



Dear Councillor,

Our latest newsletter to members for your information.

As always a few more warnings and some advice!

Reports of Abandon vehicles!

I have had several enquiries this year regarding apparently abandon vehicles that have been left **on the road** for a long while.

There are few simple steps you can take to get some idea of the status of the vehicle. Check on the DVLA site about the vehicle. Just fill in the vehicle's registration number, the make, colour and model i.e. blue Honda Jazz and it will show you whether the vehicle has a current road tax and MOT. Click on this link to: <https://www.gov.uk/check-vehicle-tax> It will also show whether the registration mark fits the vehicle it is attached to! If it doesn't match then report it to the **police via 101, telling them what you have discovered**. You cannot access the details of the registered owner!

Other options are, If its untaxed you can report it anonymously to the DVLA on their website for them to investigate further. I assume DVLA will get in touch with the registered owner and things will move on from there. Alternatively the vehicle can be reported to the District Council as they have responsibility for removing abandon vehicles. The vehicle can reported on-line: https://my.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/service/abandoned_vehicle_report

If you are thinking of buying a car the DVLA link is a good way of checking the status of the car . Remember of course that these day's no car comes with tax included as the DVLA refund any outstanding amount to the current owner. However, it does give you an indication about the information the seller is giving you. Be very wary if the information doesn't match up! Suffolk Trading Standards report that some buyers have been known to a 'doctor' a car to get a cheaper price.

They say: Thinking of selling your car?

Did you know, scammers have been known to work together to distract car owners when viewing cars. They discretely pour oil into the exhaust before the engine is started. When the car starts, it backfires and they try to haggle a much lower price. We are urging residents of Suffolk to take care when selling vehicles and if you notice suspicious activity like this, or have had something similar happen to you, call us via 03454 04 05 06

Trust you are all keeping well and staying safe.

Brian Sivyer
Chairman
Lowestoft Neighbourhood Watch Association

SCAM MONTH
When is it not!!



Ann* was 55 when she was contacted on Facebook by a man, based abroad, who was interested in a relationship with her. They built up a bond and spoke daily, on some days this was the only contact with other people that she had. Ann sent him money for an airfare and he never arrived. She was left unable to buy groceries and had to seek help from neighbours so that she could continue to eat

The Suffolk Trading Standards team regularly hears stories like Ann's, which is why we're taking part in Scams Awareness Month which launches June 1st. It's a chance to engage in conversation and alleviate the stigma that surrounds discussing and reporting scams

You can get advice from the [Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline](#) to help you spot scams, report scams to [Action Fraud](#), and talk to friends and family to make sure nobody misses a trick

*Names have been changed to protect privacy