

## **Kesgrave Annual Town Meeting**

### **PC 1628 Hannah Canning, Community Engagement Officer (Ipswich East)**

At the end of 2021, PCSO Ellie Miles, who was covering the Kesgrave area moved on to another role within Suffolk Police. A new PCSO for the area has been recruited, so we are now just waiting for them to begin in post.

It's fantastic to see the improvement work that has been done on the Kesgrave underpasses, and it makes such a difference to the appearance of the area. We do get some issues with criminal damage and graffiti in the Kesgrave area, so I would urge anyone who sees any damage being caused to report this to the police. It's often difficult for the police to catch people in the act with crimes such as this, so we need the community to help us by reporting any concerns.

Unfortunately, in recent weeks there seems to have been a spate of vehicle crime in Kesgrave. The most important advice in relation to this is to make sure that your vehicle is secure and that any valuable items are removed from the vehicle when you leave it. Thieves are usually opportunist, so don't make your vehicle an easy target. We would also recommend parking in well-lit places where possible. Should you see anything suspicious or unknown people around your vehicle please report it - this includes letting us know about any footage of suspicious behaviour that you might capture on CCTV or dashcams etc

There have also been a number of distraction thefts at supermarkets reported in Kesgrave and the wider East Suffolk area. We have tried to raise awareness of this issue, and we appreciate the help of local organisations who have spread the word, displayed posters and handed out some crime prevention items for us.

As an update for police engagement in the area, I've been working with Kesgrave Library to have monthly drop-in sessions where crime prevention information, bike security marking and general police advice are available. I've also been invited into various groups such as Forget-me-not café and the Kesgrave Help Centre coffee mornings, as well as visiting local schools and nurseries. Last summer we ran some bike security marking sessions at Oak Meadow, and as the weather improves I hope to arrange more sessions like this.

If you would like any further crime prevention advice, there is a wealth of information on a wide range of topics in the First Principle section of our website. Just go to [www.suffolk.police.uk](http://www.suffolk.police.uk) and click on the 'advice' tab. As a reminder, a lot of things can now be reported to us online as well, just look for the 'report something' tab on the website. You can also contact us on the telephone via 101, but please always ring 999 in an emergency.

Another way that you can keep up to date on crime, public appeals, safety advice and other information about your area is to sign up to Police Connect. This is a free messaging service where you receive information via email, and you can choose the geographical areas and topics that are most important to you. It's easy to sign up on our website: [www.suffolk.police.uk/contact-us/police-connect-sign](http://www.suffolk.police.uk/contact-us/police-connect-sign). It's also worth keeping an eye on our local social media accounts on Facebook and Twitter. We will usually post about our upcoming local events, street meets and bike security marking sessions on these accounts.

We are looking forward to supporting more local events in Kesgrave this year, so hope to see you there.