

COMMUNITY UPDATE

COVID-19



22.03.21



I am sure it will not have escaped your attention that Tuesday 23 March marks the first anniversary since the government announced the first lockdown to combat the covid-19 virus.

Suffolk Constabulary is joining the rest of the nation in observing a minute's silence on Tuesday to remember all those who have died during the pandemic and show support for everybody who has lost a friend or family member. The National Day of Reflection, being led by charity Marie Curie, will be a sad and poignant day and all our thoughts will be with all those who have lost a family member or friend.

You, the people of Suffolk, are uppermost in how we police the county, and this has remained the case throughout the pandemic and this will continue long after this health crisis. Our focus has stayed true to the ethos of British policing, that of policing with the consent of our communities and using the tried and tested 4Es approach - to engage, explain and encourage and not hesitating in taking enforcement action where necessary.

It's important to remember that we as a police service over the past year have had to make considerable changes to our working practices to ensure we continue to protect and serve you in your communities. We pride ourselves to be a responsive, supportive, creative and empathetic police service. Through such adversity comes great opportunities to develop, progress and learn and our innovative use technology has been integral and we will look to build on this. Together, our officers and staff have demonstrated that in the face of such adversity we are resilient, adaptable and innovative and we want this to carry on into the future for the benefit to you all who continue to serve.

As each day passes the light at the end of the tunnel gets brighter and brighter thanks to the vaccination programme that continues to roll out. We now look forward to the next stage of the release of the current lockdown due to be triggered on Monday 29 March. Among the measures include being allowed to meet outside, either with one other household or within the "rule of six", including in private garden, while the stay at home rule will end, but the government will urge people to stay local as much as possible.

On behalf of everyone at Suffolk Police, thank you for your on-going support – the brakes are being slowly lifted so let's make sure the collective effort continues. It's incumbent on us all to do the right thing and stick to the rules as we move to a further relaxation.

All the detail on the government's 'roadmap' and the current regulations as to what is permissible can be found here: www.gov.uk/coronavirus

T/Supt Simon Mills



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