

Community engagement event held on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2020 between 2-5pm at Bures Recreation ground. Police Officers in attendance were: PC 1979 Stebbings, PC 270 Marshall, PC 1658 Farrow, PC 1574 Moore, A/PS 1813 Allard and PCSO 3307 Skeggs.

There were around 100+ local residents that came to speak to us. Most of the issues were around the youths gathering in the hot weather near to the bridge. There were reports of ASB, noise, alcohol and drug consumption. The biggest issue was the youths on the bridge jumping in to the river. The bridge is only a single walk through and so social distancing can not be adhered too. There were lots of complaints about rubbish being left and youths using anywhere and everywhere as a toilet.

Suggestions were made regarding extra litter bins, toilet facilities and engaging with the youths, some were for this but others didn't understand why the local people should have to do this for the youths that turn up.

Most residents were very happy to see the Police at the event and were thankful of presence and the work we have done so far.

They are wanting this to stop but could not give any suggestion on how to solve the issues either. They are concerned that the youths are arriving by train or vehicle and seem to be from the Essex area.

**Main issues:**

- Litter
- Illegal drugs – Nos cannisters
- Possibly underage drinking
- Toilet usage in bushes
- No social distancing
- Noise complaints
- Rude to local residents
- Jumping of the bridge
- Not allowing people to pass on the bridge
- BBQs on the grass – burning the grass

**Things to suggest:**

- More litter bins
- Toilet facilities
- British transport Police and Greater Anglia support
- Bridge amendments to stop the jumping into the river

**Parish Council are sorting:**

- CCTV on buildings with 5 cameras.
- Paving slabs imbedded into the ground for BBQs
- Volunteer litter pickers

The biggest issue from residents was the number of youths and them jumping off the bridge as this causes issues for locals to cross etc.

The Parish council are working with the Police to try and solve the issues but know that it is a tough issue, with no easy solution or quick fix.