

## **Police Report for Kesgrave's Annual Town Meeting 2024**

Apologies for not being present for my first annual town meeting since being in post.

I am the new Community Police Officer (CPO) for Kesgrave and Bixley. The job was previously known as Community Engagement Officer (CEO) CEOs had a very large patch to cover. The new role of CPO was brought in at the start of 2024 to cover smaller areas with a view to delivering a service specific to the needs of each area.

I have been a Police Officer for five years having spent my first years in the Police covering 999 calls from members of public in the East Ipswich/Woodridge area. I previously worked as an Emergency Medical Technician for the East of England Ambulance Service, a Personal Trainer, and a HGV Driver/Physical Training Instructor in the Army. In my spare time I am a Motorcycle Racer and keep fit by cycling. I have three children aged between 3 and 12.

My job role is focussed primarily around: Anti-Social Behaviour, Youth Crime and Exploitation, Youth Produced Sexual Imagery. In addition, I will be engaging with schools and with wider community with a view to improving the image and perception of the Police. I also carry an investigative workload and carry out normal day to day Policing.

Since being in post I have been out and in the community at all times of day but focussing on the evenings where instances of Anti-Social behaviour and criminality tend to be higher. My patrols are modelled around what is happening in the community. If there are lots of issues in one area, I focus my attention on that and aim to resolve the issue with a long-term sustainable solution.

Reporting incidents on 999, 101, or online reporting is always the best way of reporting incidents. Calls will be triaged by the control room and the appropriate resource will always be dispatched. I have had several reports made directly to me via my e-mail address. It is great people feel they can approach me but there is a risk I could be on rest days or away from my desk and things would get missed.

I look forward to being out and about in the warmer months and longer evenings. I am very aware that Kesgrave is extremely densely populated with around 15,000 residents. With that said, the area has lots to offer in terms of open spaces, license premises and lots of events throughout the summer. I was pleased to be given Kesgrave and Bixley as my beat.

I hope everyone can get out and enjoy the warmer weather responsibly and safely.

If you see me on my patrols say hi! Be sure to follow Felixstowe and Woodbridge Police on social media to keep up with any events and crime prevention advice. I also aim to write an article in 'In Touch' magazine every other month.

PC 528 Matt Finch

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Community Police Officer – Kesgrave & Bixley