
Warwickshire PCC monthly update: January 2018

1 message

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Monthly update from Warwickshire's Police and Crime Commissioner

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The latest news from the Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner

January 2018

I begin the year in much the same fashion as I farewelled 2017, with a call for people to give their views on my proposals to increase the police precept - that's the portion of your Council Tax bill which you pay towards policing. We've had an amazing response since the consultation launch just before Christmas, with approaching 1,300 responses as I write (including 10 sent on Christmas Day!). There are still a few more days left before the survey closes on Friday, so if you haven't taken the survey, time is fast running out and I really do want your feedback.

As I explain in the notes which accompany the survey (which you can also find here: <http://bit.ly/PreceptGuide1819>), I'm putting forward three options and asking you to suggest which of the three is preferable:

- **Option 1** – increase the police precept by £12 per year (on a Band D property). This equates to a rise of 6.25% and would mean a Band D taxpayer would pay an extra £1 per month. This funding option would mean the force could retain around 33 police officer posts that might otherwise have been lost.
- **Option 2** – increase the police precept by £10 per year year (on a Band D property). This equates to a rise of 5.21% and would mean a Band D taxpayer would

pay around an extra 83 pence per month. This funding option would mean the force could retain around 25 police officer posts that might otherwise have been lost.

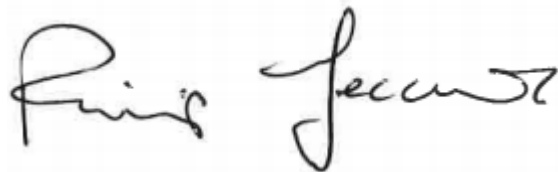
- **Option 3** – increase the police precept by £8 per year (on a Band D property). This equates to a rise of 4.17% and would mean a Band D taxpayer would pay around an extra 67 pence per month. This funding option would mean the force could retain around 18 police officer posts that might otherwise have been lost.

(Percentage increases apply to all tax bands but Band D increases are provided in monetary terms by way of example - you can see a full breakdown of what the increases would mean for all tax bands in the leaflet linked to above).

Some of the feedback I've received so far has questioned why I am not this year offering the option of a freeze in the survey. Put simply, this would leave the force in much more difficult financial situation, with the likelihood of further officer losses and some very unpalatable decisions on a reduced service to the public needing to be made. Last year I was able to fund a precept freeze from financial reserves. With the remaining reserves already accounted for by the large scale investments I am making in new technology and infrastructure to support operational policing and make it more efficient, alongside necessary amounts set aside for contingencies, this is not an option again this year.

It's for this reason I have not included a zero-increase option in the survey - I feel it would be wrong to offer people a choice that I was not able to commit to. But equally, I do appreciate that for many people times are hard and that's why I have suggested three options for the increase, so I'm very keen to hear your views as to which is preferable.

If you haven't yet taken the survey it only takes a couple of minutes to complete, so please do visit www.warwickshire-pcc.gov.uk/preceptsurvey/ before it closes on Friday (January 19).



Philip Seccombe TD
Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner

Community Speed Watch in focus



Addressing the representatives at the Community Speed Watch meeting.

Earlier this month, I welcomed representatives from Community Speed Watch (CSW) groups from around the county to a special meeting with police and officials from the Warwickshire and West Mercia Road Safety Partnership. The aim was to allow all concerned to air their views on how speed watch schemes are currently operating and how communications between all agencies can be improved in future.

Community Speed Watch is a locally-led initiative where members of the community join together with the support of the police to monitor the speed of vehicles using speed detection devices. Vehicles exceeding the speed limit are referred to the police with the aim of educating motorists to reduce their speeds. Volunteers receive appropriate training and are supported by their local Safer Neighbourhood Team.

I know from the correspondence I regularly receive from the public that speeding is a topic that causes considerable concern and is one that communities are keen to come together to address. CSW schemes can make a valuable contribution to this through encouraging safer and more responsible driving, so I was keen to bring all parties involved together to explore ways to ensure they can be as effective as possible.

The discussions were wide ranging, open and honest and I felt the meeting overall was very positive. The groups now have an established single point of contact which they can feed into, while the Safer Roads Partnership Warwickshire Police were able to re-affirm their commitment to support the CSW schemes for issues such as training and equipment calibration. There was also discussion around the wording of letters sent by police to persistent speeders and how this might be revised to get

across stronger messages about the unacceptability of such behaviour and the potential consequences.

Sadly, there are still too many people being killed or seriously injured on our roads, with more than 30 fatalities last year. With more and more vehicles on our roads, the issue of road safety is only likely to become even more prominent in coming years, so we need to have the right mix of education, enforcement and engineering to make our highways safe for all users. This is something I will be promoting over the next 12 months, as I think we need a societal change to the way we view speeding and risk-taking on our roads if we are to see the numbers of deaths and serious injuries substantially reduced.

Superb police response gets swift justice

You may have seen the coverage on Friday of the court appearance of a man in relation to last October's armed siege at the bowling alley in Nuneaton. The hearing attracted a lot of media attention, perhaps unsurprising given the high profile nature of the incident itself.



David Clarke, 53, of Ryde Avenue, Nuneaton (pictured right), appeared at Warwick Crown Court where he admitted two counts of false imprisonment, one count of possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence, one count of possession of an imitation firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence, two counts of possession of a bladed article in a public place and one count of criminal damage.

As was the case back in October, there was much praise after the hearing for the very calm and professional way Warwickshire Police officers, assisted by specialist colleagues from across the region, dealt with what was a very volatile incident. It's also a good reminder that police work does not just stop once an initial incident has been resolved. There are many hours of evidence gathering, interviews and careful documentation before a conviction can successfully be made, so it is good to see the thoroughness of the work by officers resulting in the early guilty pleas being made.

Clarke was remanded in custody and the case was adjourned for sentencing on March 2, with Judge Andrew Lockhart QC warning that a significant and lengthy prison sentence lies ahead.

[For more reaction on the case, click here.](#)

Warwickshire Police signs Armed Services Covenant



Lieutenant Colonel Richard Jones from the Ministry of Defence and Warwickshire Police Chief Superintendent Alex Franklin-Smith sign the Armed Forces Covenant at Leek Wootton.

Warwickshire Police has demonstrated its commitment to supporting workers from a military background, by signing a 'personalised' version of the national Armed Forces Covenant.

The Armed Forces Covenant (armedforcescovenant.gov.uk) is a national pledge to treat those who have served in the UK armed forces, and their families, with fairness and respect. It focuses on helping members of the armed forces have the same access to services and opportunities as any other citizen.

An enhanced version of the document was signed by Warwickshire Police Chief Superintendent Alex Franklin-Smith at a ceremony on Monday 8 January. He was joined by the Ministry of Defence's Lieutenant Colonel Richard Jones - a West Mercia Police officer, who is currently on a career break to work full-time as an army reservist - who signed on behalf of the armed forces.

This special version of the document reflects Warwickshire Police's enhanced commitments to supporting those who've served in the Royal Navy, British Army, Royal Air Force, cadets and other volunteers, and other similar services. These include a commitment to:

- Seek to support the employment of veterans of all ages.
- Recognise the skills and competencies that veterans may bring to the organisation when considering candidates who meet the requirements of a job description.
- Strive to support the employment of service spouses and partners.
- Sympathetically review requests for holidays where they impact on family life surrounding deployments.
- Consider special leave for employees who are bereaved or whose partner is injured.
- Support employees who choose to be members of the Reserve forces, including accommodating their training and deployment where possible.
- Support local cadet units.
- Actively participate in Armed Forces Day.

I'm delighted that the force has taken this step. With my own military background, I know what a valuable contribution our servicemen and women make and indeed, how their skills and experiences can have an important future impact if harnessed as part of the policing family. Likewise, there are many other overlaps between the police and our armed forces and I have always been very keen that these are built on, so I will be watching with interest how the Covenant develops.

Join South Warwickshire Citizens' Academy

Warwickshire Police is offering people in South Warwickshire an exciting opportunity to learn about and experience the day-to-day workings of their local police force. The Citizens' Academy programme provides local people over the age of 16 with a unique insight into Warwickshire Police's work to protect people from harm and improve residents' quality of life.



During the 10 weeks police officers, police staff and supporting agencies and organisations will deliver presentations on key aspects of policing.

Members of the public can support the work of the police and their partner agencies by enrolling in the Citizens' Academy programme, to be held within Stratford District at the **Stratford Samaritans Community Hub Tyler House**, Tyler Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6TY and delivered weekly from **6:30-8:30pm**. The programme will begin on Wednesday 18 April and finishes with an awards ceremony on 27 June, where participants receive a certificate from

myself and a Chief Officer from Warwickshire Police.

To find out more and how to apply, visit: www.warwickshire.police.uk/article/16538/South-Warwickshire-Citizens-Academy

Diary dates

Here are some of the key events in my diary for the next few weeks:



16 Jan: Whitestone & Bulkington Community Forum, Bulkington Library

17 Jan: Alliance Governance Group, Leek Wootton

18 Jan: Trust, Integrity and Ethics Committee, Hindlip

22 Jan: Police precept consultation meeting with Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council

22 Jan: Police precept consultation meeting with Warwickshire County Council

24 Jan: Attending Youth Parliament's 'One Voice' public speaking event, Shire Hall, Warwick

25 Jan: Association of Police and Crime Commissioner's meeting, London

26 Jan: Visit to officers and staff at Leamington Justice Centre

27 Jan: Meeting with Rugby Street Pastors

29 Jan: Police precept consultation meetings with local business community and police staff associations

31 Jan: Visit to National Crime Agency, London

1 Feb: Police and Crime Panel, Shire Hall, Warwick.

In addition, I have a weekly meeting with the Chief Constable to hold the force to account and discuss any arising issues. You can find details of these meetings [here](#).

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