

## **Watton Town Council Annual Report 2023**

Please accept my apologies, unfortunately due to personal commitments I am unable to make this evening's annual Watton Town Council meeting.

To those attending:

Should you have any questions then please pass these through the council and I will endeavour to respond in a timely manner.

For the Police covering Watton over the last 12 months it has been very busy and much progress has been made in reaching the right outcomes and working closely with victims of crime.

It is noticeable, there has been decreases in many areas of crime.

But we accept this work must continue to ensure that we keep this area of Norfolk one of the best and safest places to live in the country.

In regards to Anti-Social behaviour there has been Peaks and Troughs over the last 12 months.

This area alone, we on average receive between 15 and 20 reports of Anti-Social Behaviour for which there is a crime investigation raised per month, which in comparison to other Towns in the Country of the same size and population is very low.

The stats which cover crime in the area of Watton are freely available on [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk) website.

These statistics cover a wide range of offences which include Shoplifting, Public Order, Burglary, Sexual and Violence offences, Criminal Damage, Possession of Offensive Weapons and Drug related offences and vehicle crime etc.

For this last financial year Police investigated 789 offences as opposed to the previous financial year of 847 offences of which there was much success in reaching positive outcomes through in and out of court disposals, all of which sought the approval of the victim.

Where the evidence was insufficient to reach a suitable outcome in regard to Anti-Social Behaviour for example, we utilised the services of our partner agencies in reaching alternative means of remedy.

We accept that much crime is seasonal and this depends on longer daylight hours, festivities and of course the increase of foot fall during late spring and summer months where we see an increase of people visiting the area.

Over the last 12 months we have concentrated much effort highlighting areas that are reflective of complaints we have received.

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Working closely with the Safer Neighbourhood Area Partnership which is made up of our good people of Watton from all walks of life. From that meeting as a collective a decision is made on priorities of which can be up to 3 that cause much frustration for the community.

The next panel meeting will be here at the Watton Town Council Chambers on 26/07/2023 at 7pm, you can also join us on line live so watch out for the link on Social Media.... Here you will receive the updates of those priorities and get a good sense of what the police have been up to. Those that attend these meetings have a real say in how the area is policed so please do come along.

Just a brief word on schools, as your Beat Manager a part of my role in getting into schools and presenting a side of policing that is firm but fair but also delivered in such a way that shows an approachable face of the police.

Working within schools whether at Nursery, Primary and Secondary phases is a very encouraging aspect of police work where we can educate and hopefully deter the offenders of the future and also where possible give awareness, a listening ear addressing concerns to those that could be victims of the future.

Those that know the Beat Manager Austin he is committed along with his Response colleagues and determined along with our partner agencies which include Schools, Councils large and small, Housing, Medical, Children and Adult services and Mental Health to deliver the best service possible during and beyond these testing times.

If you are a victim of crime, you witness crime or have information about crime then please report it. Either through online reporting on the Norfolk Constabulary website [www.norfolk.police.uk](http://www.norfolk.police.uk), 101 or 999 in an emergency.

This area of Norfolk will remain one of the safest locations in the Country.