

Blaby

NEWSLETTER



**POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**
for Leicester,
Leicestershire & Rutland
Your Communities – Your Commissioner

MAY 2022



A message from Rupert Matthews

Welcome to the first PCC newsletter compiled for the Blaby district.

I believe that it is essential that we all work together to make life safer for all those who live, work or visit our area.

I thought that you might like to know what I've been up to and what that might mean for local residents.

I would also be grateful if you could share this email with your contacts and friends, encouraging them to do the same. Cheeky I know, but if you don't ask....

Rupert Matthews
Police & Crime Commissioner

Out and about in Blaby

I enjoy being in Blaby and it was great fun to come along to support the police tractor at the Archers Festive Tractor Drive. Not only was I able to help a worthwhile local charity, but I was able to hear first-hand, from those who experience it, about rural crime in the area.

I'm pleased to be able to tell you that the Rural Crime Team will be boosted in response to the prioritisation of this type of crime in my Police and Crime Plan. More details will follow in coming editions.

I spent a day in Glenfield meeting local businesses and



Handing out 'Doorstep Sellers Beware' cards in Glenfield.

councillors. I was pleased to learn that the businesses I spoke to did not feel crime was a big problem.

GLENFIELD PARISH CONCERNS

However, it was disappointing to learn from Glenfield Parish Council that despite an effective police presence, anti-social

behaviour is a problem. It is also disheartening to hear that the Memorial area near Park House needs to be locked due to a drug issue in the area.

We will keep in contact to see how things pan out. On the upside, the Council's ever-growing portfolio of buildings and sites – complete with duck houses,



Archer's Festive Tractor Run raised over £25,000 for two worthwhile local causes in December.

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Out and about in Blaby (continued)

are fantastic and help the local community thrive.

ENDERBY ISSUES

It was clear from my meeting with Cllrs Richardson and Cashmore that there are a number of traffic/road safety matters in Enderby that need to be addressed. I have been in touch with the local policing team and asked if the police presence could be boosted at key times to provide a deterrent. I do recognise that they need to balance daytime visibility and times of high demand, but I am hopeful that you will see some improvement.

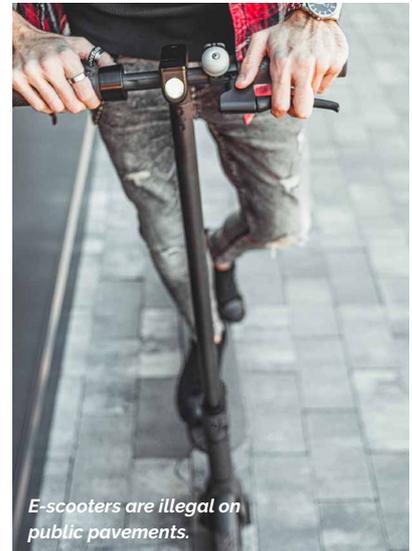
I am a strong advocate for Community Speed Watch and advise all parishes with speeding problems to investigate starting this very effective volunteer scheme. From everything I have seen, it does work.

Your priorities are my priorities

Unsurprisingly, given my own findings, the priorities for the local policing teams focus on anti-social behaviour, nuisance bikes and e-scooters, vehicle theft and road safety.

I've checked and action is being taken, including engaging with young children of primary school age to provide early intervention to tackle anti-social behaviour.

Advice on preventing vehicle theft is being provided, traffic enforcement operations are underway, and work is underway with Blaby District Council to address the hot-spot areas for anti-social behaviour in Enderby and surrounding areas. I will continue to keep a weather eye on things, please feel free to contact me with any problems. You can always find out what is happening in the area by signing



E-scooters are illegal on public pavements.

up to [Neighbourhood Link](#). Local information tailored to your interests is delivered to your inbox. I would be interested to hear what you think of it as a form of communication.



Discussing policing concerns in Blaby with Cllrs Cashmore and Richardson.

Temporary Chief Constable Robert Nixon and Anne Cowan JP attending the Attestation for new police officers at Force HQ.



Going up!

I'm delighted to be able to announce a significant increase in officer numbers for Leicestershire Police.

The national 'uplift' programme of 20,000 additional police officers nationally will see police numbers in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland rise – and rise significantly.

This operation has meant an additional 178 officers for Leicestershire Police by the end of year 2. However, we have recruited 329 officers by Dec 21. This is an additional 7% over our Op Uplift allocation based on year 2.



Meeting one of the cadets.

Our recruitment has been brilliant over the last quarter, and investment in our force remains strong. As you can see via our publicly available quarterly officer recruitment statistics as part of operation uplift: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-officer-uplift-quarterly-update-to-december-2021>

As of December 2021, our current headcount is 2,327. That is an increase of 16% compared to our baseline at the beginning of Uplift.

I am proud that Leicestershire Police have delivered the proportionally largest increase in Police Officers over this period of the operation.

Saddened by the death of former Chief Constable Simon Cole



Like so many others, I was shocked and extremely saddened to learn that our former Chief Constable, Simon Cole, had died. Simon was the epitome of a great Chief Constable whose commitment to public service was unswerving. We live in a safer place thanks to his leadership.

I know that the officers and staff, past and present, of Leicestershire Police are feeling his death keenly.

It was always clear to me that he was held in high regard and genuine affection at all levels. My thoughts and sympathies

are with his family, friends and colleagues. I sincerely hope that they are given the time and space to grieve in peace.

Following the announcement that Simon was to retire, I asked the Deputy Chief Constable, Rob Nixon, to become Acting Chief Constable during the recruitment process.

I have now started the search for the substantive post holder – it is a remarkably complex process, and I am firmly focussed on finding the right person to be the next Chief Constable for residents across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.



Commissioner's Advisory Group

Local people should be able to influence the way in which policing services are provided.

That is why I've launched a 'Commissioner's Advisory Group.' I have been recruiting members who will give me information about local issues,

events of which I should be aware, views on local campaigns and so on.

I want it to be truly representative of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, which means I've been looking for people from all areas,

backgrounds and with differing experiences.

Everyone in the group will be independent, impartial and willing to express views, good and bad. Follow us on social media to hear what they have to say.

Helping to keep the area safe

All too often we hear people say, 'someone should DO something.' Well, I am. Projects to help keep Blaby safe are invited to apply for funding from my Commissioner's Safety Fund – the details are on my website.

There is £400,000 available over 2022-23. The Fund is open for applications from any community-based group, parish council, school or business (if the business can match-fund and supply their service free of charge) and grants up to a maximum of £10,000 will be allocated per project.

Visit

<https://www.leics.pcc.police.uk/Planning-and-Money/Commissioning/Current-Funding-Available/Commissioners-Safety-Fund.aspx>

to read more about community safety grants

THE COMMISSIONER WILL KEEP ON VISITING YOUR AREA

I have begun holding a series of "Community Thursdays" when every Thursday I will be visiting a different area of our City and two Counties.

You will be advised in advance when I will be in your area for

a Community Thursday so that you may take part or send me your views on topical issues.

I believe that it is essential that we work together to make the Blaby district an even safer place to live, work or visit.



Discussing crime incidents in the Normanton Ward with Cllr Maggie Wright.

Live Safe – wherever you are

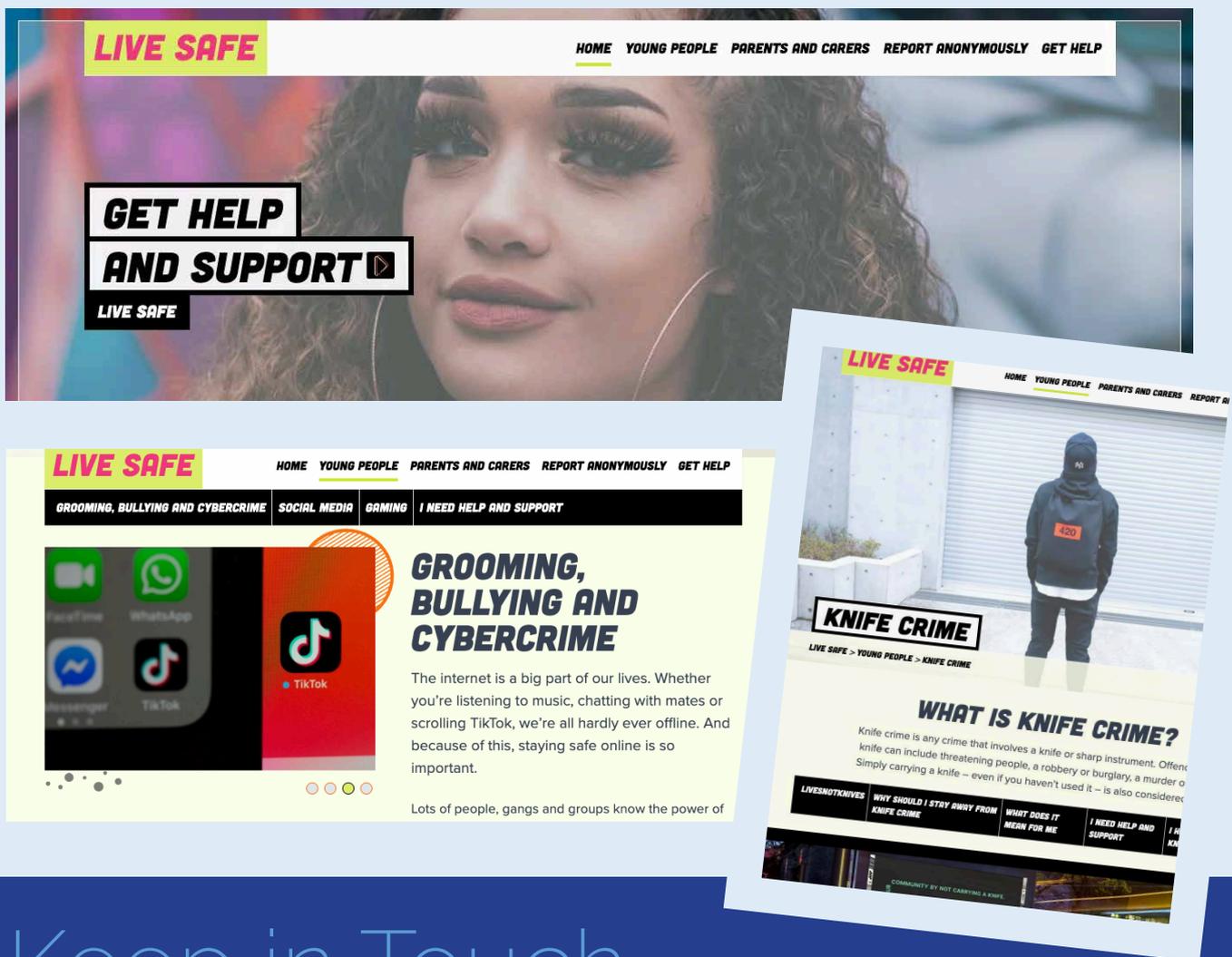
A new website www.livesafe.org.uk has been launched by the Violence Reduction Network, which I chair. It is a virtual space for local young people and their parents/carers in Leicester, Leicestershire and

Rutland to receive support and to explore issues relating to safety.

As 'everyone has a role to play,' the website aims to equip young people and parents with

factual information about key dangers facing young people such as grooming, gangs, child exploitation, and knife crime. It tells you how to get support and ways to anonymously report crimes and concerns.

It also includes information about the 'Make a Stand Against Violence' campaign which teaches young people how to take action against violence and look out for their friends.



Keep in Touch

Please do not hesitate to get in touch at any time using these contact details:

- Email: opcc@leics.police.uk
- Telephone: 0116 229 8980
- Website: www.leics.pcc.police.uk
- Facebook: LeicsPCC
- Twitter: @LeicsPCC

You can also keep up to date with my day-to-day work via Twitter, Facebook and my weekly blog.