

# Harborough NEWSLETTER



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

**MAY 2022**



*At the Old Grammar  
School in Church  
Square, Market  
Harborough.*

## A message from Rupert Matthews

Welcome to the first PCC newsletter compiled for the Harborough 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 Harborough and District

**I've been fortunate to spend a fair bit of time in the Harborough area over the last few months and have seen first-hand the different challenges facing the local policing teams.**

Clearly rural communities feel that not enough is being done to address these problems. For my part I have made rural policing a key priority in my Police and Crime Plan. I will be looking to the force and partners to deliver on my expectations and those of our communities.

I enjoyed another positive day meeting Councillor Whelband and colleagues to discuss local issues, before venturing to the Welland Park in temperatures



*With Cllr Whelband in Welland Park.*

varying from very cold to sub-zero to look at the progress of our multi-agency work to make women and girls safer. More about that later.

I also had a tour of the indoor market and neighbouring shops. I heard about the things that most concern retailers: anti-social behaviour, shoplifting,



*'Doorstep Sellers Beware' With Cllr Rosita Page.*

abuse and violence. I am confident that some of the measures in my Police and Crime Plan will help to reduce these, but I do think that as local partners and residents we could work together more effectively to provide long-term solutions.

Alberto Costa MP and I joined local County Councillor Rosita Page in Lutterworth to deliver more of my 'Doorstep Sellers Beware' leaflets.

I always enjoy getting out and meeting members of the public and am happy to join partners to show a united front on community safety.

At a rural crime meeting in North Kilworth I heard about the issues

affecting rural communities, for example, fly grazing, criminal damage, threatening behaviour and theft of farm machinery. I could see that people felt very strongly.

I was pleased that Sergeant Archer was on hand to explain the lengths to which the force is going to ensure officers and staff are trained to understand farming-speak. But fly-tipping is fly-tipping wherever we are. It must be stopped.

*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.

# Safer Streets in Lutterworth

A major safety project funded through my office has so far seen more than 230 properties in Lutterworth benefiting from free security improvements.

Lutterworth is rapidly becoming an inhospitable place for burglars and thieves thanks to the work undertaken by community safety partners and security contractor 24-7 Locks

Ltd as part of the Home Office Safer Streets Two project.

Contractors carried out risk assessments in the Lutterworth area to identify homes eligible for new security measures including door locks, window locks, door alarms and window alert alarms. Feeling safe and confident in our homes is vital for mental wellbeing.

I'm grateful to our partners who have worked with us to take this swift and positive action in support of our communities.

This work is due to be completed before June. We will then carry out a detailed evaluation process to tell us how it has impacted on crime prevention in the area.



The launch of our Safer Streets campaign in Lutterworth, with Robert Windsor and Nick Nearne of 24-7 Locks, Cllr Whelband and Mayor Richard Nunn.

## COMPUTER MISUSE – MAN JAILED

Talking of computers, I was pleased to see that a man who sought to – in my words 'hack' – or in technical terms 'impair operation of or prevent/hinder access to a computer' sentenced to 21 months' imprisonment.

Basically, he attacked the IT systems of two of his former employers – one of whom was a school in Market Harborough as he resented losing his job from there. This case clearly illustrates that a cyber-attack might not be as far away as you think.

I'm hugely impressed by the work of the force's cyber-crime team and its digital hub but depressed that it's so necessary. We all need to be extremely vigilant with our online security, however big or small the system involved.

# Safer Parks in Harborough

**The Safer Streets Three Programme saw another welcome injection of cash, this time aimed at improving the safety of women and girls.**

As a result, new surveillance cameras are coming to Welland Park in Harborough and Warwick Park in Kibworth Harcourt, reducing the risk of harm to park users and making them less vulnerable. The cameras will also

help the police to obtain vital evidence in the event of a crime.

This money will pay for improvement works that increase visibility in the parks such as cutting back undergrowth and foliage. It will also fund the launch of a new safety campaign to challenge misogynistic attitudes. Women and girls have a right to feel safe everywhere – at home, online

and in public spaces. That's why we listened very carefully to local women, so we understand where they feel most at risk and have acted accordingly.



*Cllr Amanda Nunn [right] with local residents.*

**I know that local residents have said road safety, anti-social behaviour and vehicle crime are their top priorities.**

I've looked into this and in response the police are conducting extra patrols and more traffic enforcement to improve road safety.

Hot spot patrols are now underway to combat anti-social

## Policing Priorities in Harborough

behaviour and covert – as well as overt – tactics are being used to tackle vehicle crime.

To find out what is happening in the area try signing up to

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

# Saddened by the death of former Chief Constable Simon Cole



The police HQ flag was lowered to half-mast in his honour.

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.



Chief Constable Simon Cole.

## Commissioner's Advisory Group

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

That is why I have launched a 'Commissioner's Advisory Group.' I am currently recruiting members who will provide me with information about

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

I want this group to be truly representative of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, which means I'm looking for people from all areas,

backgrounds and with differing experiences.

Everyone in this group will be independent, impartial and willing to express views, good and bad. If you know anyone who is interested, please get in touch.

## Helping to keep the area safe

All too often we hear people say, 'someone should DO something.' Well, I am. Projects to help keep Harborough 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 BE 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 Harborough district a safer place to live, work or visit.



*With Cllr Kevin Feltham, county councillor for the Gartree Division.*

# Live Safe – wherever you are

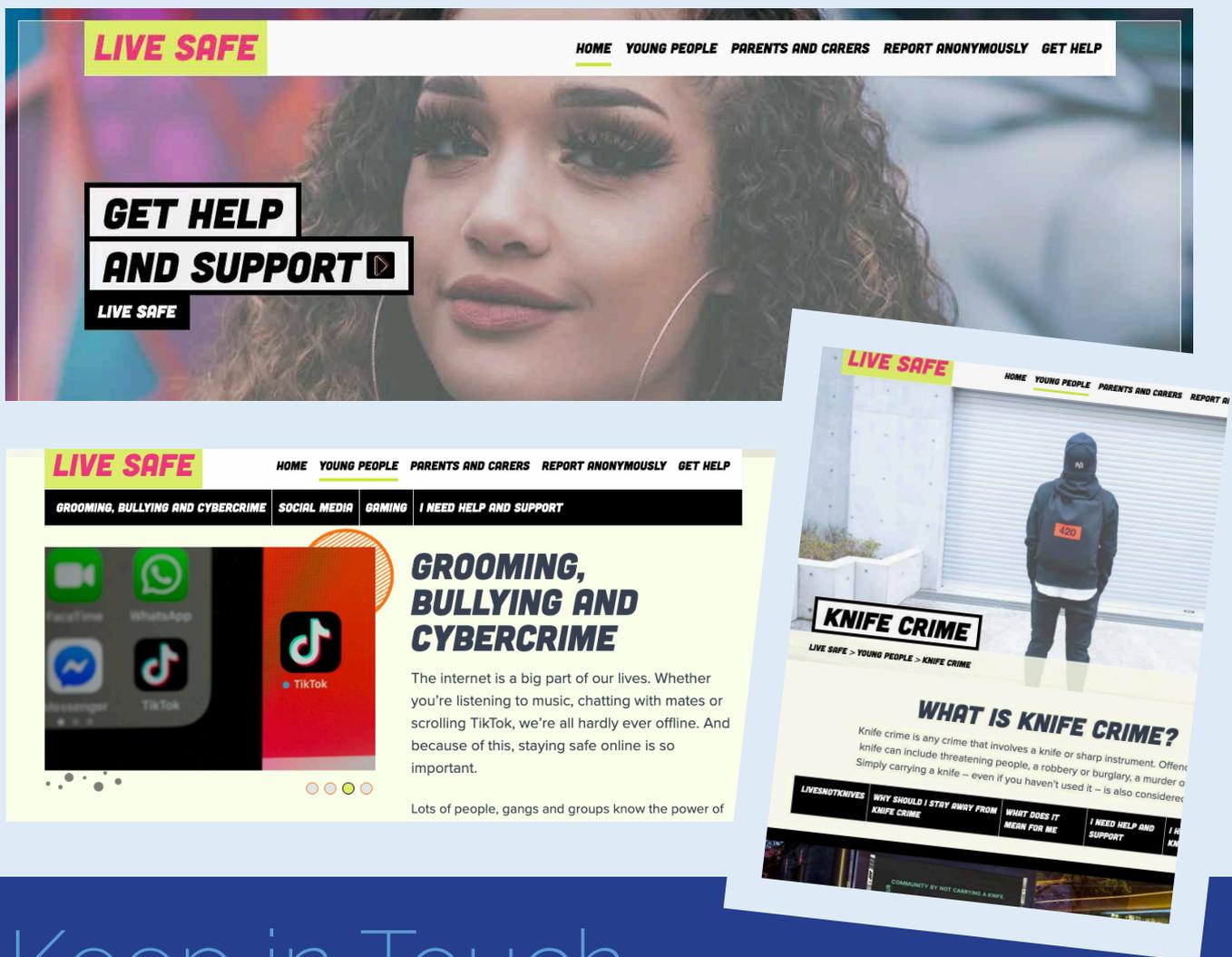
A new website [www.livesafe.org.uk](http://www.livesafe.org.uk) has been launched by the Violence Reduction Network, which I chair. It is as a virtual space for local young people and their parents/carers in Leicester, Leicestershire and

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](mailto:opcc@leics.police.uk)
- Telephone: 0116 229 8980
- Website: [www.leics.pcc.police.uk](http://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.