



January 2019

Felixstowe Partnership Funded PCSO Report

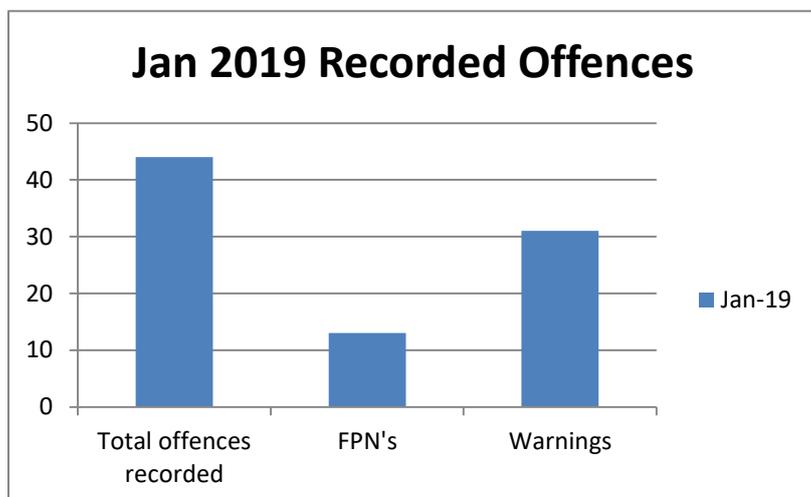
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Homelessness
Emerging Issues and Priorities

Parking

Following on from last month's priorities I have been paying attention to parking in the town centre. I have noticed during patrols there has been a general decrease in illegal parking but there has also been a noticeable decrease in traffic volume which could be attributed to the festive period and Christmas shoppers. I have found that I have had to enforce illegal parking less and many drivers I have managed to speak to and ask them to move, removing the need to enforce parking. Factors that are not included in the statistics are the number of vehicles which are found to be parked illegally but for reasons such as the owner returning and leaving, vehicles picking up or dropping off passengers or even simple words of advice these are not recorded therefore a high number of offenders are dealt with by other means rather than issuing a ticket or written warning. There is a common trend with many of the drivers that I speak to who state they were not aware of the parking restrictions, particularly on the stretch of Hamilton Road, outside of Barclays Bank and others who believe that they are exempt due to having a blue badge. Where possible I try to educate drivers and those that have been already issued a warning, if repeated will be dealt with by way of a fixed penalty notice.

Last month and part of December I used the FPN warnings on many vehicles within Hamilton Road. It is difficult to gauge how successful these were as prevention cannot be measured. Whilst I like the visual impact that they provide they do not help to enforce parking. I do not anticipate using them during February as I am taking a zero tolerance approach to parking across the town and parking in general.



There has been a reduction in the number of offences recorded. There are a variety of factors which affect this. As mentioned the reduced traffic volume, likely due to the end of the Christmas period means that there are less vehicles in the area and as a result less vehicles parking illegally. The reduction can also be attributed to the use of FPN's warnings and consistent education of motorists. There may be times when patrolling that there is a very minimal amount of cars parked illegally. This has occurred on a number of occasions where there is a lull in traffic during the day and therefore no vehicles parked illegally.

In February I anticipate that a zero tolerance approach to all parking will have a significant impact and the number of recorded offences will greatly increase as all parking and motoring offences will be heavily enforced. This includes parking around schools, in the town centre and any side roads.

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Schools

I have continued working closely with the local schools and in particular addressing the parking issues which affect all schools. Letters have been sent out to some of the schools which see the most illegal and dangerous parking and there is a zero tolerance approach in place to illegal parking. My colleagues and I have also been working with the school crossing patrol officers at Fairfield, Maidstone, Causton, Langer and Trimley St. Mary. There have been a number of incidents of drivers failing to stop at the school crossing which endangers pedestrians and the crossing officers wishing to cross the road. So far, 6 drivers have been caught committing the offence at one school alone and they have been reported which can result in 3 penalty points and a £100 fine. There has been a general improvement since letters were sent to schools however there are still a handful of driver who chose to ignore the restrictions.

ASB

There are no major issues that have been reported with regards to anti-social behaviour. From last month the issues at Seaton Park have been addressed, the buildings removed and the large sofa which had appeared has also been removed. Students from the nearby schools and the academy do congregate on Margaret Street outside of the shop after school however they disperse after a short while. There are some areas of the town which the SNT are actively patrolling and proactively targeting areas which are prone to ASB and drug use to detect and deter offenders. I have noticed in the evenings that groups are congregating in the Spa Garden shelters using drugs, smashing bottles and generally creating a nuisance. No complaints have been received as such however the SNT will be able to conduct patrols to address any emerging issues. In Walton there have been recent reports of antisocial drug use and possible dealing in the area of The Walk. The SNT are actively dealing with this by regularly patrolling and responding to calls for service. Any offenders located are being dealt with.

Homelessness

The number of known homeless living in Felixstowe has decreased due to a number of reasons. Two homeless males have died, one in late December and another in early January. The number of known persons who are homeless is approximately 5. There are some who are not homeless or have places to stay but do beg for money in the town centre. These people have been offered support but are not engaging with the services.

Emerging Issues and Priorities

Stolen bicycles- Over the last two years nearly 100 bicycles have been stolen in Felixstowe. Due to the nature of the crime the recovery and conviction rate is very low. I have noticed that a large number of people use bicycles to get around, especially students who ride to school or do a paper round. In the first week of January a bicycle was stolen in the town centre after being left unattended outside of a shop for a matter of minutes. There is a significant spike of thefts in the summer months with nearly 60% of thefts occurring between May and September. This is something that could be prevented and deterred by way of cycle marking. Events such as these are fantastic opportunities to engage with the public and can be complemented with the help of Suffolk Safe Key and other organisations. It involves marking bicycles using UV ink with the house number and postcode of the owner. In addition to this registration with the national online property register Immobilise is strongly recommended as this also serves as proof of ownership. During my regular patrols of schools I have mentioned this to staff and students and they have been provided information packs for students and parents. Five schools including the academy are interested in this and it may help towards reducing theft in Felixstowe.

Parking in wider areas-Some members of the public have expressed concerns regarding parking in the minor roads around Felixstowe. Roads such as Gainsborough road on the corner by the launderette – this has been brought to my attention on one or two occasions but there are no parking restrictions. This can be dealt with by issuing tickets for unnecessary obstruction when cars are parked on or near to the junction.

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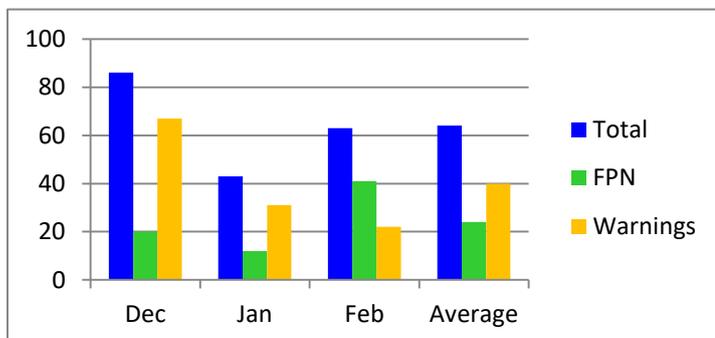
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Parking

A zero tolerance approach has been adopted this month to deal with parking within the town centre. This has resulted in a 241% increase in the number of fixed penalty notices issued compared with last month and 29% less warnings being issued. Half of all the offences recorded were in Hamilton Road and 60% of those were vehicle parked outside of the signed bays or between Bank Corner and Bent Hill. The remaining were vehicles which parked in the disabled/loading bays without a badge displayed.

Members of the public have suggested and commented on roads which are suffering from parking problems. Some of these roads are residential and do not have junction protection such as yellow lines. In response to this during patrols, roads such as Manning, Cavendish, Russell, Holland and Granville Road have all been subject to parking enforcement in addition to other minor roads. The narrow roads are difficult to navigate with parked cars on either side, which is made worse by vehicles parking too close to junctions.



Early in the month letters were sent to schools outlining the specific parking restrictions for each school. This appears to have proved generally effective and on the whole parking around schools appears to have improved. There are still some parents and guardians who think it is acceptable to park on the yellow zig-zag lines and in areas where restrictions are in place. The restrictions are in place to ensure the safety of children, parents and guardians during drop off and pick up times.

We have received contact from members of the public and parents regarding some drivers who ignore the rules and those drivers have been sent letters.

ASB

ASB has been low level this month with some small isolated problems during the half term which were dealt with at the time. The problems were mainly centred around the skate park and the seafront. The issues of drug use in the area of The Walk in Walton have reduced and no further reports have been received following proactive patrols in the area. Continued patrols and engagement in known problems areas should see a reduction in ASB.

Homelessness

The number of homeless in Felixstowe has reduced however we are aware of some people who are begging in the town centre. All known homeless persons have been offered support however they do not

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always accept the help. If you are aware of any homeless persons we suggest contacting Streetlink on 03005000914 or through the website www.streetlink.org.uk. If there is a person begging or asking for money we suggest that it is reported via 101 or through our website www.suffolk.police.uk. If you feel the need to give we suggest giving food or drink in lieu of money. We work closely with Help Our Homeless which is a charity organisation based in Ipswich. You can donate to specifically help homeless people of Felixstowe either online or at various charity boxes around the town.

Emerging Issues and Priorities

There have been a few complaints of vehicles parking across drop kerbs which means crossing the road and accessing the pavement is difficult for pedestrians and those that use mobility aids and prams. Any vehicles found blocking drop kerbs will be dealt with accordingly.

SNT Newsletter

Felixstowe

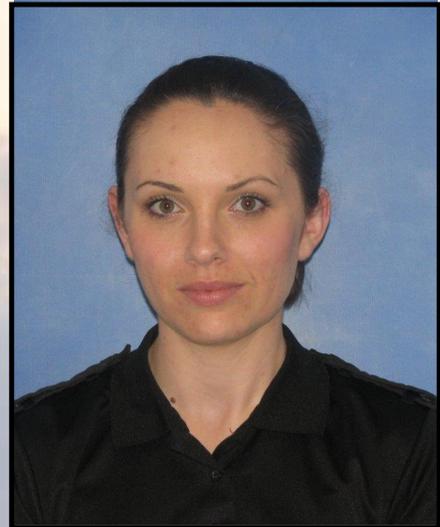
You said...

1. 'County Lines' Drug trafficking from vulnerable persons homes known as "Cuckooing"
2. Fraud - Crime Prevention First Principal on line advice www.suffolk.police.uk/1stprinciple

We did...

1. Bring together all relevant agencies and contact support groups to work with the new Link Officer and PCSO's to problem solve
4. Use of Police stop search powers to target identified suspects.
5. Intelligence gathering and crime reduction targeting for vulnerable premises.
6. Promote First Principal Crime Reduction advice and on line services www.actionfraud.police.uk

T/Inspector Sally Henderson



Responding to issues in your community

During the month of December 2018 there was a total of 265 investigations in the Felixstowe and District. (Investigations relate not only to recorded criminal offences, but also safeguarding individuals).

Criminal Offences recorded range from various assaults and public order offences to theft and burglary and drug possession.

Making the community safer

On 8th December 2018 a member of the public found a vehicle in Kirton with engine running and driver asleep at the wheel. When Police arrived the male driver failed the roadside breath test and was arrested. He was later charged with driving with excess alcohol. Thank you to the member of the public who called this in to Police. On 10th December 2018 a member of the public disturbed a male who was trying to steal a bicycle on Essex Way Purdis Farm. The male was using a pair of wire cutters to cut the lock and had tried to pull the bike around the corner out of view. The male attempted to run but was detained by the brave member of the public who assisted Police. The male offender was searched and found in possession of the wire cutters and following arrest he admitted Criminal Damage and Going Equipped and was charged to court. Thank you to the member of public who prevented property being stolen and assisted Police.

Preventing, reducing and solving crime and ASB

In December 2018 PCSO Ben Sagi started his new fully funded role in Felixstowe. The new role is funded for the next two years by Felixstowe Town Council. Based at Felixstowe Police Station PCSO Ben Sagi will be tasked by the Town Council to undertake visible patrols, tackle illegal parking and low level ASB in Felixstowe. There will be a chance for members of the public to speak to their PCSO during regular Police Surgeries on the first Wednesday of the month between 10am and 12 Noon at the Town Hall.

This SNT covers the following parishes

Bucklesham, Brightwell, Falkenham, Foxhall, Hemley, Kirton, Levington, Nacton, Newbourne, Purdis Farm, Trimley St Martin, Trimley St Mary, Waldringfield, Felixstowe and Walton

Future events

Tasking meeting 29th January 2019 with local authorities and agencies to discuss any emerging issues and ASB in the locality. These are based on reported incidents during the month. If you have any concerns to report for this meeting then please email the SNT on the address shown below.

Happy New Year from the Felixstowe Safer Neighbourhood Team

Did you know that there is a website called "Ask the Police"?

It is a website which provides answers to the most frequently asked Policing questions. It provides links to other relevant national organisations. If you are unsure whether to call the Police and it is not an emergency you may just find the answer without having to call the Police. In an emergency always call 999

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Making the community safer

On 12th January 2019 a male was issued with a Cannabis Warning after being found in possession of small amount of Cannabis on Grove Road Felixstowe.

On 27th January 2019 a male was arrested following a Burglary Dwelling where a bank card was stolen and cash withdrawn in Felixstowe. He was interviewed and charged to court.

On 30th January 2019 a male and female were arrested following the theft of goods valued over £400 at Sainsbury's Purdis Farm. They were later charged to court.

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Future events

Tasking meeting 26th February 2019 with local authorities and agencies to discuss any emerging issues and ASB in the locality. These are based on reported incidents during the month. If you have any concerns to report for this meeting then please email the SNT on the address shown below.

Saturday 16th February 2019 10am to 1pm
Police Surgery and Community Engagement
on the Triangle Felixstowe

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It is a website which provides answers to the most frequently asked Policing questions. It provides links to other relevant national organisations. If you are unsure whether to call the Police and it is not an emergency you may just find the answer without having to call the Police. In an emergency always call 999