



**Philip Seccombe**  
**Police and Crime**  
**Commissioner**  
**for Warwickshire**



## MONTHLY UPDATE

*The latest news from the Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner*

**May 2018**

This month has seen a focus on a range of crime prevention initiatives, designed to help individuals and businesses become aware of the risks they face and how they can take simple steps to protect themselves. I fund a programme of work to raise the profile of crime prevention, delivered by my business, rural and cyber crime advisors, who have each been doing sterling work to raise the profile of a number of key categories of crime.

Most recently I attended and spoke at the opening Game Safe Warwickshire event organised by cyber crime advisors Sam Slemensek and Alex Gloster. This saw hundreds of schoolchildren from across the county, as well as some interested parents, come together at the Bridge House Theatre in Warwick to hear a moving talk by Lorin LaFave of the [Breck Foundation](#) (pictured with me).

Lorin campaigns for a safer internet and helps train police, educators, health practitioners, safeguarding leads, parents and pupils to ensure that young people are empowered to make safer choices for themselves online.

Her son Breck was murdered in Essex in 2014 by a predatory paedophile who used online gaming to control and isolate his victim. It was really noticeable how big an impact that Breck's story made on the young audience, who listened intently as the awful and tragic tale unfolded, before going on to ask a series of pertinent questions.

The overall message was to stress that, while gaming online is fun, as with every aspect of modern life, people need to be cautious and aware of the potential dangers. Lorin categorises the key safeguards with following appropriate mnemonic:



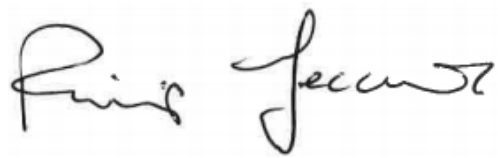
B - Be aware  
R - Report it  
E - Educate  
C - Communicate  
K - Keep safe

Importantly, the event also saw a range of local and regional partners come together to be on hand to give information about support, information and how to report issues young people may face. Overall it was a hugely successful day which I hope will help to equip all of the attendees with the knowledge they need to keep themselves and their friends safe.

---

On the topic of the advisors I fund, we currently have a vacancy to fill, for the Business Crime Advisor position. The post holder will be employed through Warwickshire County Council to work countywide with a range of partner agencies including the police, the local District and Borough Councils and business organisations to raise awareness and reduce crime targeted at the business community.

Find out more and how to apply at the [WMJobs site](#).



**Philip Seccombe TD**  
**Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner**

---

## **Businesses are warned about cyber crime dangers**



From left, Neil Batchelor (Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce); Richard Warren (CWLEP Growth Hub); Helen Barge (Risk Evolves); Philip Seccombe (Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner); Louie Augarde (OmniCybersecurity) and Alexeis Garcia-Perez (Centre for Business in Society at Coventry University)

Businesses across Warwickshire have been urged to switch on to the increasing dangers of cyber crime in order to survive. The warning came during an event organised by the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP) Growth Hub, at which I gave the opening address.

The event at the Everyman Cinema in Stratford-upon-Avon gave businesses from across the local area the chance to hear from a panel of experts on the scale of the problem, what is being done to address it and how businesses can help protect themselves.

We know from last year's Warwickshire Cyber Crime Survey that around £8.8 million has been lost by residents across Warwickshire, according to the Warwickshire Cyber Crime Survey 2017. There have also been 15,000 successful email scams reported in the region.

The event was part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund, as part of the Coventry and Warwickshire Business Support Programme.

Other organisations that collaborated on the event with the CWLEP Growth Hub included Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce, Coventry University, the Federation of Small Businesses, Warwickshire County Council's Business Watch Team, Coventry City Council along with West Midlands Police and Warwickshire Police.

Louie Augarde, Senior Security Consultant at OmniCybersecurity, demonstrated the hacking of a simulated website to the audience and outlined what approaches cyber criminals are currently using. Alexeis Garcia-Perez, Reader in Cyber Security Management at the Centre for Business in Society at Coventry University, also explored ways to keep data secure.

Neil Batchelor, ICT Business Adviser at Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce, gave advice on how everyone can minimise their chances of being compromised.

Overall the impact of cyber crime is devastating, which is why it is a core part of our on-going agenda where we are working with key intelligence agencies to combat this criminal activity. The more that suspicious activity is reported to us, the better chance we have of catching the perpetrators.

We can all help ourselves when it comes to protecting ourselves from cyber crime, and events such as this hosted by the CWLEP Growth Hub are key to helping people to spot the signs of a cyber attack.

---

## **New scheme to combat agricultural vehicle thefts**



A new scheme has been launched by the police in to help tackle thefts of agricultural vehicles in the Warwickshire. Stickers with 'Police – Stop, if moving between 10pm and 5am' are being made available for farms and agricultural businesses to apply to their vehicles, trailers and other road-going equipment. If seen on the roads during these hours, police patrols not already engaged on calls will seek to check that they are being used by their rightful owner.

The initiative is based on a similar scheme which has been in operation with 'cash-in-transit' vans for many years and has been proven to successfully reduce attacks on vehicles from the security trade.

Developed in conjunction with Leicestershire Police, the new initiative is being run through my Rural Crime Project. It is hoped that by focusing on agricultural vehicles and trailers in a visible way, criminals will be deterred from thefts in the region and farms and rural businesses will benefit from the additional reassurance provided by the scheme.

Similar schemes have proved very successful in reducing the number of attacks against 'cash-in-transit' vans and we think it can have the same effect on rural crime. By proactively targeting agricultural and other vehicles out on the roads at unusual times of day, we want to reassure rural communities and also provide the deterrence message that Warwickshire is not a soft touch for rural crimes.

[Read more about the scheme >>](#)

**Tell us your views on crime in rural areas**





# THE 2018 NATIONAL RURAL CRIME SURVEY

HAVE YOUR SAY ON CRIME & POLICING  
MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

Do you think rural crime has gone up or down in Warwickshire? Do you feel safer?  
What's your view of the police in your community?

It's three years since the last National Rural Crime Survey revealed the huge cost of crime to rural communities – both financial, at £800 million per year, and fear, with chronic under-reporting, anger and frustration at the police and government.

The National Rural Crime Network (of which I am a member) produced a series of recommendations and, in many areas, the police took steps to improve matters. So, now, we want to know what's changed – what is the true picture of crime and anti-social behaviour in rural communities, and the impact it has where you live or work.

Warwickshire is a predominantly rural county and ensuring the police and other agencies work effectively together to tackle rural crime has been one of my key priorities. There was a good response the last time the survey was carried out and I hope people will take a few minutes to complete our survey this time round. It helps all PCCs in rural parts of the country to understand what more government, police forces and other organisations can do to support our rural areas.

The survey is now available on the National Rural Crime Network website and is open for submissions until Sunday 10 June.

[Take the survey >>](#)

---

## **Restorative Justice services gain a Quality Mark**



Back in February I was pleased to report that a service I commission to help victims of crime and reduce re-offending in Warwickshire has been awarded the Restorative Service Quality Mark by the Restorative Justice Council (RJC).

Victim Support's Warwickshire and West Mercia restorative justice service achieved the accolade alongside the charity'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.

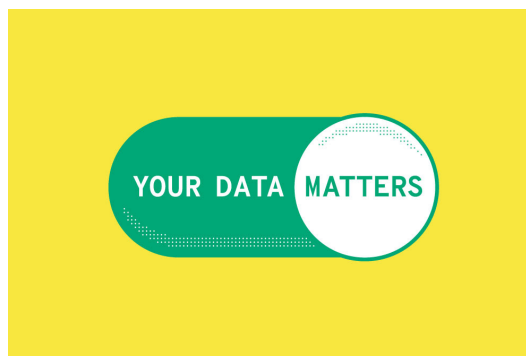
I was delighted to meet the team last week and see the newly-arrived trophy for myself during a visit to the Warwickshire Justice Centre in Leamington Spa.

[Find out more about the award >>](#)

---

***Data protection laws are set to change on 25 May 2018.***

The new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) puts a greater weight of responsibility on individuals and organisations whose work involves the collection of personal data, and requires those businesses and organisations to give individuals greater visibility into, and control over, the data they provide.



We are currently preparing for the implementation of the new regulations across all of the aspects of our work. You can read more about this on our [GDPR page](#).

One consequence of the new regulations is that we will need to collect your consent once again to continue sending this email newsletter in the future. Ahead of May 25, people who have previously signed up to receive the newsletter will need to resubscribe to continue receiving it.

In the next few weeks you will receive another email from us giving you details of how to resubscribe and more information about our revised privacy policy, which will take account of the new requirements.

So keep a look out in your inbox for the next email in order to ensure you receive the June newsletter as normal.

### Diary dates

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

- 16 May:** Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) meeting, London
- 16 May:** Warmington & Arlescote Parish Council AGM, Warmington
- 17 May:** Keynote speaker at Westminster Social Policy Forum, London
- 21 May:** Addressing student officers, Leek Wootton
- 24 May:** Polesworth Parish Council, Polesworth
- 25 May:** Meeting with Jeremy Wright MP and Nadhim Zahawi MP, Kenilworth
- 28 May:** Attending 10th Annual Wool Fair, Shipston
- 29 May:** North Warwickshire Independent Custody Visitors' panel meeting, Nuneaton
- 30 May:** Meeting with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire & Rescue Services, London
- 1 Jun:** Meeting the Chief Executive of the APCC, Warwick
- 5 Jun:** Keynote speaker at conference on the future of fire and rescue services, London
- 6 Jun:** South Warwickshire Independent Custody Visitors' panel meeting, Leamington
- 7 Jun:** APCC/National Police Chiefs' Council conference, London
- 7 Jun:** Wellesbourne and Kinton Community Forum, Wellesbourne

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](#).

