



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



## MONTHLY UPDATE

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

**June 2018**

Welcome to the June edition of my monthly newsletter, which comes a few days later than usual to reflect a busy month with a number of significant announcements that we wanted to squeeze in, so please forgive the slight delay in getting this to you.

First and foremost has been the announcement by Warwickshire Police of a new campaign to recruit officers, which began on June 18. This marks the first step towards delivering on my promise to spend the whole of this year's police precept increase on frontline posts across the county.

As well as new student officers, applications are also being sought from transferee officers from across the country, who may be keen to enjoy all of the benefits of living and working in Warwickshire.

It was abundantly clear from the consultation I carried out earlier this year and in virtually every public meeting I have attended since taking office that it remains hugely important to residents and businesses that our police are visible and accessible in our communities. Through the budget I set in February I have ensured that the force has the resources it needs to boost officer numbers and ensure that the new recruits are placed where the demand for services is needed most.

By the end of the financial year we will see 50 officer posts back on the streets that would otherwise have had to be lost. At a national level I will continue to press for a fairer funding settlement overall for rural forces like ours, however, I strongly believe that the reductions we have seen in officer numbers since 2010 have now levelled off and, locally, we will continue to see increases on the present levels.

The new recruitment campaign supplements a tranche of new student officers who are already undergoing their training, ready to hit the streets of the county later this year. It's really interesting hearing their motivations for signing up and I hope their stories will encourage others to find out more about what is a challenging but also rewarding career.

Pictured below are student officers, from left, PC Mohammed Mazhar, PC Sophie Reading and PC Tom Poole encouraging others to join them in a career with Warwickshire Police.



If you want to hear their stories and get information on joining Warwickshire Police as an officer, [visit the force website](#).

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Philip Seccombe".

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

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**Community safety gets a multi-million pound boost**



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This month I have confirmed funding for a wide range of projects which help to ensure that victims are supported, crime can be reduced and perpetrators are discouraged from repeat offending. Projects tackling domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse, sexual offences and programmes providing positive diversionary activities for young people are among the county initiatives being given a boost through my annual grants scheme.

Last week we brought together representatives from each of the initiatives for a special launch event in Kenilworth, which also gave the police and project staff that chance to network and understand how each of the projects might help one another in future.

When considered alongside the funding I have also committed for commissioned and co-commissioned services, it brings the total of monies provided to county projects and initiatives in 2018/19 to £2,345,318.

All of the schemes awarded grants have been chosen because they are key to helping deliver the objectives of my Police and Crime Plan, which aims to make a safer, more secure Warwickshire. Often these are projects which help to tackle some of the underlying issues that can lead to crime, such as alcohol addiction, substance misuse or mental health problems, all of which can provide additional challenges for policing and can have a detrimental impact on individuals and their families.

Equally, I have been very keen to ensure that the needs of victims have the right level of help and support available to help them cope and recover from the impact of crime and this is reflected in the other awards I am making this year.

I am pleased that organisations both national and local and from all corners of the county have been successful in their applications, with some receiving continued support alongside others which are new for this year. I look forward to seeing how all of these projects deliver against their aims over the coming year.

You can find a full listing of all the grants at: [www.warwickshire-pcc.gov.uk/your-pcc/commissioners-grants/](http://www.warwickshire-pcc.gov.uk/your-pcc/commissioners-grants/)

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**Raising the flag for Armed Forces Day**



It's been great to see Warwickshire Police supporting Armed Forces Day this week, not only visually through the raising of the flag at Leek Wootton but also by its commitment to the Reservist Policy and the volunteering ethos in general.

Reservists have an essential role in our Armed Forces and, through their dedication and professionalism, they make a vital contribution to protecting the nation's security at home and overseas. Reservists give up their spare time to serve in the Reserve Forces – balancing their civilian life with a military career.

With my own military background as a Colonel in the Territorial Army (now known as the Army Reserve), I have been keen to encourage officers and police staff who sign up to become Reservists. The additional skills and experiences that they bring back to Warwickshire Police is something that the wider community here in Warwickshire benefits from on a daily basis.

**[Find out more about the celebrations and read some of the personal stories of our Reservists >>](#)**

## Custody visitors praised as hunt for members rolls on



With Inspector Chris Walton from Warwickshire Police and members of the Southern ICV Panel at Leamington Justice Centre

Ensuring that people who are detained in police custody are treated fairly and that their welfare is given a high priority is hugely important for public confidence in the police. That's why the work of the Independent Custody Visitors at Warwickshire Police's two custody facilities in Leamington Spa and Nuneaton is something I very much value.

The fact that independent observers can go in, at any time, and talk to detainees and custody staff is very powerful and helps me to hold the force to account in ensuring that high standards are maintained.

As Police and Crime Commissioner I am responsible for administering custody visiting schemes in Warwickshire and over the past month I have met with the panel members in the north and south of the county. The panel members have a highly responsible role which gives a glimpse of an aspect of policing that the public rarely

get to see.

I'm keen that we encourage new people to come from as wide a range of backgrounds and ages as possible to become custody visitors. I'd urge anyone who wants to do something beneficial for their community to come forward and find out more.

To qualify, volunteers should be over 18, of good character and have no links to the police or criminal justice system. They need to be able to make independent observations and also have spare time, as volunteers are asked to commit to one visit every month, lasting on average around an hour plus travelling time. The role is unpaid, though ICVs can claim reasonable travel costs.

[Find out more information and details of how to apply.](#)

## **National Neighbourhood Watch Week celebrated**

Last week was National Neighbourhood Watch week, so I was especially pleased that I was able to announce funding for a number of local watches through my grants scheme.

The work that these groups do is invaluable, so it was an easy decision to support them with funding when their applications came in for my grants scheme. In total, I have provided just over £5000 for Rugby, North Warwickshire and Nuneaton North East Neighbourhood Watch Associations.

Overall, Warwickshire has a great deal of dedicated volunteers helping to make Neighbourhood Watch schemes a success. I'm strongly supportive of all our watch schemes, as they are a great way to bring communities together to make a positive contribution to crime reduction, as well as providing valuable additional eyes and ears for the police when they are investigating crimes such

as burglary and vehicle theft.

I'm keen to encourage the development of new schemes and the use of new technology to help enable people to easily share information. Warwickshire already has a number of innovative schemes, such as Nuneaton & Bedworth NHTA's online 'DISC' portal and also the popular Whitestone Neighbourhood Facebook group, which has grown rapidly in the past year and is proving really helpful in bringing the work of Neighbourhood Watch to a new audience of local people.

To find out more about Neighbourhood Watch in Warwickshire, visit: <http://warwickshirenwa.ourwatch.org.uk/>



*Pictured with me (centre) are from left, Chris Cade, chair of Warwickshire Neighbourhood Watch Association and vice-chair of Rugby Borough NHTA; Colin Cartright from North Warwickshire NHTA Association; Neil Cavanagh, chair of Nuneaton North East NHTA Association; and Tony Hardman from North Warwickshire NHTA Association.*

## Diary dates

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



**June 28:** Harbury Parish Council

**July 3:** OPCC/Warwickshire Police Problem

Solving Partnership Event, Rugby

**July 3:** Youth Parliament, Warwick Shire Hall

**July 4:** South Warwickshire Citizens Academy

Graduation Evening, Stratford

**July 10:** Meeting with North Warwickshire Parish Councils, Coleshill

**July 12:** Emergency Services Collaboration Working Group meeting, London

**July 12:** Police Bravery Awards, London

**July 13:** Small Business Engagement Lunch, Warwick University

**July 16:** Student Officer Confirmation Ceremony, Warwick

**July 18:** Association of Police and Crime Commissioners AGM, London

**July 18:** Police ICT Company AGM, London

**July 19:** Regional Governance Group, Birmingham

**July 30:** Joint Audit Committee meeting, Hindlip

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](#).