

COMMUNITY UPDATE

COVID-19



News of the government's three-week lockdown extension will have come as no surprise to many of you. In fact, we know a large majority of the public are in favour of these restrictions to help stop the spread of this deadly virus.

I would again like to thank the communities of Norfolk for sticking to these rules admirably and I know you will continue with this effort. However, as so often happens, it is a minority who cause us concern and flout the rules, which let us remember, are in place to protect us all.

There has been much debate and commentary on how we as a service are enforcing lockdown rules. In Norfolk we are issuing on average six tickets every day, which we believe is a proportionate amount. I think we are striking the right balance; our approach is to always engage, explain and encourage in the first instance and only issue fines as a last resort. We

are in the midst of a public health emergency so officers will be fair but firm when dealing with people who breach the guidelines.

It is worth reiterating that all of our officers are fully briefed on our stance before they are given the ability to issue fines, and we are constantly reviewing how they are enforcing the guidelines to ensure it remains proportionate. This includes reference to national advice on what constitutes a 'reasonable excuse' for being out, which you can view [here](#). However, we encourage officers to direct people back home rather than taking a hard line on those who do not follow the rules. To support this approach, we have also been using warning letters, reminding people about the restrictions and what they need to do.

The realities of social distancing and not seeing friends or loved ones begins to kick-in. And yes, it is tough. So now, more than ever, it's important that we be kind to one another, work together and show solidarity to those who are affected by this virus and those working on the frontline. Earlier this week, we, along with our blue light colleagues launched a campaign to help spread some kindness and positivity in these difficult days of lockdown and display sunflowers in their windows. We're inviting people to create sunflowers which they can display alongside their rainbows as a symbol of hope for the future; something we will all need in the weeks and months to come. We've been extremely heartened by your response so far and hope that you will continue to support us in joining Norfolk together as a community.

I can reassure you that while we continue to adapt and respond to the challenges of coronavirus, our day-to-day policing continues. Local policing priorities haven't disappeared from our radar and our beat managers are still very much in your communities and dealing with criminality. While you may not see them or hear news of our results as much, officers are still out there for you and you can still contact them by email through our website or by calling 101.

Many thanks - **Temporary Assistant Chief Constable , Julie Wvendth**



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AN EMERGENCY



TALK TO YOUR LOCAL
BEAT MANAGER