



Philip Secombe
Police and Crime
Commissioner
for Warwickshire



MONTHLY UPDATE

The latest news from the Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner

February 2018

This month has seen me announce my decision on the Police Precept for 2018/19 - that's the portion of Council Tax which goes towards the budget for Warwickshire Police. I am pleased to report that the Police and Crime Panel gave my proposed Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan their support, meaning that I can now finalise the charges that will apply when the Council Tax notices are issued.



While increases in council tax are never welcome, the majority of the responses I received during my recent public consultation supported my assessment that, in order to safeguard the continued delivery of an effective service to the public, Warwickshire Police needs more funding. The consultation also showed there was strong support for a proposed maximum increase of 6.25%, which is the equivalent of a pound extra a month for Band D taxpayers. I am therefore taking this option forward for 2018/19.

Without a cash boost of this scale, Warwickshire Police would face having to lose around 60 police officer posts over the medium term – a position that would leave the force having to make very difficult choices over a reduced the level of service to the public. I do not think this is acceptable and the consultation clearly backs up that this is not what the public or local businesses would want to see either.

From the results and the comments received in the consultation, it's also clear that the public wants to see more police on their streets and for officers to continue to focus on tackling the issues that matter most to local communities. I also share the desire expressed by many that any extra resources must be used to boost front line policing here in Warwickshire and I will be ensuring this is the case.

The Chief Constable has committed to increasing recruitment of new and transferring officers with the additional funds that this rise in Council Tax makes available. This will mean that he will be able to safeguard around 50 officer posts in Warwickshire which

would otherwise have been lost.

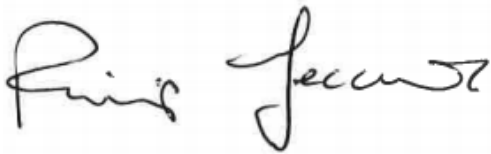
I will also continue to support a wide range of initiatives which help to deliver my Police and Crime Plan, which seeks to:

- Put victims and survivors first
- Ensure efficient and effective policing
- Protect people from harm
- Prevent and reduce crime

This will include providing grant support to locally-delivered services and community initiatives and through co-commissioned services for victims of crime, domestic abuse and child sexual exploitation.

My aim as your Police and Crime Commissioner has been to create a safer, more secure Warwickshire for all residents, communities and businesses. Against a backdrop of rising levels of crime, an expanding population and the changing nature of crime, I need to ensure that our police are properly equipped, trained and enabled with the latest tools and technology to make them more visible and effective.

Through a continuing programme of investments in technology, mobile working and a focus on delivering efficiency savings, I intend to enable Warwickshire Police provide the public with enhanced confidence in policing, increase police visibility and also look to alleviate some of the pressures that front line officers currently face.



Philip Seccombe TD
Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner

ROC Conversation helps communities in Nuneaton & Bedworth

Last week I took part in an excellent initiative which brought together representatives from the police, fire service, local councils and faith groups from across Nuneaton & Bedworth to celebrate all the good things happening in the community and explore practical ways of doing more.

The 'Conversation' event was organised at Bedworth Civic Hall by the national charity Redeeming Our Communities (ROC). The charity's main aim is to bring about community transformation by creating strategic partnerships which open up opportunities for crime and disorder reduction and improved community cohesion. This partnership approach has seen crime and anti-social behaviour fall and fresh hope brought to some of the most deprived and challenging areas of the UK, urban and rural alike.

ROC brings together community groups, churches, the police, the fire service, local authorities and voluntary agencies to encourage them to work together in positive partnerships for practical 'on the ground' change. As a result, statutory agencies have improved access to the support of community/church groups, and thousands of

volunteers are enabled to better serve the needs of their community.

An impressive 240 people were in attendance with another 300 watching and taking part online. I was delighted to be asked to speak and outlined my experiences with volunteering, both during my military service with the Army Reserve and more latterly as PCC, explaining the vital contribution that Specials and volunteers make to keeping our communities safe.

The talks were followed by table top discussions and I could see that there were many positive ideas being discussed throughout the room, which I hope will lead to further positive action in the future, helping to strengthen volunteering activities that are already in action as well as encouraging others to develop on the ground.

I'll be interested to see how the Bedworth event develops and I was pleased to hear from Debra Green OBE, the founder and national director of ROC, (pictured with me above right at the event) that a similar event is being considered for Rugby in the future.

To find out more about ROC, visit www.roc.uk.com.



Restorative Justice services gain national recognition

A service to help victims of crime and reduce re-offending in Warwickshire has been awarded the Restorative Service Quality Mark (RSQM) by the Restorative Justice Council (RJC). Victim Support's Warwickshire and West Mercia restorative justice service, which I fund jointly with the West Mercia PCC, has been awarded the accolade alongside the Victim Support's national service and its operations in Merseyside and Sussex.



Restorative justice brings those harmed by crime and those responsible for the crime into communication, enabling everyone affected by a particular incident to play a part in repairing the harm and finding a positive way forward. For the victim of a crime, restorative justice gives a chance for them to have their say, get answers to their questions and to move on with their lives. For offenders, restorative justice gives an

insight into the real impact of their behaviour and an opportunity to make amends.

I am very supportive of restorative justice as an initiative and am pleased to see that the services locally are developing well and receiving national accreditation. I have seen for myself how effective restorative justice can be, not just for the victims but also for offenders. When confronted with the true impact of their actions – often for the first time – they can take the opportunity to make meaningful amends. This in turn helps victims achieve a sense of closure and gives offenders more of an incentive to turn their lives around, helping to reduce re-offending rates.

The RSQM is a badge of quality that guarantees that a service provides safe, high quality restorative practice which meets the six Restorative Service Standards. Victim Support Warwickshire and West Mercia joins other RSQM awardees – in sectors ranging from criminal justice through education to care – delivering high quality restorative processes. This includes the Warwickshire Youth Justice Service (WYJS), which has previously also achieved the RSQM.

The OPCC is recognised for transparency

It's not just Victim Support which has been recognised for good work - so has my office! For the third year running, our work to provide information in an open and transparent manner was recognised with a quality mark from CoPaCC, an independent organisation which monitors policing governance in England and Wales.



Each year, CoPaCC invites OPCCs to provide details of how it meets the current statutory transparency requirements and makes an assessment of whether information is published in an open and transparent manner. In Warwickshire, we have been granted a transparency quality mark on each occasion we've been assessed.

We're not resting on our laurels, however, and we will very shortly be re-launching the OPCC website with a new look and structure, which will make finding information about the work we do even easier. Keep a lookout for the new site, which should go live later this month.

Creative writing competition promotes cyber safety

In celebration of Safer Internet Day which was earlier this month, my two Cyber Crime Advisors and Warwickshire Police are running a special creative writing contest for young people, to help raise awareness about how to stay safe online.

There are two age categories: 6 to 11 and 12 to 17. The competition is open to all young people who fit the age criteria and who live in and/or are educated in Warwickshire. Some great prizes are on offer for the winners, including vouchers of up to £100, a special behind-the-scenes police experience and a tour of the Wasps RFC ground at the Ricoh Arena.

To enter, the all young people have to do is write a creative piece – maybe a poem, a song or rap, or a short story piece – based on one or both of the themes of this year's Internet Safety Day: Respect Online or #BeCyberKind.

Entries should encourage other young people to be safe on the internet – whether they're using their phone, a gaming system or a computer.

Find out full details, including terms and conditions, and how to enter by visiting the [competition page on the Safe in Warwickshire website](#). The deadline for entries is 5pm on Wednesday 28 February 2018.



#NoMeansNo campaign launches



Helping to launch the #NoMeansNo campaign with partners at Nuneaton Town Hall

Nuneaton and Bedworth Safer Communities Partnership (NABSCOP) is running an awareness campaign led by the Borough Council and with funding from me to highlight issues of sexual violence and to encourage people to understand the nature of sexual consent.

The #NoMeansNo campaign, which is being run in partnership with Warwickshire Police and several charitable organisations, highlights the meaning of consent in relation to rape and demonstrates that there is no place for sexual abuse in society. It makes it clear that consent can never be implied, for example, by the way someone dresses or acts, and that 'no means no' at any time.

The message is simple, when it comes to consent, it is necessary to be 100 percent sure every time – the consequences of getting this wrong are devastating.

Issues of alcohol and drugs are also addressed; alcohol can increase someone's vulnerability, but offenders who take advantage of someone's intoxication are still committing a crime.

A series of eye-catching posters and flyers have been produced and social media channels have been engaged to get the #nomeansno message out there. The aim is to spread awareness of the law amongst the public and in particular young adults, preventing people from becoming victims and perpetrators of abusive relationships. It is important that everyone understands the nature of consent and feels empowered to say no if they wish.

Help spread the message by sharing the campaign social media posts with the hashtag #NoMeansNo.

#NOMEANSNO

Against sexual violence in Nuneaton and Bedworth



CONSENT is before anything else



Diary dates

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

Feb 15: Alliance Governance Group, Hindlip

Feb 15: Judging the One Voice Public Speaking event at Warwick Shire Hall

Feb 16: Attending launch of the Warwickshire Music Education Trust, Warwick

Mar 9: Meeting with Jeremy Wright MP

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](#).

