

Melton

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 Melton 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

Rupert Matthews
Police & Crime Commissioner

I have spent a good few days in Melton since being elected Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire.

On Remembrance Day I was lucky enough to be invited to the Melton Mowbray Armed Forces and Veterans' Breakfast Club. Not only was I treated to a marvellous breakfast, but I also heard the veterans' fascinating stories of their service in different parts of the world. It was also an ideal opportunity for me to find out what they felt about the types of crime that are affecting our society today, making me even more determined to ensure there is better policing across the area.

Then, in January I spent a day with the Neighbourhood Policing Team in the town centre. It was a busy old shift, and I was horrified to see that fly-tipping is alive and well in the middle of town. This type of behaviour shows no respect for others and must be dealt with. Please, if you see anything like this, report it.

Talking of no respect, just a week later, on Holocaust Memorial Day, I was appalled to learn that graffiti in the form of a swastika had been daubed on St Mary's Church. This is totally unacceptable, and I know that the police are working hard to bring the individual responsible to justice.

I was back in Melton in February to meet Inspector Lindsey Booth, the new inspector for the area. Lindsey really impressed me with her enthusiasm and obvious commitment to her role and I look forward to seeing the results!

This visit also enabled me to see some of the great work that is being done to make the area safer thanks to funding from the Safer Streets initiative – more



On patrol in The Vale with PC Daley.

Out and about in Melton



Enjoying breakfast with Melton Mowbray Armed Forces and Veterans.

of which you will find later in this newsletter.

A visit to the Vale of Belvoir saw me on a patchwalk with PC Dan Daley talking about rural crime, drink-driving and theft. His enthusiasm for his job and the area was infectious. I was pleased to be able to tell Cllrs Chandler and Pritchett about the

special operations that are being put in place to tackle these issues.

I also saw first hand the problems caused by a traveller's vehicle parked in a gateway, obstructing access and causing a problem on the A52 and have raised the matter of response back at HQ.

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.

What matters to you?

Obviously, depending on where you live, your concerns about crime differ. In the countryside, many people are concerned about theft of farm equipment and hare coursing. In the towns, road safety, drug related crime and anti-social behaviour are of greater concern.

I've been out personally to see the work being done to tackle rural crime and I have, of course, made better rural policing a priority in my Police and Crime Plan. It's important that everyone keeps an eye out for anything unusual and reports it if they see it. Intelligence like this is the best way to catch those responsible.

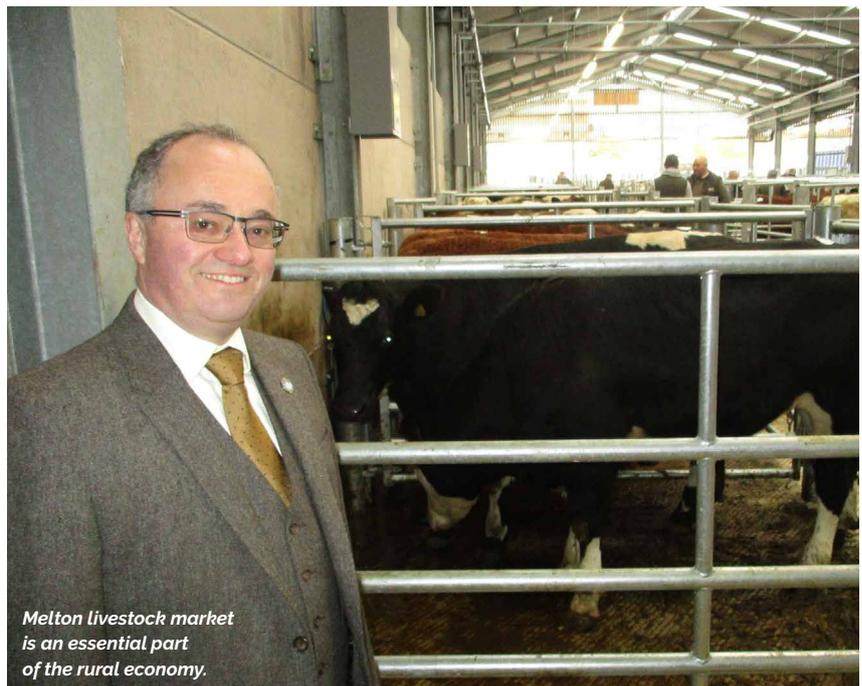
I've also checked to see what's happening regarding road safety – and was impressed to learn of the number of enforcement operations. However, there is much more that needs to be done. I will be looking to see what changes can be made to improve road safety.

Covert cars and increased foot patrols are busy tackling the drugs issue. Again, if you see something suspicious, please report it as soon as you can. Intelligence provided by a member of the public recently saw four people arrested for Possession with Intent to Supply Class A drugs and taken into custody.

Anti-social behaviour impacts on everyone in Melton and the Vale. And it comes in so many different forms. There are now more police patrols in unmarked vehicles and on foot, so those breaking the law are more likely than before to be apprehended. Someone riding

a moped in a decidedly anti-social manner soon had reason to regret it when their moped was confiscated. But more needs to be done, and I will do everything in my power to make sure it is. 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.



Melton livestock market is an essential part of the rural economy.



Road safety is an area of concern across Melton and the Vale.

PROTECTING WOMEN AND GIRLS AGAINST VIOLENCE

The good news continued with Safer Streets Three. We were successful in our bid for funding to help address violence against women and girls by making our parks and open spaces safer.

This funding will see five new CCTV cameras installed in Melton Country Park.

In addition, a Community Safety Marshall has been appointed who will work evenings and nights to monitor safety and reassure park users on Friday and Saturday nights.

In further works, safety teams will seal off a secluded area of the park entrance with new fencing to discourage antisocial behaviour and improve the environment for women and girls using the park for exercise.

Visit

<https://www.leics.pcc.police.uk/Our-Work/Safer-Streets/Safer-Streets.aspx>

to read more about my Safer Streets campaign



Meet your new Inspector

Born and raised in Melton, Inspector Lindsey Booth has taken over as NPA Commander for Melton and Rutland. We are very lucky to have her.

She told me: "It feels good to be back in Melton and Rutland. I've been based here on many occasions throughout my service, and I think I have worked on every beat as a young officer across the whole neighbourhood policing area.

"I live locally so I have a vested interest in making the area the best it can be.

I have links with the local communities and partners and I'm looking forward to building on them."

Reassuringly, she told me that she wants to get straight into the issues she knows are affecting

her community, such as rural crime, community engagement, and anti-social behaviour in Melton town centre.



Inspector Lindsey Booth is now in charge in Melton.

SAFER STREETS IN MELTON DISTRICT

Funded through the Home Office Safer Streets Two Fund, after a successful bid from my office, we were awarded £550,000, of which Melton received a large chunk. Now, work with community safety partners and security contractor 24-7 Locks Ltd is making Melton an inhospitable place for burglars and thieves.

Contractors carried out risk assessments in the Melton area and found more than 170 homes were eligible for new security measures including door locks, window locks, door alarms and window alert alarms.

Other safety improvements include new police automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras and additional CCTV in hotspot locations as well as enhanced street lighting.

The work has now been completed. We will now be studying outcomes to find out the impact on crime in the area.

Saddened by the death of former Chief Constable Simon Cole



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



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 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 Melton 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 Melton district an even safer place to live, work or visit.

Lunch from Dickinson & Morris in Melton Mowbray. Yum!



Live Safe – wherever you are

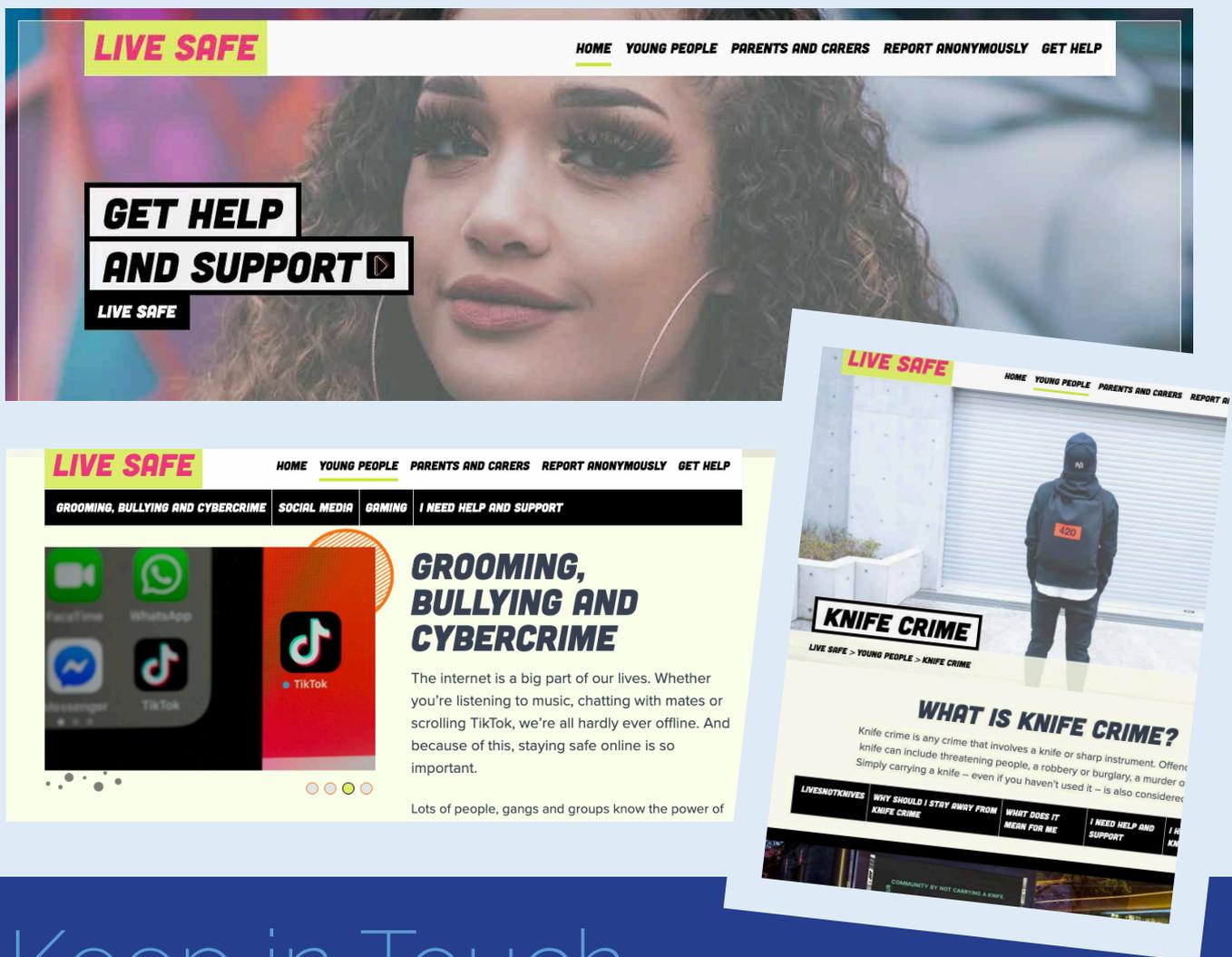
A new website www.livesafe.org.uk has been launched by the Violence Reduction Network, which I chair. It is a virtual space for local young people and their parents/carers in Leicester, Leicestershire and

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.