

Helpful numbers

National Alcohol Helpline

0800 917 8282

Confidential advice and information on all aspects of alcohol. Calls are free.

Alcoholics Anonymous National Helpline

0845 769 7555

Calls charged at local rate.

NORCAS

01473 259382

Open access drug and alcohol service.

Anti-Social Behaviour – Suffolk Police

01473 613500

Reporting anti-social behaviour online – www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/anti-social.

Suffolk Domestic Violence & Abuse

24hr Helpline

0800 783 5121

National Domestic Violence Helpline

0808 2000247

4YP

0845 310 8450

Information and support for young people.

Crime Stoppers

0800 555 111

Call anonymously with information about a crime.

Samaritans

0845 790 90 90

Confidential non-judgemental emotional support.



What will happen if I do not stop drinking alcohol?

If you continue to drink when asked not to your alcohol may be confiscated and disposed of by the officer.

What if I surrender my alcohol?

If you surrender your alcohol and do not continue to behave in an anti-social manner there will be no further action.

What will happen if I do not hand over my alcohol?

You may be arrested and convicted to a maximum fine of £500 or issued with a fixed penalty notice.

What will happen if I hand over my alcohol but continue to behave in an anti-social manner?

You may be arrested and convicted of a Public Order offence.

Our aim is to ensure that residents, businesses and visitors are able to enjoy the benefits of the vibrant Suffolk Coastal community. This should be without risk or fear of any nuisance or disorder caused by the behaviour of a few people intoxicated by alcohol in public.



designated public place



**Drink responsibly
or the police could use
their powers to take
away your alcohol
and fine you**

Suffolk Coastal District Council is promoting responsible drinking to people who live, work or visit the towns in the area. As part of this campaign, the Council has introduced Designated Public Places Orders in parts of Woodbridge, Leiston, Felixstowe, Kesgrave, Rushmere St Andrew, Martlesham, Framlingham, Saxmundham, Wickham Market and Kelsale.

What is responsible drinking?

Over 90% of the adult population drink and the majority do so without any problems, the majority of the time. Drinking alcohol is widely associated with socialising, relaxing and pleasure. Drinking within the recommended levels can even provide some health benefits.

The Government's Recommended Sensible Drinking levels are:

- a maximum intake of 2-3 units per day for women and 3-4 for men, with two alcohol free days after heavy drinking, continued alcohol consumption at the upper level is not advised;
- that intake of up to two units a day can have a moderate protective effect against heart disease for men over 40 and postmenopausal women; and some groups such as pregnant women and those engaging in potentially dangerous activities (such as operating heavy machinery) should drink less or nothing at all.

Continued heavy drinking or binge drinking can cause problems for an individual's health. Where drinking is associated with criminal or anti-social behaviour, it has an impact on the individual, their family and the whole community.

What is a Designated Public Places Order?

The Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 introduced the power for local authorities to designate public places in which it will become an offence to drink alcohol after being requested not to do so by a police officer. The police will have the power to require the surrender of alcohol and containers in these circumstances and those who fail to comply will be liable to arrest. The mechanism for such a ban is a 'Designated Public Places Order'.

Why has this been introduced?

The key aims for the area are to:

- provide additional powers to police to deal with persistent street drinking and alcohol related anti-social behaviour;
- reduce disturbances in public places which are alcohol related;
- reduce drunkenness in public places;
- contribute to the range of actions which are being delivered to reduce alcohol misuse;

- reduce the numbers of street drinkers and hotspot areas through combining enforcement with outreach services.

How will this affect me?

This means that a Police Officer or a Police Community Support Officer may ask you to stop drinking in a public place if:

- you are creating disorder or behaving in an anti-social manner (while drinking alcohol or under the influence of alcohol);
- there is a likelihood of anti-social behaviour or disorder (while drinking or under the influence of alcohol);
- complaints have been received from the public concerning an ongoing or developing problem.
- for information on all designated areas within Suffolk Coastal see www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/your-district/communitysafety/alcohol

This order will not affect you if you are drinking alcohol responsibly in a public place