able to think about reducing this work on motivation.”

Bente Greve and Sophia Kaså, project officers for Fastighetsägare Centrala Hisingen (FCH, “Property Owners – Central Hisingen”) think the safety and security inspection tours are an effective tool for increasing participation.

An incidental benefit of this is that everyone suddenly realises that a more secure environment makes the entire residential area more attractive. It is important to take overall responsibility and not just focus on one’s own little street or property, whether one is a resident or a landlord.

Together we have now undertaken a number of safety tours in the residential area of Lundby.

We have felt our way forward, tested things out and arrived at a working model.

“But it is not certain that our method suits everyone else; I think everyone has to create a model based on their own conditions,” says Sophia Kaså.

The background

For some years both the city district administration and the property owners had conducted different kinds of inspection tours of the external environment in Lundby, more or less successfully. But then they decided to pool their resources.

A safety and security study in the spring of 2002 showed that 41% of the residents in the area did not dare go out alone in the district in the evenings. Lundby, with its 35,000 inhabitants, is the Göteborg city district with the most rapid growth. Both rich and poor live here in old and new housing, well segregated. The crime figures are higher than for Göteborg on average, a figure that they now intend to change, just as they wish to reduce the proportion of social welfare housing.

The property owners, a good 200 of them, had earlier experienced a certain resignation; problems were moved around between city departments. The city district administration had at the same time some difficulties in understanding who took responsibility for what. It was therefore important to pull oneself together and get a common grip.

“When everyone is on board, the common interests and individual responsibility become clear, and then a domino effect occurs,” says Sophia Kaså. “Oh, so they’ve finally done something about that – then I suppose we’ll have to do something about this.”

IT IS IMPORTANT TO TAKE OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY AND NOT JUST FOCUS ON ONE’S OWN LITTLE STREET OR PROPERTY.



THIS IS HOW LUNDBY HAS BEEN WORKING SINCE THE SPRING OF 2003

Preparations:

- First a planning meeting is held with all the operators, and this meeting decides an area and time. The city district administration and the property owners conduct a preliminary tour.
 - The city district administration takes responsibility for the practical arrangements, FCH invites the property owners.
 - Together they recruit residents by advertising, direct contacts etc.
- “It is important to get the right composition for the group, because then the discussions are better and more sensible. On the basis of who we are we have different experiences of what creates security and insecurity. It’s a question of bringing out all that understanding.”
- “The best way of reaching out to the residents is often through the property managers or landlords. A personal invitation is decisive.”

The safety tour

- Taking part in the tour are residents, property owners, and representatives of city district administration, parks and landscape administration, traffic and public transport authority, and the police.
- After gathering together in a suitable place, the group is informed about the evening’s activities and then they set off on the tour which can be 1-2 kms. This information is important in order to provide a common focus and instil realistic expectations.
- There is a leader and two secretaries.
- Everyone’s views are equally important.
- After the tour they gather again at the same place, go through all their views and proposals together and distribute responsibility as far as it is possible – who is going to act or investigate?

After the tour

- City district administration and FCH agree the minutes, which are then sent to the other operators for their response – What is to be done? How and when?
 - Finalising the minutes usually takes at least a month.
 - The minutes are then disseminated by means of leaflets, homepages, city administration’s and FCH’s own newsheets, posters in the civic centre and in the library.
- “You have to make certain all the time that nothing falls down the cracks. And that you don’t give up, even if it takes a long time. Just as at the outset you say: some things will take a little time, while other things may not be possible at all.

Follow-up

- City district administration follows up after 6 to 12 months together with FCH. After this, those people with responsibility for matters

- that have not been actioned are contacted and asked what is happening.
- The minutes are updated and then an oversight tour is conducted.

Pitfalls

Bente Greve and Sophia Kaså agree that there may be many pitfalls. Some examples are:

- You only see what other people should be doing and can do.
- You have unrealistic expectations.
- The officials take over.
- The safety tour can be regarded as a way of generating a large number of demands.
- You only focus on the negative.
- The groups are too homogeneous.

“It is difficult to put together the correct mix of representative residents groups; you have to work a great deal with direct contacts,” says Bente Greve.

And the future?

Bente Greve: “We have plans for three safety tours this year, one of them in the old shipyard area of Eriksberg which has been transformed into an exciting residential area. There we are going to work together with a large number of housing cooperatives. It is most difficult to work with safety and security inspection tours in areas with very diverse ownership – we would never have succeeded so well in Lundby if FCH had not been an operator.”

Sophia Kaså: “Are safety and security inspection tours here to stay or just a one-off occurrence?”

I think that the safety tours work best as a mapping tool. Now we know what needs to be done. Now it is “merely” a question of following up and putting on the pressure, so that things happen. The ongoing maintenance on the other hand – litter; graffiti, broken street lights, overgrown bushes. They are always with us. For these we cannot use safety tours. Different tools are needed for these.

We strongly believe in what we call “oversight tours”, a concept we are developing together with the football club BK Häcken, where their youngsters go through the area with a fine-tooth comb, clearing litter and documenting deficiencies in maintenance. Perhaps the greatest gain is that the youngsters also learn that involvement leads to results.”

Lecturer Bente Greve, head of operations for Lundby city district administration and Sophia Kaså, project officer for FCH, Fastighetsägare Centrala Hisingen

	<p>Marie-Louise Boström, chair BRÅ (National Council for Crime Prevention), Säter</p> <p>“An enormously stimulating day. I came here with my hands out and went away with my hands full. The youngsters in Frölunda and the school safety and security inspection tours in Nacka were particularly inspiring. The only downside was the number of speakers, which meant repetition. Preferably fewer talking at greater depth.</p> <p>We will use the completed manuals in our work which we have started here in Säter, for example with the neighbourhood watch, and I will introduce many of the tools that I’ve been given here in Göteborg. I also work in Falun for the tenants association and can make use of the knowledge there too. I have killed two birds with one stone.”</p>
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VOICES

RESIDENTS IN LUNDBY

When the posters went up on the noticeboard, an invitation dropped through the letterbox and the caretaker rang their bell – then they took part.

“Because the idea was so fantastic, so simple!”

One of them has just moved here, another has lived here all his life. Welders, managers, executives and carpenters. People in work or pensioners, of different ages.

All with the one thing in common, that they care about their old city district of Lundby on Hisingen, Göteborg. They care so much that they took the trouble to drag themselves away from their TV sofa and go out on a really cold autumn evening and together with officials and experts, walked round for two hours talking and studying what is good and bad in their immediate neighbourhood.

Lundby city district administration and the property owners federation invited them to go on a safety and security inspection tour, and they tagged along. The residents, voices on the street, who are so incredibly important in the work of making the city more secure.

“It’s interesting to help to exert an influence!”

“Because you have to take part if anything is going to happen.”

“I was just inquisitive.”

“But I don’t understand why they put speed bumps on our street where there is no traffic.”

They are gathered together at a round table in the reading room of the library in Lundby town hall. Some people interrupt each other, others are thoughtfully silent. The way people are mostly. “Just think, I thought at first it was one of those parents’ walks, and I’m too old for that, but then a friend told me what it was about, so I tagged along immediately.”

“It was really good, because now I know who’s responsible for different things.”

“And it’s good that people are going to do something about the problems too, they get a whole lot of tips about things that they haven’t seen themselves.”

“It was great, now I know who they are and what responsibility the landlords have, so I can chase them up!”

“I see it all in a completely different light now. Both what is good and what is bad.”

“That’s what we did on the tour too.”

“But those traffic-calming measures – they should have found out

what people think first. Putting them just on that stretch there, that wasn’t very clever.”

Holes in the road surface, deplorable play areas, overgrown shrubbery, dark parks and areas. Of course we had time to look at quite a lot on the different tours. And there were, what is more results, something that most of the participants are pleasantly surprised about. Not all of the problems were dealt with, however.

“But we knew that right from the outset, that they couldn’t fix everything.”

“But a great deal has been done.”

“We could see that, of course, in the minutes when we got them.”

“We did a tour ourselves last Sunday and had a look – some things are still to be done, although some things take longer to fix than others.”

“Have you seen the lamps in the little park?”

“And the bushes had been cut back!”

The residents are all in agreement that they were really listened to. And that everybody spoke to everybody else, residents and police and architects and people from the park and landscape administration ...

“We walked in a group, and we all talked to each other. Interrupted each other, almost.”

“The person in charge asked questions and listened to the person who was responsible for that subject, conducted a dialogue, but everybody listened and everybody got to say their piece.”

And some are very pleased. Such as the lady who complained about the high kerbs on her street, which neither prams nor wheelchairs could cross.

“And now they have bevelled the entire pavement. That’s terrific!”

“And the benches on Bergavägen, which we suggested, because it was too much for the old people who had been shopping, now there are three benches and that is really good.”

So although all their wishes have not been satisfied, the group around the library table are enthusiastic and content. So content that they happily abandoned the TV again to go out on a chilly dark autumn evening and do a safety tour.

“By all means, it is really important see what is happening to those things that still haven’t been done. Every other or every third year we should go out.”



Foto: Håkan Lindgren

“It should work for school too!”

When Nacka Municipality organised a number of safety and security inspection tours with positive results, people’s gaze turned on the world of the school. Would the safety tour model work there too?

Based on the Göteborg safety and security inspection tour manual the material was adapted for schools.

“Here too the safety tours were seen from a democratic perspective,” says public health planner Pernilla Isaksson at the Göteborg conference.

SAFETY AND SECURITY INSPECTION TOURS IN SCHOOL

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“Here too the safety tours were seen from a democratic perspective,” says public health planner Pernilla Isaksson at the Göteborg conference.

The school is the pupils’ workplace for many years – pupils have to feel secure and have the opportunity of playing a part in influencing their environment.

“When one explores the physical environment in school one creates a democratic meeting place for the pupils. This, together with the feeling of security, is important for health,” says Pernilla Isaksson.

In a questionnaire sent out in Nacka to pupils in school years 7 and 9 and the first school year at upper secondary school it emerged that many pupils felt insecure on their way between home and school.

For this reason it was decided to conduct a safety tour where the usual manual was adapted to the world of school.

“We think it is most appropriate to do a walk with the seventh school year and the first year

at upper secondary school. In year 7 the pupil may well be new at the school and feels most insecure then, but also most committed. Then they stay at the school for three years and can see that the changes are actually carried out, that the views of the pupils are actually taken seriously.”

The questionnaire reveals that many pupils feel insecure on their way to and from school. But even on the school premises there are insecure areas: corners in corridors, unlocked cycle stands where bikes can easily be stolen, bushes or dark places.

“Experiences vary from school to school; you have to adapt the walk to the individual school,” says Pernilla Isaksson.

“The walks provide a feeling of security in several different ways – that the pupils meet teachers and other school staff, who they often may not have had contact with, that they get their faces known and acquire “added value”.

The safety and security inspection tour covers three areas.

- **The school building:** what does it look like in the corridors, the toilets, other rooms?
- **The school yard:** are there concealing walls, dark corners, graffiti, rubbish etc?
- **The route to school:** how safe are different arcades, bus stops, subways?

“Just as during a normal safety tour, it was also a question of noticing what was beautiful and

pleasant. Notice what creates a feeling of security, what one wants to preserve and advertise”

Another important point is to see the areas both from boys’ and girls’ perspectives. Different things create a feeling of insecurity in girls and boys.

“You can, for example, divide up the groups by gender. One teacher and 10 pupils in each group has worked well.”

Another tip that Pernilla Isaksson passes on is the necessity of informing the school management and teachers about the walks so that they are prepared for the fact that different proposals for measures may be forthcoming.

“If nothing happens after a walk, pupils lose confidence in the work of the school. But one must also point out that not everything can be put right, that the pupils themselves perhaps should make a list of priorities.”

Pernilla Isaksson thinks that the pupils should also participate in any improvements such as painting a graffitied wall for example.

“What is more the teacher has to refer back to the walk once or twice during the school year.”

The manual for the Nacka schools’ walks can be found on www.nacka.se. Write “Trygghetsvandringar” in the search field.

Lecturer Pernilla Isaksson, public health planner in Nacka Municipality



“WE OUGHT TO HAVE SOME LAMPS THERE”

“WE WERE ALL TALKING AT THE SAME TIME, ALMOST”



OLD PEOPLE HAVE A LOT OF GOOD IDEAS, BUT WE YOUNG PEOPLE COME UP WITH FRESHER IDEAS!

Sandra Svartengren, Johan Bassam and Anu Tuncay

YOUNG PEOPLE MAKE FRÖLUNDA SAFER

“No one should be afraid when they’re walking in Västra Frölunda!”

Västra Frölunda, with 12 000 residents, is one of the smallest city districts in Göteborg – but nevertheless the most insecure. At least allegedly. This is something that, among others, Sandra Svartengren, Johan Bassam and Anu Tuncay are going to change.

They are part of a unique collaboration for a safer Frölunda in which the safety and security inspections tour have played a part.

It was Sandra, Johan and his twin brother Wihad who were given the loudest applause at the security conference in Göteborg, amongst other things for this remark from Wihad:
 “Old people have a lot of good ideas, but we young people come up with fresher ideas!”
 A week after the conference they take us round the area in the vicinity of Frölunda Square. Sandra

Svartengren, 18 years years old, Johan Bassam, 17, but not his brother Wihad, who has a lot on at present. Instead Anu Tuncay, 17, comes along with us to the infamous underground tram stop, a place that even the hooligans of Göteborg consider to be the worst in the entire city.
 “Imagine that you are walking through this subway tunnel at two o’clock in the morning to get up onto the other track and take the tram

home from the disco at the youth centre. How safe would you feel here! Of course it is lit, but it reeks of urine and there are always a few shady characters lurking about in this tunnel.”

No one should walk alone

So what can a couple of lads like Johan and Anu, and a slim little girl like Sandra do about it?
 “We do not allow anybody who doesn’t want to, to walk on their own to or from the tram.

We are a team of 12 safety monitors who will accompany people in pairs to and from the tram. Everybody should know about this. Even parents of youngsters who live out on the islands and do not know their way about here in Frölunda. They can feel safe.

Anu, Johan and Wihad have been born and brought up in Frölunda. They have hung out at the youth recreation centre and know everyone inside and outside the building. Sandra lives in the safe suburb of Askim, but through her involvement, amongst other things, with the youth centre here, she has made Frölunda her patch.

The background is as follows:

In 2001 Göteborg municipality invests in recreational facilities for older teenagers from six city districts in the West – Askim, Frölunda, Högsbo, Styrsö, Tynnered and Älvsborg. In February 2006 a youth centre of 1,200 square metres is opened. A group of young people is linked to the youth centre to receive training and they will then act as safety monitors, both inside and outside the building, which is not far from Frölunda Square.
 The safety monitors form part of the large safety group in the western Göteborg which includes

representatives for the housing companies, the police, field assistants, recreation leaders and social secretaries. The youngsters are in a hefty majority; adults are there to listen to them.

The idea copied from Stockholm

The idea of safety monitors has been copied from Stockholm’s “Peaceful Street” project. Apart from training, the safety monitors have taken part in the city district’s own safety and security inspection tour.

“That was last autumn; we were all on the tour. And then people from the park and landscape committee, the private security company, Västtrafik (public transport company in Västra Götaland), and landscape architects, researchers, there were a lot of us. We kept to the area around the youth centre and the square. Wandered about and checked secure and insecure places, the tram stop and graffiti among many other things.”

“We came up with so many good ideas. Such as having lighting even at the back of the building where the car parks are.”

“And a few trees between us and the community centre will have to come down. So that we can

see the people in the centre, and they can see us.”

“It’s brilliant that there are finally some people who get the idea that it is us boys and girls who live here who get what its all about. We are speaking for all the others. Not everyone dares to admit that they are afraid.”

“But the best thing is still that we accompany people when they feel insecure. I’m thinking of going on with it as long as I’m able to.”

“Well, in any case until we are 20.”

“Or until we get our pensions.”

Actually great!

Their advice to other young people across Sweden who may not think it is particularly cool to go along on a safety tour?

“You ought first to try to get hold of youngsters at the youth centres; direct contact is best. Then you say to the youngsters that they should come along and check out what is going on, before they decide whether it’s good or bad. You can’t simply reject something when you don’t know what is involved.”

“And this is actually great!”

Anyone wishing to know more about the youth centre can go to www.zappa.nu

DO A VIRTUAL TOUR

It is one thing to revise and alter existing housing. But can residential security be introduced even at the planning stage? With virtual safety tours?

In Stockholm the county police authority has, in cooperation with researchers from the Royal Institute of technology and Chalmers University of Technology, developed a handbook on secure living.

“In a huge future building project between Solna and Stockholm the planning architects revised their plans. They had a rethink after having read our handbook,” says police inspector Anders Rydberg at the Göteborg conference.

The police in Stockholm have been working a great deal with residential security. One element of this was the textbook on crime prevention and the creation of security. The target group, and to a large extent the financiers, are the building trade and the Development Fund of the Swedish Construction Industry, the city planning authority, insurance companies, different manufacturers and the police authority in Stockholm County among many others.

A book on demand

The handbook, which first took the form of a ring binder, is now on the Web.

“A book on demand”, says police inspector Anders Rydberg.

In the book Bo Tryggt 05 (“Live Securely 05”) there are checklists and tools one can work with on different building projects. There are tools here for safety tours. The manual for a real safety and security inspection tour has been taken from Göteborg. But Bo Tryggt 05 goes a step further.

“We thought about how we could influence security issues in an area before it was built on, i.e. already at the planning stage. And decided to develop tools for a virtual safety tour.”

On the Web you can either find proposals for completed manuals which you can use – or make your own on the basis of the environment where you live.

“Computerised 3-D models are one thing, but our method is cheaper and possibly more effective. Get the architects and planners and other interested parties round a table. Get out the maps, plans, models, aerial photos, other photos and statistics of different kinds.”

The participants can then work according to scenarios described in the handbook or create their own. According to Anders Rydberg it is a good idea that every participant has a scenario.

Some examples of scenarios:

- You are a relative who is going to visit an elderly aunt in a newly developed residential area. How do you drive there? How do you find your way there? Whether there is visitor parking in the garage – and do they allow unknown visitors in the garage?
- You have recently become a pensioner and widow and want to take your dog out for a walk. Which route feels most secure?
- You are the chair of the housing cooperative and are going to organise a party. What premises are available? What does it look like outside?
- You have been out and done the weekly shopping with your two-year-old and have a car full of bags. How do you cope with your child and the bags, and how easy is it?
- You are a professional thief. What are the easiest ways of getting into a block of flats, in the garage?
- You are young and want to meet your mates; what places do you think are most fun to hang out?

“A lot of discussions arise, and among them people ask the question – should we build at all?”, says Anders Rydberg who had been involved in a number of different workshops on Bo Tryggt 05

The conclusion is: act preventatively and look before you leap.

If it is a question of new construction in an old area you can also use both a real and virtual safety tour – combine the two for the best results. www.botryggt.se

**Lecturer Police inspector Anders Rydberg,
Stockholm police authority's development section**

**KEEP A STEP AHEAD
– DO A VIRTUAL TOUR ON THE WEB.**



FOCUS ON THE MEETING

It is not just about cutting down bushes, washing off graffiti or putting up lamps everywhere.

“The focus should not be too narrow – it is the meeting between people which is the important thing on the safety tours. The right mix of young and old means that they get to know each other and are less afraid of each other.”

Lauri Perälä, project engineer on the parks and landscape administration in Göteborg, has been on several safety tours. And gave several examples of good and bad environments.

“Of course we got to keep an eye on shrubbery and brushwood – but a completely bare site does not necessarily feel any more secure,” said Perälä, showing a picture of a frighteningly cold and empty Drottningtorget Square in Göteborg.

He thinks that it is not always better lighting which is the answer to reducing a feeling of insecurity.

It might instead be a question of different lighting, or correct lighting. Just as the fact that security is not improved by spending more of more money on cleaning up graffiti.

“Graffiti is a form of expression, but the question is why.

To quote a contemporary writer's paraphrase of the novelist Hjalmar Söderberg: “Rather notorious than invisible.” Graffiti is a symptom; it is a cause we have to get at. What is it that can reduce or increase security and reduce fear? It must be the meeting between people,” says Lauri Perälä.

“Safety tours create the opportunity for meetings when Aunt Maud encounters that young man she's been afraid of who lives in the next block and discovers that he is quite an ordinary young man to whom it is possible to talk. That increases a feeling of security. Focusing on bushes and lighting is important, but if one becomes fixated entirely on that, then one forgets the goal. The meeting between people is important.”

**Lecturer Lauri Perälä,
project engineer, parks and landscape
administration, Göteborg**

**GRAFFITI IS A SYMPTOM;
IT IS A CAUSE WE HAVE TO GET AT.**

MORE SECURE CITY IN KRAKOW, POLEN

It is not only in Sweden that the municipality and the organisations are taking notice of the security of the residents, or the lack of it.

Piotr Kiszkiel, vice chair of Härlanda city district council, has studied Krakow in Poland, a town with 750 000 inhabitants, which attracts 7 million tourists every year.

In Krakow in southern Poland they are working with the aim of producing a more secure city. Krakow, which used to be Poland's capital, is a large university town with a relatively young population: 65% of the inhabitants are under 45 years of age.

In the project “A More Secure Krakow” they are focusing on issues such as lighting, neighbourhoods, traffic, and emergency preparedness.

“I have focused in on the security work being carried out in city district number 9, with 14 000 residents. There they are working among other things at gathering in information from the residents about dangerous locations. These are communicated to the police and to the town patrols. In the work of security they are concentrating on stopping the spread of drugs; they are trying to prevent: the formation of gangs, football hooligans and begging, amongst other things.

There is also a major attempt to make use of the social involve-

ment and moral courage of school children – they are trying to get young people to dare to testify about crimes that have been committed. This is where the schools, the city council and the town patrol are collaborating.

But the work of security is not as structured as it is in Sweden,” says Piotr Kiszkiel.

One problem is also that people's faith in the powers that be has been coloured by 45 years of the communist regime; it is therefore a challenge to get people to trust the authorities.

Pjtor concluded by providing a further perspective on security:

“Last night I went to Hjällbo. On my way back I slipped on an un-sanded path, and was concerned that I would not be able to get here today.

Then I thought about a Somali girl who has lived for eight years in my city district of Härlanda here in Göteborg. Over the past six months she has been bullied by neo-Nazis, bullying that ended in a brutal attack. She has now moved to the city district Bergsjön. Society could not guarantee her security.”

There are different perspectives on what security consists of. The Somali girl's perspective, a pedestrian's perspective and a tourist's perspective.

**Lecturer Piotr Kiszkiel,
vice chair of Härlanda city district council**

MULTICULTURAL RINKEBY DOES ITS SURVEYS IN COLOUR

16 000 residents, 80 to 90% with immigrant backgrounds, in a fairly small area. In Rinkeby, Stockholm, the National Council for Crime Prevention has organised safety and security inspection tours throughout the city district.

One difficulty was to get information out before the tours. The solution was clear maps marked in colour, showing each tour area.

"It is difficult to get information out in multicultural areas. This is because the information culture is completely different in, for example, Somalia compared with Sweden," explains Per Granhällén, coordinator of Rinkeby's crime prevention work. Clear posters with a distinct division of the area – 4 different colours for four different safety tours and dates - red, yellow, green and blue, were put up on notice boards, distributed to societies and published in the local newspaper.

Red October 11, yellow October 20 ...

In its safety tours Rinkeby starts from the Göteborg manual.

"We think it is quite excellent, but we have also put a great deal of work into clarifying the minutes.

We document everything with photographs and have also used colours in the minutes. During a tour discussions may arise about what, for example, are felt to be factors leading to insecurity.

"We really do stress that everyone in the group has a right to think and hold an opinion. No-one is superior to anyone else. I have heard the property companies say:

"But those bushes are fine!"

And the residents say:

"They are a problem for us."

Then we support the residents' desire to enter this as a problem in the minutes.

Every problem owner – city district administration, property company, etc – has to take responsibility for dealing with their problems.

"If during the course of a tour we have a problem about who is responsible for what, we enter a note in the minutes, and then we solve the problem afterwards. We do not stand around discussing it during the tour; that would take too long.

Sometimes people on the tour may discover problems – like a broken fence – where the owner, despite pressures, does not care. It may be a company that is not taking part in the tour,

and which has no real link to the area – such as an electric company for example.

Finally Rinkeby city district committee takes it upon themselves to mend the fence. An old broken fence sends signals that no one cares about that particular area, and that is not satisfactory. Everyone who has taken part in the tour receives a copy of the minutes on CD or on paper. What is more the owners of the problem, who have not themselves taken part in the tour, receive the minutes. In the minutes there are also statistics showing what has happened.

All participants on the tour are also invited to a follow-up meeting with coffee and the chance to mingle, and a slide presentation where everybody gets to know what has happened since they took part in the tour through their own area. How to take matters further is also discussed, at this meeting."

Lecturer Per Granhällén, crime prevention worker in Rinkeby

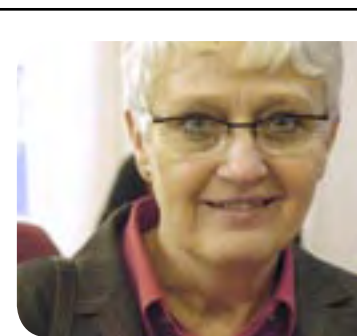
WITH COLOUR AS A TOOL

Protokollets utformning

<p>Taxen är röd då vi hittar nya problem</p> 	<p>Plats, nummer på kartan, problem</p> <p>Bild 11, område mellan den proviseriska Astoryskolan och parkeringen Rinkeby.</p>	<p>Problem</p> <p>Gångväg i östra delen</p>	<p>Vem åtgärdar</p> <p>Stadsdelsförvaltningen</p>
<p>Taxen är grön då ägarna granskar och problemen därmed är lösta.</p> 	<p>Plats, nummer på kartan, problem</p> <p>Bild 17, tennis/basketplan mellan den proviseriska Astoryskolan och parkeringen Rinkeby.</p>	<p>Tullgårdens problem - Ulfred ängård</p> <p>Trängst stället</p>	<p>Äggård av Guro och fastighetsvärd</p> 
<p>Om äggårderna ej granskas och problemen kvarstår sedan tidigare samlingar är svårt att lösa. Problemet löses med hjälp av proviseriska Astoryskolan / byggherrens ansvar</p> 	<p>Plats, nummer på kartan, problem</p> <p>Bild 18, parkering mellan den proviseriska Astoryskolan och parkeringen Rinkeby.</p>	<p>Problem som kvarstår 2005</p> <p>Högt brockage som gör att det långa stryggat ut på vägen.</p>	<p>Vem löser problemet</p> <p>Stadsdelsförvaltningen</p>

Brottsförebyggande centrum i Rinkeby

In the suburb of Rinkeby in Stockholm a colour-coding system is used to indicate clearly which problems are new (marked in red), which have been dealt with (green) and which remain to be tackled (blue). The tables show the location, the nature of the problem and who is responsible for dealing with it.



Barbro Nordgren, chair of the local BRÅ in Haninge (Council for Crime Prevention) and the city executive board manager for detailed planning

"A good day, interesting to learn about the systematic part of safety and security inspection tours and how one plans the work in cooperation with the housing companies. The virtual safety tour brought into the planning office is one I shall take home with me to introduce there. We ourselves are about to introduce safety tours."

VOICES

VOICES

Leif Löf, city architect, town planning administration, Trollhättan

"Much better than I had expected. I gained a generally greater insight into the fact that security issues are important. And that those people who had succeeded well with their safety tours had put a lot of work into planning, preparatory work and follow-up. I gained a strong impression of the woman's perspective, which was very marked. And I want to learn more of both about this and about the work of safety and security inspection tours. So the day was a good one, even if there were some repetitions during the afternoon.

We have done some safety tours in Trollhättan. I have not taken part myself but believe it worked okay. But that's easy to say when one hasn't taken part."



SAFETY AND SECURITY INSPECTION TOURS AND DEMOCRACY'S NEED FOR MEETINGS

"Security has become politics. The parties are outdoing each other in their struggle to calm our anxieties."

"And so we are the ones who are walking there, instead of the citizens' elected representatives. Instead of the political parties, who by all accounts have now abandoned private society and moved into community centres, county council and regional offices and ministries."

After talks by a dozen committed men and women who have all praised the safety and security inspection tours, Erik Amnå takes the stage and turns the concept on its head.

If anybody, contrary to expectations, had nodded off, suddenly everybody sits up straight in their seats. What is this fellow saying? Has the Emperor no clothes?

But just when the noose has been tightened, comes release.

Of course safety and security inspection tours are necessary; they make us inquisitive, get us to listen and disposed to discuss the issues.

"The safety tour is about asserting democracy both as a form and as content."

So, all those people working with and for safety tours can

confidently continue with them. Erik Amnå also goes on the tours. For all those who heard him during the Göteborg conference, and for others who missed his talk, here are some extracts from his lecture.

Amnå begins his lecture one November evening on Frölunda Square in Göteborg in company with 25 people including lighting consultants, planning architects, young people, representatives of housing companies, Västtrafik (public transport company), the police etc.

"We are going off on a safety tour. But what are we really doing here? Why are we standing here – more or less uninvited – on a chilly November evening in 2005. In one of the world's strongest democracies. In one of the world's best developed and most confident welfare states."

The group checks lighting and shrubbery, put forward proposals and keeps minutes. It is informed about new building developments, and forms a reference group for a planning proposal.

"But our self-imposed task does not stop at this. We are also part of a kind of cooperative project across professional boundaries. At pavement level. We are conducting a kind of inspection. From below. From the bottom of the mighty administrative pyramid.

At the top of each administrative pyramid the directors have done their jobs making their targeted savings. They have kept to budget – many of them may have been praised and promoted. In their annual reports their businesses can be described as more flexible and cost-effective.

In the annual reports of the National Police Board it says that there are even more policemen. They have increased from 16 000 to 17 000 in recent years. All of these directors have carr-

WE ARE CONDUCTING A KIND OF INSPECTION. FROM BELOW.

ied out the politicians' orders and rationalised and saved. And yet nevertheless something is not right. Nevertheless it looks different from below. It is only on Fridays that the police have time to patrol Frölunda Square, as a small symbolic remnant of the time before patrols were replaced by call-outs.

Safety tours are", says Amnå, "an analytical ocular examination. Instead of the controllers and auditors who each of them sit at their drainpipe measuring what comes down from the roof, we try to understand what all of the clever and well-funded welfare program provided in the way of benefit from a single viewpoint – our sense of safety and security in public areas.

We are walking around evaluating the welfare state with the softest imaginable hard-currency as a quality criterion. Evaluation by walking around (instead of talking around...)"

"There is a clash going on about room in public space. Actually the concept of "public space" is now being put into context. But among those social problems which appear to be on their way up the citizens' political agenda are issues of law and order. Security and safety has become politics. By our elected representatives who, of course, care about how we are doing. There is no doubting that. But who also regard it as quite normal to outdo each other in the struggle to calm our anxieties."

AND MORE: "Anxiety and security are politically sensitive issues. The Social Democrats are on the defensive. Security is the most important quality of folkhemmet, the Swedish welfare state. The battle over insecurity cannot

be lost.

It is just that policy on personal security carries within itself the seeds of its own destruction. The more security measures we take, the greater is our insecurity. The police car that can represent security to those to live on the block, for other people becomes a "sign of crime" which lowers the area's attractiveness."

But anxiety and insecurity are perhaps not only negatives.

"They should also be able to make us inquisitive, get us to listen and be prepared to get involved in a discussion. What forces us together around a shared experience. For this reason I think that our safety tour has a number of dynamic effects which are ultimately interesting from a democratic perspective."

Erik Amnå sees different dimensions, not entirely without conflict.

"We have been invited by the administrations in a way that is typical of our time. From having been subjects, consumers, users, citizens, we are now being invited to become co-creators. Co-producers with a public sector which is no longer sufficient unto itself. As resources and co-creators. And we are now replacing professional evaluations. Governance instead of government."

LATER IN THE SPEECH: "I see a risk that people are playing with our identities as citizens. That we are being brought across from the import side of politics, where values and conflicts are dealt with openly and critically, to its output side in order to discuss small details with a view to reaching agreement. Without for a moment questioning anyone's goodwill.

Or is it more reasonable to believe that it has the potential to create a political renaissance -beyond the seizure of power by the administrations.

Ingenious politicians are carrying out a bypass operation and associate themselves with safety walkers who, with weak links to central administrative offices, are inspecting the welfare state from below. What happened to the blissful dreams of a safer city, wonder the politicians – anxious that the threat of losing political trust on the most basic issue of them all – the citizen's trust in their ability to protect them from harm. There is an answer in the minutes drawn up by the safety walkers. A nostalgic longing for coordination and teamwork. But the state has stepped aside, leaving behind democratic forms for us to use in regulating our relationships on the basis of personal responsibility and the morality we have developed – without these nevertheless together destroying the conditions for a collective and decent life face-to-face with the Others.

THERE IS A CLASH
GOING ON ABOUT ROOM
IN PUBLIC SPACE.



And so we are the ones who are walking there, instead of the citizens' elected representatives. Instead of the political parties, who by all accounts have now abandoned private society and moved into community centres, county council and regional offices and ministries."

Amná wonders whether the state has not become weaker or whether the citizens and their private societies have atrophied as moral boundary-setters?

HE CONTINUES FURTHER ON:

"A policy on individual security is necessary, which empowers us democratically. We need to get together to keep society as a moral project alive and developing. In the institutions that we own – schools and the public spaces, not least - we have to lay down what is decent and what is objectionable, what is worthy of us and what is beneath our dignity as a political community".

AND SO WE ARE THE ONES WHO ARE WALKING THERE, INSTEAD OF THE CITIZENS' ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES.

OF COURSE IT IS ABOUT MEETINGS.

"It is about culture and cultural meetings. Meeting each other is important. We have to do everything to recreate the dialogues and meetings in our local community. Honest discussions between citizens, where we recreate the common norms and where we also, of course ensure that infringements are punished. Where we have to develop the respectful trust which can hold together a basically insecure community."

Erik Amná quotes Bo Rothstein, who says that those who put their greatest faith in other people in all systems are also those who benefit most from the system in question.

But what distinguishes "high-trusters" from "low-trusters" is the difference between the haves and the have-nots: the well-adapted and highly educated, those with good incomes, graduates, Swedish citizens, those who are interested in politics, readers of broadsheet papers, Liberals and the gainfully employed. Those who trust each other to a markedly lower degree are more often unemployed, people on early retirement, those off work sick, members of trade unions, and non-Swedish citizens, those dissatisfied with democracy and with little education. And the really young (15 to 29 years) trust their fellow human beings less than middle-aged and elderly people."

ERIK AMNÁ AGAIN: "The more we can shape schools, integrate instead of segregate, the greater will be the trust between people. The more meetings that spur us on to meet people who are not our mirror image, the stronger the culture becomes which forms the basis for social



life. Democracy has an insatiable need for such meetings. Conversations of the kind where we can, by telling each other about our different experiences and making a case for our different ideas, can reach at least a minimal accord on what is in all of our interests, and what is needed so that we will be able to be secure in the public space which also plays such an important role for democracy."

"What strikes me as we are walking about Frölunda Square is the commitment that everyone expresses. We can quite simply not afford not to mobilise this. There is a will to assert an equal influence and an equal power over public space. The equality project is incomplete.

The safety tour is about asserting democracy both as a form and as content meetings and discussions about our common anxiety can feed our search for an inclusive social development which out of our anxiety engenders equitable social conditions. For this reason the safety tour has within it such interesting potential."

Lecturer Dr Erik Amná, democracy researcher and head of the Young Citizens Program at the University of Göteborg

NEW INSIGHTS AND NEW FACTS

"Almost everyone gained new insights and new factual information, and they thought that the day as a whole was good or very good".

Karin Abrahamsson from the Council for Crime Prevention has compiled the responses of an evaluation conducted among participants after the conference. Of the conference's 240 participants, 129 completed the questionnaire.

The majority, i.e. 54% of respondents, considered that they had

been given new factual information during the day. 37% thought that they had to some extent been given factual information, while 5% thought they had not acquired any new facts. 3% did not respond to the question.

57% had gained new insights which they will benefit from in their work. 35% had to some extent gained new insights. 3% answered no and 1% answered don't know. 4% did not respond to the question.



Kristina Karlsson, BRÅ (National Council for Crime Prevention), Kungälv

"Erik Amná's contribution was clearly the best of the whole day. What is democracy about? Is it a question of going out and pointing out what the municipality cannot manage to do. On the face of it a lot of the lecturers' safety tours were about park benches and lamps, and it is the municipality that has to look after these things. I have reported most and the best parts of the day to BRÅ; it was valuable to hear how everybody works in different ways, but with the same goals. And the business about women's research and the conclusion – "If it is safe for women, then it is safe for everyone". That is quite brilliant. We have started to talk about security on BRÅ's management group, but have not had any tours in Kungälv. Yet."

voices

voices

Lillvi Egerbladh, lecturer, Göteborg

"From my perspective the whole conference went very well. It was successful. It is stimulating to hear participants from right across the country. That there are different models and that we share our experiences with each other. What I got out of it particularly was the female aspect – the different views of security held by women and men emerged very clearly. We must bear this in mind throughout our work. And perhaps remember that there should be a lot of men on the safety tours. The day was a little rushed at the end, and it is a shame that not all the speakers can keep to their allocated time at the expense of those who come last."



Lars Härneman, vice chair of the health committee, Örgryte, Göteborg

"Interesting to see that so many people regard safety tours as such an important method of working. I had no idea they were so widespread and ubiquitous. And that people work with the combination of deliberation – tour – deliberation. It is the method that we employed in Örgryte in Göteborg. We have held five tours, local ones in smaller areas, and I think we will continue with them. Something new and interesting for me was that safety tours are also conducted in schools, as they do in Nacka; I had not heard about this before."

voices

INTERESTING
CONTENT BUT TOO
MANY SIMILARITIES
IN THE CONTENT.



A POSITIVE FEATURE THAT THEY
RAISED PROBLEMS AND DID
NOT EXAGGERATE HOW GOOD
THE METHOD WAS.



GOOD SIMPLE
THEME! A LOT
OF PEOPLE.



WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

“The first tour was absolute magic. And the magic has not worn off.”
“The joy of meeting all kinds of people - and that everyone is concerned.”

The birthplace of the safety tour was Göteborg. The organised form of safety and security inspection tour, with both residents, town planners, representatives from the municipality and the authorities, was their baby.

Gerd Cruse and Eva Holm both recall when they went on their first safety tour. Today they have notched up 35 or so tours, and their commitment is still as great, although time does not always suffice. Gerd Cruse is an architect and has for five-years been attached to Tryggare och Mänskligare Göteborg (“A More Secure and More Human Göteborg”), and Eva Holm, is a social planner at Göteborg’s city planning authority.

Both have a background in and experience of social involvement where people are at the centre. Gerd Cruse has worked and researched and interviewed people in their residential neighbourhoods in the Göteborg suburbs with, for example, in-depth interviews and tours. Eva Holm has, among other things, studied Göteborg environments from the woman’s perspective. At the beginning of 2001 they were both attached to Tryggare och Mänskligare Göteborg and began working on organising safety tours.

Five years later the model of the safety tour has spread in modified versions across not only across Sweden but also to other countries such as Lithuania, Russia, Italy, Ireland, Canada, South Africa ...

Why is there such a great need for security just now?

GERD CRUSE:

“When all is said and done, people in Sweden experience greater security than in most other countries in the world. But we live in a time of great change, exactly as it was a hundred years ago; a great deal is changing. And times like these are insecure in their nature. There are many threats to us – bird flu, terrorism and a major migration of people. In Hjällbo in Göteborg live so many people with 100 different languages. They have come here over the last 15 years from war-torn and crisis-hit parts of the world; it is not strange that many of these people feel insecure.

Women are vulnerable, whether they were born in a different country or here in Sweden. Older and poorer people also experience greater insecurity. And perhaps young people and men are more insecure than we previously suspected. But no one should need to be afraid. Security is about human presence and the human eye. It is also about trust, daring to ask for help and daring to give help.”

EVA HOLM:

“Yes, that’s the way it is. Society has changed. We used to be very isolated in Sweden, and now we have citizens from many different countries. Cultures and previous experiences create fear, before we

get to know each other. The cities have grown, and people have less faith in a lot of things. Yet the number of crimes, according to the statistics, has not increased, even though more violent crime is reported. This creates a fear that people talk about.”

Where do we go from here on the safety tours?

GERD CRUSE:

“I hope that we will extend the tours by involving schools the way they have done in Nacka, and that they continue working with the virtual tours in new residential areas. But it is important not merely to concentrate on the physical environment. We cannot demand total lighting everywhere. We have to take care of the dark places, and have parks that we can walk in at night. But we should take the safety tour concept into the totality. The social issues are just as important. It is the interplay between physical environment and social issues which lies at the heart of the matter.

EVA HOLM:

“The safety tours must continue out in the city districts. It is the residents and those involved who have the greatest knowledge of their neighbourhood. It is important that the security work is rooted in politics. That we decide that safety tours are routine, that the security perspective is always included whatever we are doing, from rebuilding a gable end to planning a completely new residential area.

Finally, if you allow your imagination free rein – what does your dream community look like from a security viewpoint?

GERD CRUSE OCH EVA HOLM ARE IN AGREEMENT:

“My dream community would encompass many different kinds of meetings and blends – between cultures, ages, type of housing, types of communication, ways of expressing oneself, expressions and natural shapes. It is a community where everyone is able to take their place and is treated with respect.”

“I dream that – when they build their models – architects and planners don’t look so much from above but more at a tangent from below – imagining what it looks like for a small child or an old lady to live here.”

“And that we work more on being able to use the outdoor environments to be creative in. And sometimes that has to be a bit messy; it mustn’t be too perfect. Pleasantville, where no one dares to pursue any activities of any kind.”

EVA HOLM:

“I dream that we create urban environments in which everybody likes to live. Where we do not shut out certain individuals and groups. Where people meet, trust each other, and realise that meetings are exciting and not something to be afraid of.”

