

RUTLAND NEWSLETTER



*On the shores of
Rutland Water.*

A message from Rupert Matthews

Welcome to my first newsletter compiled for the County of Rutland. 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



More rural crime fighters on the patch

I am proud that Sergeant Archer and his Rural Crime Team have already made a name for themselves as efficient, responsive and sincere rural crime fighters. They have not been doing the job long, but I'm pleased to say that what I've heard from local people and representatives is that they are doing a remarkable job.

One of my key campaign pledges was to establish a Rural Crime Team to rival that of our neighbouring counties and

inspire greater confidence in the police throughout Rutland. A huge part of that was not only to establish the Rural Crime Team but to change our Force's attitude towards rural crime.

Sergeant Archer and I were at Force HQ to welcome the new training for our 101 call handlers so that they are more aware of rural affairs and crimes and will be best placed to offer advice and help should residents phone.

With Sergeant Archer of the Rural Crime Team and a small friend.



Your priorities are my priorities

I always encourage residents and elected members to contact me if there is a problem.

I am pleased to say that despite reports of anti-social behaviour around Oakham's McDonald's, which is being handled by liaising with staff, ensuring they are consistent in their approach and having regular engagement between youths and the police, most of Rutland is experiencing little crime.

This is not to say that crime does not occur, and I am told that some villages experience

speeding. I appreciate that villages will struggle to tackle this. It is for that reason that I am committed to helping establish more speed watch groups, expanding existing speed and neighbourhood watches and investing in more equipment training and force support.

Our rural areas will feel more valued and listened to and, most importantly, send a clear message to dangerous drivers that they should stay away from our countryside.



About to engage with shoppers in Uppingham.

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.

Time to meet your new Inspector

Earlier this year, the excellent Inspector Danvers moved to a new job and welcomed our new Neighbourhood Policing Area (NPA) Commander for Rutland, Inspector Lindsey Booth.

She was off to a flying start, not least because I was greeted with tea and biscuits. But in all seriousness, Inspector Booth is local, knows the area and is aware of the problems. I have complete confidence that she will drive down crime as quickly and efficiently as possible, all the while being engaged and open as a local beat force.

I wish her all the best.

Welcoming Inspector Booth to Melton Mowbray police station.



Keeping Uppingham in the loop

I was honoured and delighted to be invited to speak to the Uppingham Town Councillors about my plans for office, my vision for policing in Rutland, but more specifically in Uppingham, and finally meet with the great team who keep Uppingham going.

I took questions, including ones about police presence, cadets and special constables, all of which I am working to increase for Uppingham and the surrounding areas.

Talking about ASB in Uppingham with Steve Rozak, then the Mayor, and Town Clerk Sharon Coe.



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 finding the right person to be the next Chief Constable for residents across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.



Chief Constable Simon Cole.

Goodbye and welcome to Rutland's High Sheriff

In one of my first outings with our new Temporary Chief Constable and NPA Commander for Rutland, I was honoured to attend the declaration of the new High Sheriff of Rutland.

High Sheriff Geoff Thompson.



Photo courtesy of uppinghamfirst.co.uk

David Wood has served as the High Sheriff of Rutland for the last 12 months, and I would like to thank David for his outstanding service in that role. David welcomed me into the role as Police and Crime Commissioner and has facilitated several essential and valuable discussions where I could learn about the needs of Rutland.

I think many view High Sheriff as a ceremonial role, but David proved that it has a purpose and can have an impact. David was a superb champion for Rutland, and I wish him all the best for the future.

I want to welcome Geoff Thompson, Rutland's new High Sheriff, to the role and to offer my cooperation in whatever way I can.



With David Wood, the outgoing High Sheriff

I know that Geoff will be the perfect ambassador for Rutland and work to unleash the spirit of volunteering across the county and secure fairer funding and representation for the people of Rutland.

Best of luck, Geoff!



The ceremony in the Great Hall of Oakham Castle

Photo courtesy of uppinghamfirst.co.uk

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 Rutland 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 County of Rutland an even safer place to live, work or visit.

Viewing Oakham while out on patrol with PC Joe Lloyd.



Live Safe – wherever you are

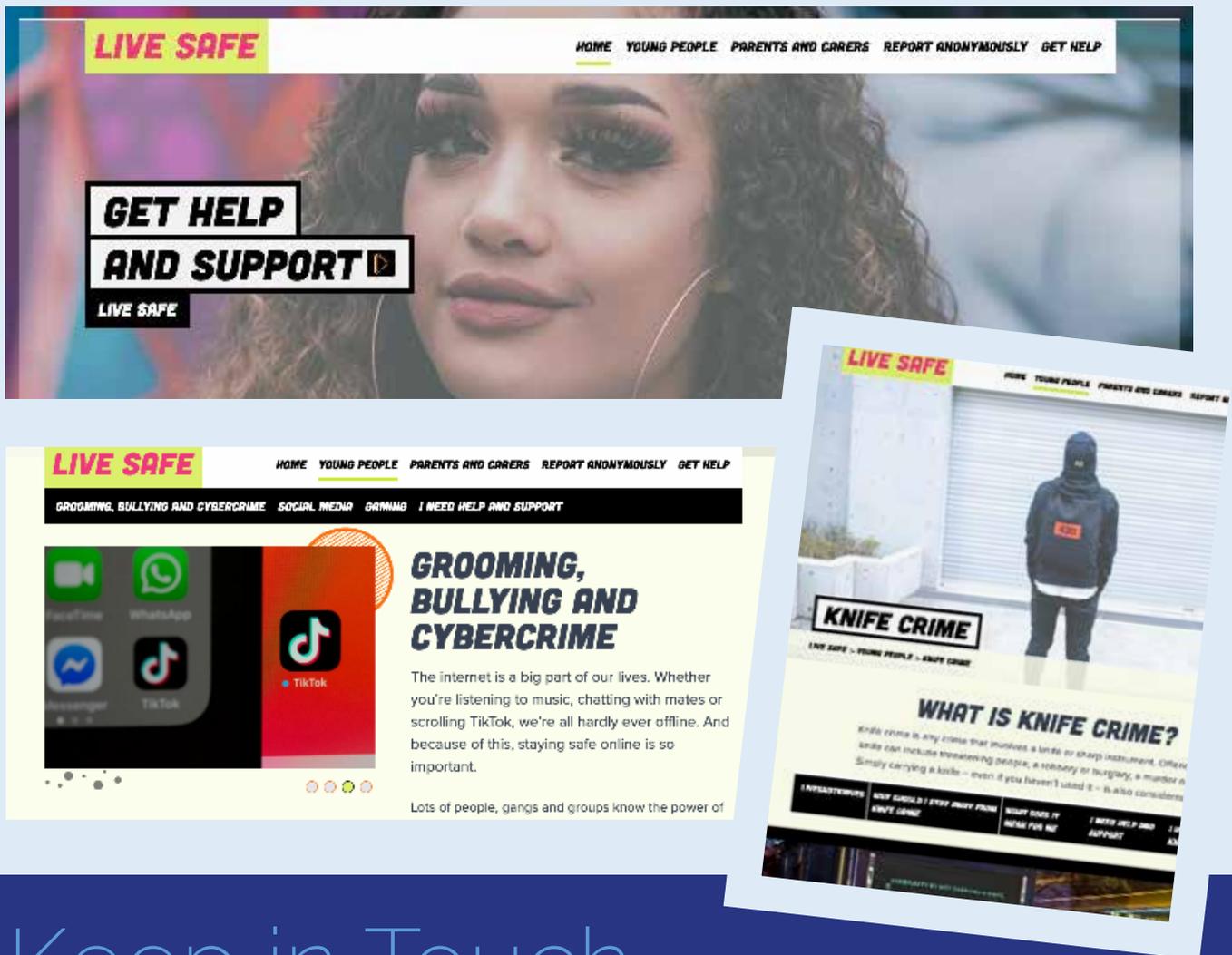
A new website www.livesafe.org.uk has been launched by the Violence Reduction Network, which I chair. It is a virtual space for local young people and their parents/carers in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

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.