

Oadby & Wigston

NEWSLETTER



A message from Rupert Matthews

Welcome to the first PCC newsletter compiled for the Oadby and Wigston 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



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

MAY 2022





I know that local residents have highlighted road safety, anti-social behaviour and vehicle crime as their top priorities. I've looked into this and in response the police have undertaken extra patrols and more traffic enforcement to improve road safety.

Hot spot patrols are now underway to combat anti-social behaviour, with covert – as well as overt – tactics being used to tackle vehicle crime. I also met with Cllr Liz Darling to discuss policing concerns in the Wigston area.

All in all, crime is low in the district but there is always more to do and we remain focused on tackling problems as a partnership, delivering a robust service to the public.

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.

Policing Priorities in Oadby and Wigston

TACKLING THE CRIMES THAT MATTER

People have told me that they are concerned about drug crime, so I was pleased to hear that when police officers discovered cannabis being cultivated at a house in Wigston, there was swift action.

An arrest was made, and 128 plants were recovered by officers from the Harborough and Wigston Neighbourhood Policing Team and the Oadby and Wigston Dedicated Neighbourhood Team.

In other news, a man who carried out a ram raid at a shop

in Wigston has been sentenced to 18 months in prison, suspended for two years. He was also ordered to undertake one hundred hours unpaid work.

That incident took place in September 2020. While I am pleased that an offender has received sanction for his crime, I am dismayed at the length of time it took for the case to be heard in Court.

I will be raising the time lag at my next meeting of the East Midlands Criminal Justice Board.

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 (AND PARKS) IN OADBY AND WIGSTON



Women and girls have a right to feel safe everywhere – at home, online and in public spaces. In a recent survey, 80% of the respondents told us that they felt unsafe in their local park at night.

So, when our application to Round Three of the Home Office Safer Streets Fund was successful, giving us nearly £600,000 to improve the safety of women and girls, I was keen to see immediate action.

The grant has benefited Blaby Road Park and Brocks Hill Country Park in Oadby and Wigston by providing CCTV signage, wider CCTV coverage and new lighting. It has also paid for the cutting back of foliage in Blaby Road Park and drone and ground mapping of Brocks Hill Country Park. These measures will allow safety teams to identify deviations from public footpaths around the park. Footpaths will also benefit from new signage informing visitors of where they are in relation to the car park and visitor centre.

Help for people in crisis

I know many families are worried about the cost-of-living crisis so it's reassuring to know there are organisations out there to provide help when it's needed.

I met Leslie Gill from the Helping Hands Community Trust recently which provides free advice on welfare benefits, debts, housing, employment, family law and much more. The team are in the process of launching an

'Energy Champions' initiative which will see three volunteers offering advice on home energy efficiency and helping people to get the best deal for their energy.

The charity, staffed by nine paid employees and 18 volunteers, welcomes 2,000 clients every year and hosts drop-in centres every Thursday.

Seventy percent of their clients are from word of mouth.



The Helping Hands Community Trust hosts meetings at Wigston United Reformed Church.

Hub Club visit

It was wonderful to spend time with the volunteers at Hope Community Church at one of their new Hub Club sessions.

The scheme offers clothing, toiletries, shoes, puzzles, toasters, prams and other

essentials to individuals and families who need extra help, and has become a lifeline in these challenging times.

In a separate project, the church opens its doors every Thursday from 2pm to 4pm to provide

adults with access to an array of community services and organisations where they can chat, seek advice and join in with activities while enjoying a cuppa. Such services will play a much bigger role in our communities in the months ahead.



With Matt MacDiarmid, Hope Church's lead elder (left), at The Hub Club.

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.



Meeting the leaders of the Sikh community at Gurdwara Shri Guru Harkrishan Sahib Ji, Oadby.

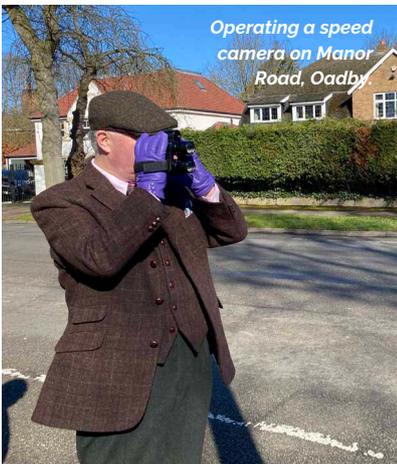
It was a pleasure to catch up with members of Gurdwara Shri Guru Harkrishan Sahib Ji in Oadby to discuss, amongst many things, progress on the Sikh memorial commemorating Sikh soldiers who fought in the British Indian Army and two World Wars.

The Sikh Troops War Memorial Leicester will stand in Victoria Park, Leicester, in an area allocated by Leicester City Council. It will reflect the existing

Commemoration plans underway

design of the war memorials in Victoria Park and will bring Sikhs and non-Sikhs together in the city while ensuring the Sikh community feels recognised and celebrated for its unique history with the UK.

During the visit we also discussed crime in the area and members expressed positive feedback on the police presence, particularly noting the efforts of PCSO Nadeem Ikram.



Operating a speed camera on Manor Road, Oadby

ACTION AGAINST SPEEDING

As one of the 'fatal four' causes of death or serious injuries on our roads, speeding is still a top concern for many in our community.

I was only too happy to join police volunteers Gerry Langdale and Richard Palmer on a speed monitoring exercise on Manor Road, Oadby, recently.

The police have received multiple complaints of speeding down Manor Road and at the stage I joined the volunteers, more than 25 per cent of the vehicles were recorded doing over 35mph – the speed limit is 30mph. The highest speed recorded was 56mph. These results will be fed back to the force for further investigation.

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 Oadby and Wigston 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 Oadby and Wigston district an even safer place to live, work or visit.



At the shops in Wigston's Bell Street.

Live Safe – wherever you are

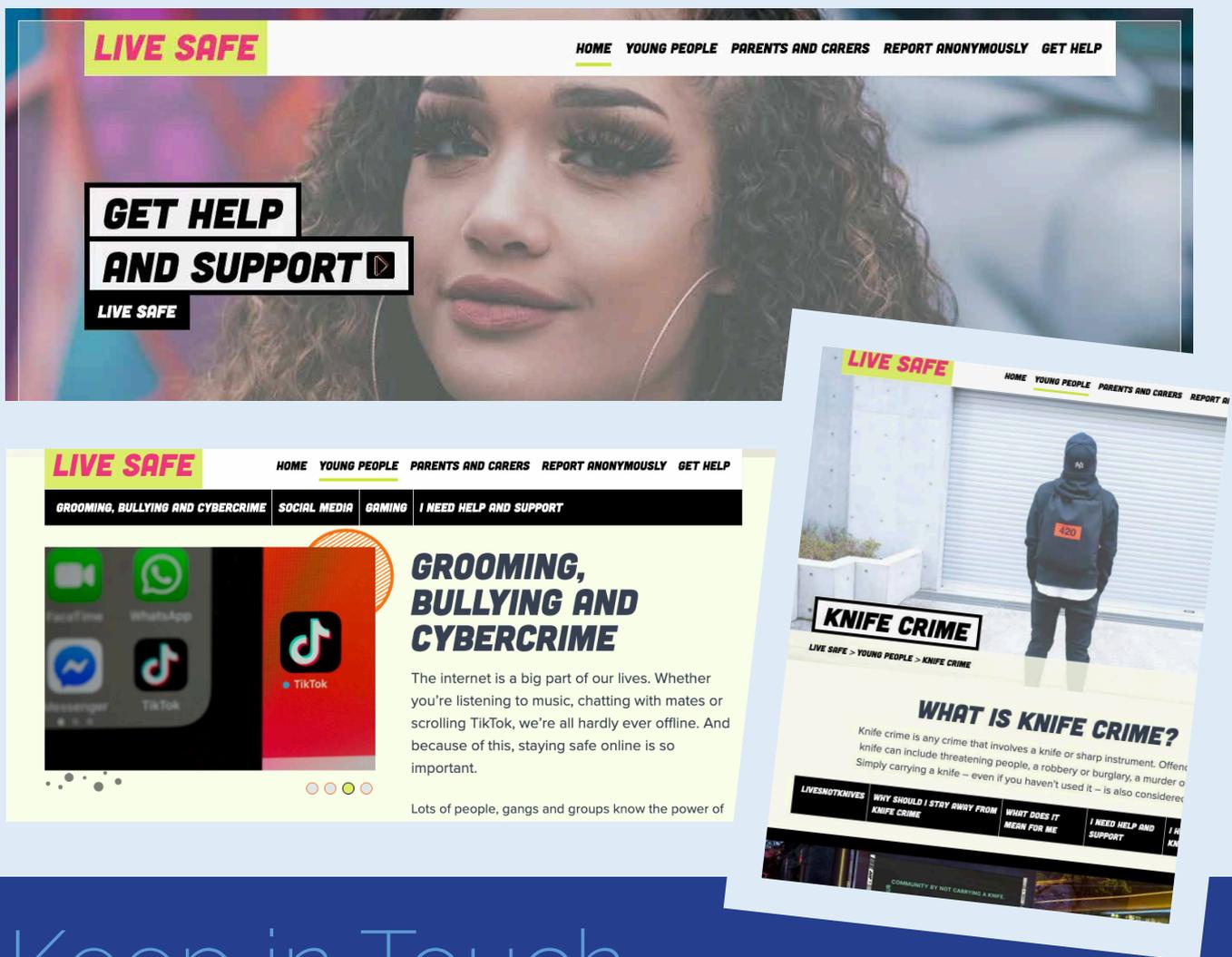
A new website www.livesafe.org.uk has been launched by the Violence Reduction Network, which I chair. It is a virtual space for local young people and their parents/carers in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

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.