



Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service

This month i need to start with a very serious topic that I have been trying to address with the help of head teachers at local schools for some time. This subject is inconsiderate parking & stopping of vehicles during school times by an increasing minority, which is becoming extremely dangerous for all concerned. It is an ongoing problem that has been getting worse, where some drivers park in not only inconsiderate places, but also places that are both illegal & unsafe to other motorists & pedestrians, especially small children who may not be seen by other motorists whilst trying to cross the roads.

Another aspect that these drivers seem unconcerned about is that there is a fire station locally that most of the time relies on these very roads to respond to possible life risk emergencies. What this means is that while your local Fire Service is being held up by these drivers, it is not able to reach those emergencies in need as soon as it should be able to & more importantly when needed. This could cost lives, which is something no one wants to have on their conscience. Remember it could be someone you know that needs help when emergency services are unable to get to them!

Whilst we are unable to get through this road those who choose to cause obstructions, because they feel its possibly easier & saves a few mins, are in fact causing unlawful acts. For example 'The Emergency Workers Obstruction Act 2006' means it is unlawful for a person(s) to perform an action which results in obstructing or hindering emergency workers from their duties. Even though not a well-known act, it does get enforced nationwide, although hopefully it will not have to be locally.

Both Church Drove, Outwell & School Rd, Upwell have various road markings that mean stopping & parking is prohibited in certain places, yet every week day the same drivers choose to park on these zig zags, other markings & unsuitable places to save time rather than think about the impact it could cause on peoples' safety or the fact they are committing offences & restricting emergency services from getting to those in need.

I have today been invited & taken part in an assembly with Beupre school teachers to help them get the message across to the pupils, & hopefully in

turn their family members, as to just how dangerous this situation is becoming. Historically such situations only change when someone has been injured or worse. Please help us & the schools from preventing this from happening. I hope to be able to plan a similar visit to Upwell academy in the coming weeks.

As a guide to help those unsure as to where they should or should not park please see below.

Roadside Parking – The Law – Rule 243

DO NOT STOP OR PARK:

- Near to a school entrance.
- Anywhere you would prevent access for emergency services.
- Opposite or within 10m (32ft) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space.
- Opposite a traffic island or (if this would cause an obstruction) another parked vehicle.
- In front of an entrance to a property on a bend.

The list is a great deal longer, but these are the main ones that relate to areas down both School Rd & Church Drove which are ignored on a daily basis by many drivers.

On another topic, this last month you may have seen us responding to several incidents locally & some further afield. We have seen an unusually busy end of October & start of November with varying incidents from out of control bonfires & building fires, including a house fire caused by careless use of fireworks. We have also attended several extremely serious RTC's. Hopefully this will not continue in the coming weeks.

As winter is approaching quickly, can I please urge everyone to prepare. Prepare your journeys and allow more time and ensure your cars are all checked and ready for the changes in temperatures & conditions. Also if you have any form of open fire, please prepare for winter by having your chimneys swept by a reputable person.

Please stay safe and help us to help you all stay safe.

Remember push the button not your luck. Get Out & Stay Out!!

Watch Manager Glen Gates

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