



Philip Seccombe
Police and Crime
Commissioner
for Warwickshire



MONTHLY UPDATE

The latest news from the Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner

August 2017

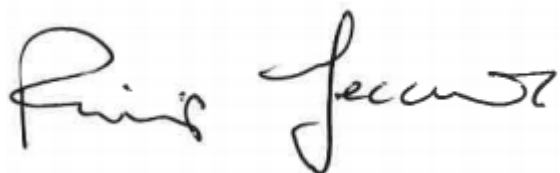
This month I am delighted to be able to start work with my new Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, Rob Tromans, following his successful confirmation hearing with the Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel. Rob will be working alongside me for three days a week, supporting the work of the office and assisting me with public engagement around the county.

I'm pleased that the panel members agreed with my assessment that Rob will make an excellent addition to the team. He brings a wealth of experience from his public and business life and I think he can make a very real contribution to the delivery of my Police and Crime Plan and the creation of a safer, more secure Warwickshire.

With the scope of the work being undertaken by my office, my national portfolio for the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners and the increasing responsibilities that PCCs may need to take on in the coming years, I felt that the time was right to appoint a Deputy to help support me in my role and to ensure that the opportunities for public engagement can be increased.

Some of you may know Rob from his time on Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council and he will continue to represent the St Nicholas ward alongside his Deputy PCC duties. I have asked him to represent me on the Joint Audit Committee and Health and Wellbeing Board and also play a key part in the work to look at how greater collaboration can be encouraged among all of the emergency services here in Warwickshire.

I'm looking forward to working together with Rob - you can find a little bit more about his background below.



Philip Secombe TD
Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner

Introducing Rob Tromans



"I'm delighted to have been appointed Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire. I have always taken a keen interest in the community and the concerns of residents, so I look forward to supporting our excellent Commissioner Philip Secombe and working closely with Warwickshire Police to make our county a safer place to live, work and raise a family."

- Deputy PCC Rob Tromans

Rob Tromans is 49 years old and lives in Nuneaton with his wife and teenage son. He first moved to the north of the county as a child and attended Higham Lane School and North Warwickshire College, in Nuneaton. After a spell living in Worcestershire, Rob returned to Nuneaton to marry, have a family and later start up a successful small business.

In addition to running a specialist consultancy firm, Rob has always made time be involved with his community. He has spent many years volunteering and contributing to a wide range of activities, from helping local campaigns, raising petitions and organising community litter picks, through to serving for some years as an LEA-appointed and then academy school governor.

As someone who is community-minded and likes to be busy meeting people, Rob was elected in May 2014 to his local council, where he serves on the Audit, Planning and Standards committees. During his time on Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council, Rob has helped build a consensus around doing more to secure play parks and public open spaces. He has also pressed for a consistent approach to the problems of unauthorised encampments.

As a local councillor, Rob meets regularly with residents' groups, including those formed to meet licensed premises conditions. Public safety is also a concern to Rob and as part of community resilience initiative, he joined the team that lead the development of disaster response plans for the local area.

Rob is a longstanding advocate of Neighbourhood Watch and meets regularly with the police Safer Neighbourhoods Team, with a particular focus on local ASB, burglary and car crime. He is also a member of the Community Speed Watch scheme.

Crime figures give an indication of police pressures

The number of crime offences recorded annually by the police in Warwickshire increased by 19% in Warwickshire, according to the latest figures to March 31, 2017 released by the [Office for National Statistics](#). Nationally, crime has increased on average across all forces by 10%, with each force across the West Midlands region seeing double digit rises. However, the separate Crime Survey for England and Wales, which is based on people's experiences of crime, has shown a 7% reduction.

These latest figures do give an indication of the pressures police forces are currently experiencing but, while rises in recorded crime are a cause for concern, viewing crime figures in isolation does not necessarily give a clear picture of what is being experienced in communities.

Some of the crime categories which have seen the largest increases have been those where additional police focus has been given – for example, child sexual exploitation offences have increased by almost 50 percent in 12 months, reflecting the additional resources that have been made in tackling this type of crime. In these cases, increases in recorded offences is positive as we know that this has been a type of crime that has been under-reported in the past.

Clearly there are other categories of crime where increases are more concerning, particularly offences of violent crime, and I am continuing to press for improvements. I want to ensure that Warwickshire Police has a good understanding of the underlying causes and continues to focus on tackling effectively those crimes which cause the greatest harm.

It is also important to remember that, despite the pressures the force faces, victim satisfaction levels have remained high, as has public confidence in Warwickshire Police, which also remains above the national average. I want to ensure that this is always the case whenever a crime is reported to the police and I will continue to monitor this closely.

Rural Crime Co-ordinators' Advice Put to Good Use



Helping residents and business to do all they can to make their property and valuables more secure is a key part of my plan to prevent and reduce crime.

The effects of crime can be felt particularly keenly in rural areas, where people can feel more isolated, while the affects of crime on rural businesses and farms can sometimes be devastating.

I fund Rural Crime Co-ordinators in the north and south of the county, whose role is to work with rural communities and the police on initiatives to combat criminal activity and to improve security awareness among communities.

In South Warwickshire, Bob Church and Lucy Lambert have been achieving some good successes in recent weeks to address the concerns that have been raised by the agricultural community at a number of the rural crime meetings which have been organised in partnership with the NFU. As well as providing practical advice and guidance, they have also been able to load out security equipment to farms and residents on a trial basis.

I joined Bob recently to see for myself some of the initiatives which have had a positive impact. We visited the farm of Tom Newbury, who had suffered a number of thefts from outbuildings. Bob has worked with Tom to suggest the most effective systems to provide protection, from powerful alarms on outbuildings and anti-theft chains for farm machinery. Tom has also fitted an extensive CCTV system, which monitors the whole farmyard and records evidence even at night.

While these measures do not in themselves prevent crime from occurring, they do provide an element of a deterrent, while also providing a greater likelihood

of having evidence to catch the offenders. Equally, all of the measures combined make it much harder for criminals to succeed in their attempts and, crucially, have provided the Newburys with much greater peace of mind.

Bob and Lucy have also been working closely with the police Safer Neighbourhood Teams, Stratford District Council, the National Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service and NFU Mutual in a strategy to deter vehicle thefts in rural areas. Vehicles and farm equipment fitted with tracking devices have been placed across the area and recently these led to several arrests.

As Shipston's Neighbourhood Officer PC Craig Purcell says: "We are publicising these tactics to send a clear message to anyone who is considering stealing from a rural location; we have the means and the technology to locate you and we will continue to use it."

Amen to that!

The picture above shows Tom Newbery (centre) with myself and Bob Church (right) and the screen for the new farm CCTV system.

In Pictures: Whitacres and Shustoke Show

Last weekend I was at Whitacres and Shustoke Show, where I joined the Police and North Warwickshire Neighbourhood Watch stands to meet the public.

Pictured right is the Cyber Safe in Warwickshire display with Cyber Crime Advisor Sam Slemensek showing off some of the materials to help people understand how to protect themselves while online.

Pictured below, clockwise from top left, are: Warwickshire Police Cadets; the Special Constabulary was on hand with information for anyone wishing to apply; Rural Crime Co-ordinator Carol Cotterill with the 'Thieves Beware' signs that are cropping up all over the north of the county as part of the Supported Villages scheme; and the Police and Neighbourhood Watch stands .





Celebrating the achievement of Police Cadets



I was pleased to present prizes to the the North Warwickshire Police Cadets at their recent awards ceremony at the Nuneaton Justice Centre. The volunteer scheme for young people is a key part of Warwickshire Police's strategy for youth engagement and also gives the cadets themselves the chance to gain a practical understanding of policing and develop their spirit of adventure and good citizenship.

The scheme began in Leamington and Nuneaton in 2014 and has gone from strength to strength ever since. Cadets support local policing priorities through volunteering, working with partner agencies and positive participation in their communities. They take part in a variety of activities including self-defence training, marching, fitness, team building, role playing and outdoor events. Cadets can gain an insight into police life through talks by guest speakers from different departments and agencies and by taking part in local community policing events.

At the end of each year the cadets north and south have a special ceremony, with awards being given for excellence across a range of criteria, including providing a positive role model, leadership skills, fitness improvement and attendance.

I was pleased to be able to present the Cadet of the Year Award to Cadet Walker, with Cadet Bray the runner-up. The Senior Achievement Award meanwhile went to Cadet Pearson and the Junior Achievement Award to Cadet May. Overall, it was a very enjoyable evening and it was very encouraging to see the enthusiasm of all of the group.

I very much echo the comments of Principal Cadet Leader in North Warwickshire, PC Lee Marston, who says: "As their leader it's great to see each Cadet go through their two year journey. Some Cadets start as shy young people and have developed so much and beam with confidence now, becoming positive role models for their peers. I would like to congratulate all of the Cadets on their hard work and wish our Senior Cadets that leave us in September good luck for the future."

If you want to know more about becoming a Police Cadet, visit the Warwickshire Police Cadets page or follow the Warwickshire Police Cadets on Twitter or Facebook (@WarksCadets).