



Hello and welcome to my monthly Partnership Funded PCSO report for April 2018.

Again I have had a very busy and varied month, ranging from noise disputes to more parking issues and from abandoned cars to attending the Kesgrave Annual Town Meeting on 16th April. There are changes this month in how our Service Level Agreement is managed, and Operation Parkland is launched again to deal with antisocial behaviour hotspots now that the lighter evenings and better weather have arrived.

ACTIVITIES

- Noise complaints are normally managed by Environmental Health, but sometimes they encompass other matters such as noisy vehicle exhausts which I can deal with. Such has been the case with a complaint this month of a noisy car exhaust disturbing residents in the early morning hours in Kesgrave. Historically, the level of noise from a car exhaust was measured with a decibel meter, but things changed with the introduction of the Antisocial Behavior, Crime and Policing Act 2014. Part of this act designated to PCSOs the power to deal with excessive exhaust noise without the use of a decibel meter. In short, if an officer considers that an exhaust has been modified or replaced resulting in it being excessively louder than the original factory fitted exhaust, then an offence may be formed and a Fixed Penalty Notice may be issued where appropriate.

In the case of this month's complaint, the car dated from the 1980's and the exhaust was the original one fitted which is naturally slightly louder than those fitted to modern vehicles. However, the driver has agreed to have it checked anyway to ensure it is not damaged or corroded leading to greater noise.

- Tippers R Us based at Sinks Gravel Pit in Kesgrave have had intruders onsite again who attempted to steal a digger and some copper pipe (damaging the digger in the process). Subsequently I attended an onsite meeting this month with the site's manager, and Sergeant Chris Chaplin. Having discussed site security at some length, it was obvious that the company is keen to improve security of the site to prevent youngsters coming to harm from the natural risks that exist on an industrial site, and to reduce the risk of further theft or criminal damage. I am therefore in support of their planning application to erect more security fencing which would further encompass the site. I have been extremely impressed by the company's obvious wish to safeguard young people. There is a huge investment in the site by Tippers R Us, and they are offering increased local employment opportunities.
- On 16th April I worked from 08:00 to 16:00 hours, and then returned to work in the evening to attend the Kesgrave Annual Town meeting which was very well attended. I gave a short presentation about policing across the general area over the last twelve months and gave further details about the Ipswich East Safer Neighbourhood Team which generally covers both Kesgrave and Rushmere St. Andrew. I must say I was very impressed by the hard work being done by Kesgrave Town Council and all the other various partner agencies and groups that share our common desire to maintain Kesgrave a lovely place in which to live and work.



- Now that our schools have reconvened, I have been attending in the mornings to enforce parking regulations. Having attended Broke Hall Community Primary on 18th April, I am pleased to report that there were no offences to deal with and everyone was parking perfectly. Cedarwood Primary School however had an unusual parking offence. On the morning of 19th April everything was going well with no offences, then a Suffolk Norse coach arrived and the driver proceeded to park right on the white zig zag lines just short of the zebra crossing. Much to my surprise, the driver turned off the engine and got out of the driver's seat.

Not only is parking on white zig zag lines an offence, it's actually an endorsable offence attracting penalty points as well as a fine. It posed a totally unnecessary risk to those using the crossing and it caused a huge tailback as drivers queued up behind the coach thinking it was in a queue rather than parked. I challenged the driver who claimed it was the school's pick up point which clearly it isn't. Following some strong words of advice from me, he went off around the block and on my return to the office I contacted Suffolk Norse coaches to express my dissatisfaction.

- There are still a few youths with cars frequenting the entrance to the disused bus lane in Broadlands Way, Rushmere St. Andrew and I have been engaging with them and advising them to meet elsewhere. I have asked my SNT PC colleagues to attend this location as often as possible and to pass to me the details of any vehicles and associated youths who are clearly just gathering there to socialise. I am aware that some of these drivers are in effect racing around Broadlands Way and that others are actually using a stop watch to time them. Whilst dealing with any offences around this antisocial driving, I am collating these details with a view to issuing Community Protection Notice (CPN) warning letters to the drivers which may result in the issuing of full CPNs if breached. Breaching the full CPN can attract a fine of up to £2,500 which is obviously a great deterrent.
- You may recall that last month I mentioned a Renault Clio which had apparently been abandoned on Century Drive. Following on from the enquiries I made, the registered keeper made contact with me and the car was subsequently removed two day later. The keeper was not aware that there is a section within the V5C Registration Document that can be completed and sent to the DVLA to formally declare that the vehicle as being scrapped, and that some scrap yards will actually buy a vehicle and take it away.
- Following some complaints about gatherings in Ashdale Road, Kesgrave at lunchtimes, I have attended the area and spoken to those present about their poor choice of location to meet. They stated that they would find somewhere else to meet, and they moved on. I will continue to monitor the area at lunchtimes.
- Operation Parkland will launch in May 2018. This is an operation to deal specifically with antisocial behaviour – particularly where there are ongoing issues such as Broadlands Way. Teams of police officers and PCSOs will be conducting increased patrols of areas where ASB is having an impact on the community, and they will be seeking opinion from the public on how it affects them. By directly consulting with members of the community, we will get a fuller understanding of the problem which in turn helps us to identify the most effect way to tackle it. We will be looking towards long term problem solving initiatives as well as dealing robustly with those whose behaviour is at the heart of the problem.

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