



January 2019

## Felixstowe Partnership Funded PCSO Report

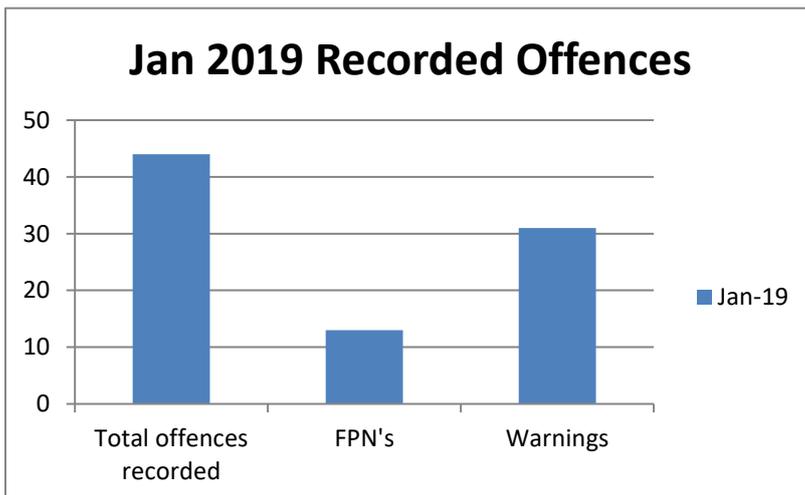
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### Parking

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.

### Schools

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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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