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8 July 2020

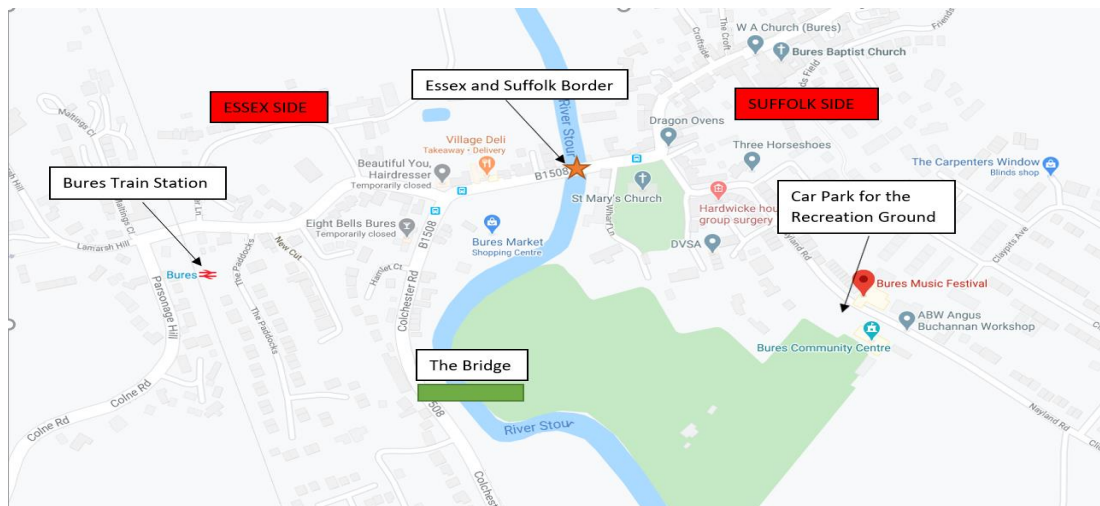
SITE: BURES RECREATION GROUND, BURES, SUDBURY

DATE: 1 JULY 2020 **TIME:** 1100 HOURS

ATTENDEES: PCSO SKEGGS/JACKIE NORTON, DOCO/ PHIL KEMP, DOCO

The crime prevention advice is given without the intention of creating a contract. Neither the Home Office nor Police Service accepts any legal responsibility for the advice given. Fire Prevention advice, Fire Safety certificate conditions, Health & Safety Regulations and safe working practices will always take precedence over any crime prevention issue. Recommendations included in this document have been provided specifically for this site and take account of the information available to the Police or supplied by you. Where recommendations have been made for additional security, it is assumed that products are compliant with the appropriate standard and competent installers will carry out the installation as per manufacturer guidelines.

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Bures Recreation Ground is in the small village of Bures located on the Essex and Suffolk boarder, with the River Stour being the defining line between the two counties.

The ground is run by St Mary's Parish Council and Bures Sportsground Committee. Within the area there are the following facilities: Local Football Clubhouse (with private toilet facilities), Cricket Pavilion with thatched roof, Village Community Centre (with playschool facility), free parking facilities, small recycling centre, Multi Use Games Area (MUGA), play facilities for small children, BBQ facility, football and cricket pitches, seating areas, swap shop/refreshments mobile café, some permissive paths through farm fields with livestock sheltering on.

There is a small parking area located at the village community centre which offers free parking as well as a small recycling area for residents use. The car park has one way in and out with clear signage and the parking bays are all clearly marked. The boundary between the carpark and the open public space area is secured by a small wooden picket fence and what looks like a newly planted laurel hedge. Around some of the perimeter of the grounds there are a few types of residential dwellings, a pub, a few retail premises and a primary school. Many of the children access through the grounds and over the bridge to go to and from school each day.

Access into: The recreation grounds are located on the Suffolk side of the boundary and entry from here is gained via the car parking area and the small well-kept lane that runs from the street past "Wharf House" and the "Rectory". There are two entrance points into the open space area from the car park which are secured by gates.



The other entrance into the ground comes from the residential area which is in Essex and runs along the B1508 and Colchester Road. This also gives access to Station Hill providing access to the Station with an easy walking distance of 5-10 mins. A field runs parallel to the river and B1508 which is secured by an established hedgerow and post and rail fence. Entry is through a metal farm gate with latch.



PROBLEM: There have been recent issues with large groups of youths visiting the area and reports of ASB, littering, unsuitable use of disposable BBQ's (resulting in damage to grass areas), jumping off the bridge into the river causing issues with access to the bridge by other users, drinking, mis-use of drugs (cannabis) and evidence of a large use of nitrous oxide canisters (laughing gas), some thefts of boats, removal and mis-use of lifebuoys and defecating around the grounds. There are no public toilet facilities on site. Reports of youths driving motorcycles up and down Cats Lane. Also, apparently reports to Essex Police by residents, of drunkenness, swearing and people urinating in gardens along the route from the grounds to the station. These problems can occur on any day of the week, during school holidays and good weather and predominately happen around the afternoon to around 2230 hours, as the last train leaves just after 2300hours. **We were also informed that the youths are jumping from the far edge of the bridge and into the water, so they jump the width of the bridge before landing in the water. There is a real concern for injury or loss of life to the offenders in case they slip and knock their heads/bodies on the bridge in the process of jumping.**

The two parish councils decided to install the bridge in 1997 in order to make it safer for children to access the school rather than walk around the village and along the main road. The bridge was completed in 2002 at a cost of £140,000.

Historically there have been a few issues during the summer months with some bridge jumping and litter **but due to Covid-19 restrictions and the closure of schools/colleges and warm weather the number of reports and an increase in numbers of people visiting the location have increased significantly.**

With the numbers of youths gathering it is also causing issues for local residents who are using the bridge to access the village and school. At the end of the school day a teacher is often being providing to walk the children to the bridge and ensure that they cross safely, as the youths have been intimidating them or sometimes give the perception of intimidation. Due to Covid-19 guidance and keeping a distance when crossing the bridge, there is not sufficient room to do so within guidance, hence residents asking youths to move across whilst they use it. This has been met with abuse and non-compliance by the youths.

The most recent complaint dated 11/6/20, Crime Ref 37/32094/20 and was relating to ASB issues as previously outlined. Other complaints registered to Suffolk that I could find were:

- ASB - Crime Ref 37/42467/19 dated 13/7/19 (youths gathering, abusive language, running across gardens on way to station, banging fences etc)
- Common Assault - Crime ref 37/28316/20 dated 20/7/19 aggressive behaviour to member of the public who was giving guidance about social distancing to youths.
- Criminal Damage – Crime Ref 37/41418/18 dated 19/7/18 Criminal damage to benches and shrubs by youths congregating.
- Criminal Damage – Crime Ref 37/42818/19 dated 18/7/19 (damage to a playground swing).
- Theft of Motor Vehicle parked at village hall carpark - Crime Ref 37/68476/19 dated 11/11/19.
- Criminal Damage – Crime Ref 37/21108/19 dated 14/4/19 offender climbed onto village hall roof and caused damage by falling through.
- Criminal Damage – Crime Ref 37/11771/18 dated 28/2/18 Attempted Theft from Motor vehicle, parked in village hall carpark.
- Possession of Cannabis – Crime Ref 37/17396/16 Dated 13/2/16. 4 youths drinking and being rowdy; 1 found to be smoking cannabis.
- ASB Nuisance -Crime Ref 37/32782/20 dated 14/6/20 Urinated in a public place, underage drinking, street drinking, rowdy behaviour, shouting and swearing, damage and littering.

CAD RESULTS	
SC26062020-365	Nuisance ASB
SC19052020-313	Nuisance Groups Congregating
SC26062020-348	Nuisance
SC23062020-400	ASB Nuisance
SC26062020-260	Nuisance ASB
SC29012020-235	Nuisance ASB



Historically there has also been some theft from motor vehicles along Nayland Road, mostly vans and involving theft of power tools. This can be a crime trend throughout the county and country periodically and awareness and security advice are provided through social medial and press releases.

The [Suffolk Free Press](#) (3/7/20) were asked by local residents to report on their frustrations around ASB in the grounds.

WHAT MAKES THE LOCATION ATTRACTIVE:

- Public Transport: There is easy public transport for youths who cannot drive via the train route which provides a short journey from locations such as Chelmsford, Colchester, Sudbury and Clacton. The route from the train station to the location is also short and easy if carrying alcohol and bags etc.
- Parking: Parking is possible in either the free carpark on the Suffolk side or via the grass verge on the B1508 which often happens causing issues for vehicles travelling along the B1508 and resident living adjacent on the Colchester Road.
- Permeability: the location is accessed via 5 points (4 x pedestrian 1 x vehicle/pedestrian) and is designed as an open public space area. It is in a rural location and attractive setting.
- Limited Surveillance: Surveillance into the park area is possible from some residential properties, the village hall, football and cricket facilities and the “pop-up/temporary” swap shop trailer run by the parish council. However, there are areas of the park that are not visible by the dwellings or the above facilities when they are closed, which is most evenings.
- No Legal Restrictions and lack of Good Signage: There are no restrictions on “drinking in a public place”, jumping off the bridge (Section 59 ASB Crime and Policing Act 2014. There is little or no signage around rule setting, i.e. use of BBQ’s, urinating in a public place etc.
- Items around facilities could be used to commit crime: The jetty area close to the river allowing access from boats to the park area is very close to the bridge. This provides a good viewing point for those watching any bridge jumpers. Some of the resident’s gardens have access to the river which provides access to their gardens and use of any boats owned and stored at those dwellings.
- Climbing Aides: The design of the bridge acts as an ideal climbing frame and attraction to jump off. There are no restrictions or legal signage to deterring such activity.
- Location is designed to offer free open public space activities: It is set in a beautiful location with easy access and free admission. It offers space for football and cricket games and provides social facilities for those as well as offering free use of the MUGA area. It also provides seating areas and is designed to encourage young families, youths and elderly to enjoy the outside. It is also used for dog walking and encourages BBQ cooking with the use of the purpose-built BBQ facility.

CURRENT SECURITY MEASURES IN PLACE:

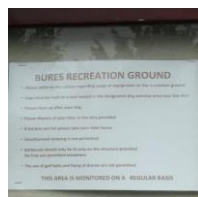
- Use of gates. There is good use of gates in all access points.



- Good natural surveillance into the car parking area and the main entrance into the park provided by residential dwellings and those on the B1508 side. The “pop up swap shop” also provides good surveillance during the day time. Also, the litter picking volunteers and parents taking and collecting their children to school and school staff all offer a level of surveillance to the area.
- Use of low-level fencing around the village hall, small playground area and the front of the cricket pavilion to give good demarcation of area.
- The park was clean and tidy and maintenance and management of the area is evident. There were no real areas for hiding in which could lend themselves to crime. Some of the seating areas are secured to the ground to deter vandalism.
- There is a reasonably good amount of rubbish bins (including two specific recycling bins near the bridge) throughout the grounds. Plenty of opportunity for disposal of dog waste as well as, in some locations, the provision of bags to put waste into, to encourage all waste to be picked up.



- Signage and Rule Setting. There is some evidence of rule setting and signage. However, some of these signs were temporary notices (Covid Restriction regulations) which were not displayed effectively.



- The Parish Council and local residents have a good relationship and the parish council is proactive in seeking solutions to the issues. All are passionate about the area and keeping it safe and clean and welcome anyone if they use the grounds appropriately.
- Local farmer has closed the access to his “permissible path” for the time being.



- Lighting around the football facility, village hall area and to the carpark.
- Some security evident in locks etc to the cricket pavilion hatches and the grounds sheds.
- There have been various engagements and response from Suffolk SNT and Response officers and proactive engagement with youths and residents to resolve some of the issues. The most recent engagement carried out on 30/6/20 involved park users, local residents, Sudbury SNT, some representation from Essex Police. Solutions noted were: *More litter bins, Toilet facilities, British transport Police and Greater Anglia support, Bridge amendments to stop the jumping into the river. Parish council are currently working on: CCTV on buildings with 5 cameras, Paving slabs imbedded into the ground for BBQs, Volunteer litter pickers.*

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **Continue to work in partnership with Essex Police Force:** support in patrols and contact with Essex residents, as well as to provide inputs into Essex schools, sharing intelligence on offenders and any good working practice. Intelligence sharing with Essex and vice versa should be implemented as I am not aware of how many crimes/issues have been reported to them. This will provide a complete picture of the problem and enable resources to be drawn from both forces.
- **Contact to be made with the Fire Service:** Most fire services have “prevention advice” around swimming in rivers and lakes etc. Recommendation is to contact them and see if there is any support or guidance they can offer around the bridge jumping etc. **They may be able to offer education into schools around dangers of bridge jumping and safety in rivers and lakes or provide an engagement day at the park during peak time to try to engage with offenders etc.** fire.businesssupport@suffolk.gov.uk or telephone: 01473 260588. Nearest Fire Station to Bures is in Sudbury.
- **Contact to be made with the Environment Agency and Essex/Suffolk Rivers Trust and River Stour Trust:** **Environment Agency POC:** Jonathan Garwood, Anglian Waterways Operations River Inspector, (Great Ouse & Stour Navigation) Mob: [07826 875360](tel:07826875360), National Customer Contact Centre: [03708 506 506](tel:03708506506) Mon to Fri 08:00 - 18:00 Emergency Incident Hotline [0800 80 70 60](tel:0800807060) 24 hrs 7 days a week

All of them could be able to assist with signage and further guidance on the bridge jumping issues as well. **They may be able to offer education into schools around dangers of bridge jumping and safety in rivers and lakes etc.**

- ✓ The [Essex Suffolk Rivers Trust](mailto:info@essexsuffolkriverstrust.org) may be a good contact. Contact details are: <mailto:info@essexsuffolkriverstrust.org>

The aims of the Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust (ESRT) are in summary: To conserve, protect, rehabilitate and improve the rivers, streams, watercourses, ground-waters and water impoundments of the catchments comprising the rivers in Essex and Suffolk, including adjacent estuarine and coastal areas, for the advancement of environmental protection or improvement for the benefit of the public.

To advance the education of the public, or any association, institution, voluntary organisation, company, local authority, administrative or governmental agency or public body or representative body in: –

The understanding of rivers, river corridors, and river catchments, including their fauna, flora, biodiversity, economic or social activity, and river catchment management. The need for, and benefits of, conservation, **protection**, rehabilitation and **improvement of aquatic environments**.

- ✓ [River Stour Trust](#) also run educational programs for school which should help with future youths who may think of visiting the location.
- **Contact to be made with British Transport Police:** Essex and Suffolk police to work with BTP and ask for provision of early intelligence in regards to potential large groups of youths heading to the recreation grounds. Also request that more checks are done around large amounts of alcohol being carried onto the trains and use of sniffer dogs for mis-use of drugs on the trains (perhaps running a seasonal campaign would deter future offenders' year on). They are able to attend PACT Meetings for other various issues
Contact details: Email Southend@btp.pnn.police.uk . Also include Sudbury's BTP at this point for youths coming from Sudbury areas.
- **If not already in place establish regular PACT meetings with all stakeholders.** (Police, Fire, BTP, Parish Council, Environment Agency, Local Landowner, Football/Cricket committees etc.
- **BRIDGE: Ask the Parish and Local Council for guidance on the use of [DefendaStrip](#) along the top of the bridge?**
 - ✓ DefendaStrip is Secured by Design accredited meeting police-preferred specification. Certification gives quality assurance and products must be subjected to rigorous testing before being awarded the accreditation. The product is designed not to cut anyone but does make it difficult/uncomfortable for anyone to stand or grip onto. It comes in various colours and sizing and possibly not be noticeable to the eye from a distance so would not undermine the bridges appearance.



I have been advised that defendaStrip has been used on a listed bridge (so should not be an issue with this bridge). sallysprange@defendaStrip.co.uk should be able to offer some further guidance to the council on its use on bridges.

- ✓ **BRIDGE RAILINGS:** The bridge railings are wide and easy access can be gained from either entry by the river bank or climbing onto it directly from the middle of the bridge. It provides good foot holdings. If the council **“increased the railings to full length and made them narrower in width (so that a footing cannot be obtained) it would help to reduce anyone trying to jump from it.**

As stated under “Problem” we were advised by a few park users that they had seen youths jumping from the opposite bridge ledge, over the bridge path and then into the river (so the whole width of the bridge). There are serious concerns that there could be a risk of serious injury or loss of life.



SIGNAGE: Improve and install permanent signage about Social Distancing guidance for the bridge. Some of the signs were not visible as you approached the bridge.
Display "No Jumping off the Bridge" warning signs stating relevant penalty fines (if approved).



- Use of CCTV:** CCTV could be considered around the bridge area, car parking facilities, cricket and football facilities and entry point in from B1508.
However, CCTV is not a universal solution to security problems and it should form part of an overall security plan. It is only truly effective if monitored 24/7 in order to prevent crime.
 Suffolk Police recommend that a CCTV specialist is consulted before purchasing one to ensure that the system is **fit for purpose**. It is essential to have clear facial recognition in order to identify any offenders and to be used for evidence. Recording capability should use a format that is acceptable to the local police. **Fittings should be vandal resistant and lighting should be designed to support the system. CCTV systems must be installed to BS EN 50132-7: 2012+A1:2013 CCTV surveillance systems for use in security applications. Clear signage should be displayed that CCTV is in operation and Suffolk Police DO NOT RECOMMEND the use of Dummy Cameras or Signage stating there is CCTV when there actually there is none.** For further information on CCTV and alarm system companies and installers, go to either: <http://www.nsi.org.uk/> or <http://www.ssaib.org/>.
- Toilets:** To resolve the issue around defecating on the ground's thought should be given to the football facilities being opened up to provide use of their toilets and again this could be during seasonal times. **This must have a capable guardian to provide the opening, closing and cleaning of the facilities** in order to prevent further crimes such as mis-use of drugs or sexual activity taking place. It would also provide another form of surveillance to the area and possibly funding for it could be provided by making a small charge for using it or grants obtained from the council. The cost of this should be weighed up against the damage and distress that is currently being caused by lack of toilets. **SUFFOLK POLICE DO NOT RECOMMEND temporary porta loos as these would have the potential to become vandalised or cause more ASB issues.**

PURPOSE BUILT CAFÉ WITH TOILETS: Alternatively seek consultation from planning on a purpose-built café and toilet area is another solution. This provides toilets and further capable guardians/natural surveillance.
- Legislation:** Use of legislation ie CBO's and CPN's and **ALCOHOL BAN** in the park area. Clear Signage about park rules should be displayed in numerous places throughout the grounds – making them polite, official and visible.

Feasibility of Dispersal Order or Public Place Protection Order for times when the grounds are experiencing or expected to be overcrowded and attract ASB issues. This should be police and council lead approach.

Examples of other forces LEGAL Actions in relation to Bridge/water jumping:

- ✓ **Cambs** force have recently used a dispersal order to deal with ASB and water jumping issues so could also be considered for Bures. See press release:

Policing Huntingdonshire

A 48-hour dispersal order has been put in place in Houghton. (see map)
It comes in response to recent anti-social behaviour and to prevent risk to life with people jumping into the water.
Officers and PCSOs from the St Ives neighbourhood team are on patrol and those seen to be ignoring the measure could be arrested.
More here: <https://bit.ly/2A3cYJv>



25 June at 15:15 · Public
[Save](#) · [More](#)

- ✓ **Northumbria** police have also issued a Public Places Protection Order in Salford Quays. See Link:
<https://www.salford.gov.uk/crime-reduction-and-emergencies/anti-social-behaviour/public-spaces-protection-orders/salford-quays-pspo/#:~:text=On%2024%20July%202019%2C%20the,the%20order%20is%20in%20force.>

- **Jetty area:** Position the jetty area further away from the bridge so that it does not allow a close area for the “offending jumpers” to easily get out of the river. Also, preventing a good viewing and encouragement point for those watching.
- **Capable Guardian (PARK RANGER):** *Local council or parish council to employ a Park Ranger during Birtsh Summer time* who could be the capable guardian of the area. Someone who is approachable and provides a presence and in a uniform. This could help to act as a deterrent to ASB groups and also provide a “go to” person if there are issues. This role holder should be fully trained in confrontational management etc and work with other partners/stake holders such as the police, fire, river authority, parish and local council in providing intelligence and reporting issues. Local SNT officers from both Essex and Suffolk forces to also provide some short patrols and engagement when in the area and duties allow.
- **Education:** Schools liaison officers from Essex and Suffolk to work with schools in awareness of dangers and issues being caused. CEO to work with local Scouts/Guides/Brownies/Cub groups to also raise awareness around dangers of bridge jumping/river safety.
- **Improve Signage:** Improve the signage on rules etc. Clear and permanent signage around litter, BBQ use, give way for bridge use, non-permissive sports, drinking etc should be displayed prominently around the site at all entry/exit points and by the river and bridge. Signage around not leaving valuables in cars/vans should also be displayed in the car parking area and in the football and cricket facilities.
- **Provide Additional BBQ areas:** Provide slabs or approved areas for disposable BBQ's and signage on when and how to use them and where to disposal the used BBQ's. (Picture of burnt grass area from disposable BBQ)



- **Lighting:** Ensure that the bridge, entry/exit points as well as the parking areas are light in accordance with BS 5489-1:2013 or the now current BS 5489-1:2020.
- **Create a “Friends of the Park” group:** Consideration around evolving the litter picking group to become a working “Friends of the Park” group to encourage other activities at the park which could offer further surveillance and help to deter unwanted activity by the offenders. Such as conservation work, people doing group exercise, employed dog walkers using the area or sporting activities during the day time. Also dog walkers could form something like a “paws on patrol” group, who walk their dogs at certain times together to provide additional surveillance and report any suspicious/inappropriate behaviour to the police. Guidance and advice on what to do could be provided the police initially to the groups.
- **Engagement with all the residents whose gardens back onto the river:** leaflet drop/street engagement with residents asking to them report any ASB issues and provide guidance around security of sheds/garages and boats in order to reduce the risk of crime to those from the offenders. **Essex and Suffolk Police to work together due to border areas.**
- **Encourage local Canoeing or Paddle Boarding groups/companies:** I believe there is a local canoeing club who are intending to use the stretch of the river more. Encouraging them to use the area during potential peak ASB times (hot weather/school holidays etc) could deter offenders jumping into the water if there are boats there. There is a paddle boarding company who are advertising at entrance to the park who may also assist. Contact the [British Canoeing Organisation](#) for support.

Also provide Crime Reduction advice to such clubs in regards to boat security and property marking of equipment.



- **Outbuildings/Storage areas:** These buildings are secured with padlocks and hasp and clasps, however some of them do not look fit for purpose. Padlocks should be closed shackle and hardened steel and hasps and clasps secured so that they cannot be easily removed. **Power tools and garden equipment are always desirable targets by offenders.** We recommend that any equipment stored inside these areas is overtly and covertly property marked with the organisations name on it. They are further secured inside the building with a ground anchor and chain and the building is alarmed with a monitored alarm system. Further guidance can be found in [1st Principles Shed/Garage Security](#) and our [security products brochure](#).



- **Alarm Systems:** The village hall and community facility, football and cricket buildings should all be alarmed with a fit for purpose alarm system. This should be a suitably designed monitored intruder alarm system and in accordance with [Secured By Design Commercial 2015 V2](#) Section 64.2 I.
- **Offenders:** Gather more intelligence on who they are, age group, where they live (are they local to the area) etc. **Active Patrols when possible during the hours of concern.**
- **Work with youth offending teams:** To work with offenders causing the issue when found at the park. Raising their awareness around ASB and perception of ASB.

- **Continue to manage the expectations of the residents and council:** Discuss what is their perception of ASB? Continue to provide support and guidance on how to deal with it and provide contact details of other agencies that could assist.
- **Parking on the B1058:** Feasibility of Essex Constabulary ticketing offending vehicles if causing an obstruction/breaking the law by parking there.
- **A log of all issues/reports:** All incidents should be recorded and kept by the Local Parish Council and Sports committee with the date, time and incident location of the grounds along with the nature of the issue. When and where it was officially reported (Suffolk/Essex) and who reported it. This will give a full and concise picture of all the issues occurring and a better evaluation of the scale and cost of them which can be used to provide evidence against how much budget is required for the crime prevention and security of the grounds.

Legislation supporting accountability:

This legislation places a duty on all of the authorities mentioned in the above recommendations. It is therefore everyone's responsibility to act:

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 – as revised by the Police and Justice Act 2006 - places a duty on:

- *Local Authorities;*
- *Police Authorities (and the Mayor of London);*
- *Fire Authorities;*
- *National Parks Authorities*
- *The Broads Authority*

“Without prejudice to any other obligation imposed upon it, it shall be the duty of each authority ... to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment) and the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area”. Therefore, the Act requires local authorities and others to consider crime and disorder reduction while exercising all of their duties. This reflects the reality that there are crime and/or disorder implications in decisions made across the full range of local authority services, and to correct the current situation under which these implications are often not recognised at the time decisions are taken, with expensive consequences.

The above recommendations are provided in line with being appropriate, realistic and cost effective.

Suffolk Police are not suggesting that all of those should be applied. Each should be reviewed and be in line with it being realistic and cost effective in relation to the issues being caused along with the costs incurred. Those costs should be gaged in the cost of damage caused, the repair or replacement of items, the risk of injury/death (insurance against that), the cost of time used in resources to resolve the issues etc and the demands on emergency services having to attend.



Jackie Norton
Design Out Crime Officer
Suffolk Constabulary