

Watton Annual Town Council Meeting 20.04.2021

It has been a very difficult year for individuals, businesses and community groups alike and the effect of the pandemic and the associated restrictions have impacted on how we have policed our towns and villages.

Throughout 2020 your local Safer Neighbourhood Team Beat Managers have continued to respond to priority calls as well as conducting reassurance patrols, utilising the 4Es approach to policing, seeking to engage, explain, educate and only as a very last resort enforce the restrictions in place at the time. We have found locally that reports of anti-social behaviour for the period April 2020 – April 2021 has decreased by 5 from 16 reports in the previous reporting year to 11 for this reporting year and this is reflective of the engagement and reassurance patrols carried by the local Beat Managers.

Despite not being able to conduct traditional, face to face meetings, your Beat Managers have continued to work in partnership with Watton Town Council and Breckland District Council in establishing a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) which will encompass areas including The High Street, the Memorial and Church Walk in Watton in response to concerns raised around street drinking. Once we are informed of when this will come into force, we will update you further.

We have been conducting our SNAP meetings online via Teams and our next SNAP meeting will be held on 29th April at 7pm. To get the link to join the meeting please email the Beat Managers at SNTWatton@norfolk.police.uk. We really hope you can join us!

Your local Beat Managers have always enjoyed a very close working relationship with the community, and we are very aware that the restrictions have meant that we have been unable to conduct face to face engagement. With the publication of the Government's "road map out of lockdown" and an easing of the restrictions, as long as the situation continues to improve, we look forward to resuming face to face meetings if we can but only if it is safe to do so. In the meantime, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Town Council, local community and businesses for their understanding and support during what has been undoubtedly a very difficult year.