



Newsletter

Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

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Big boost for rural policing around Melton

One of my Police and Crime Plan's key pledges was to deliver dedicated Rural Policing Teams to our rural areas of Leicestershire and Rutland.

I am delighted to announce that this summer, the Rural Policing Team now has eight officers dedicated to supporting and protecting our rural communities. Supported by the local neighbourhood and response teams, they are also equipped with vehicles suitable for the rural terrain!

Rural areas require rural policing! Pleased to say that I am delivering on my promises.

The team has been busy around the county and Rutland, attending numerous events to raise awareness of crime prevention techniques and other support mechanisms for rural residents.

Melton Street Food Festival

There is little I like better than sampling new and delicious dishes – but when I can discuss crime and anti-social behaviour simultaneously, it adds a whole new dimension. When I discovered that there were also vintage cars, I was in my element.

The Melton Street Food Festival was great fun for all the family, and I felt privileged to be invited.

But on a serious note, it gave me the opportunity to discuss problems in the town centre and beyond. I took note of what was said, have asked for

some responses and will keep you updated. I'd particularly like to thank Nigel from the BID who invited me along and took the time and trouble to give me so many pointers about what was concerning the residents and business owners of Melton Mowbray.



Popping Up to meet Meltonians

On another of my visits to Melton I had a spare hour between meetings, so I set up my pop-up street stall to chat to passersby. I love this sort of spontaneous interaction with the public. It is a great way to provide members of the public with useful information and answer any questions that they had.

I was pleased to be able to tell them that as a result of concerns raised by local residents and community representatives, officers in Melton have addressed localised problems with anti-social behaviour and drug-related crime.

They have also been tackling speeding on Main Street, Asfordby and Melton Spinney Road. Nine drivers will have received some unwanted post!

It really works if you report things to the police.



Thinking Rural

I had a great day out at the rural crime (tackling it, not committing it) event at Alma Bank Farm in Somerby.

I was grateful to be invited and pleased to see over 20 stands, including the NFU and the Farming Community Network, attending to support the rural communities. As you know, I have been clear that I expect a strong response to rural crime!

Alongside a lot of crime prevention advice and initiatives to protect machinery and fuel from theft, there were



also a lot of support services highlighting how they can help rural residents.

It was made patently clear that it is important to report

crime. That is the only way that police can assess the size of a problem, so please, always get in touch, no matter how small the problem is.



ANYONE FOR SURGERY?

My first open 'Surgery' proved popular with local councillors in Rutland, so I am now planning a series.

I'm well aware that our local community representatives know the problems and issues in their area better than anyone. They probably have a good idea of the solutions too.

I am keen to hear your views, face to face and one to one so that I can either take them to Leicestershire Police or suggest other ways in which solutions may be found.

If you would like me to hold a surgery in your area, please get in touch.



OPEN FOR BUSINESSES

A day out in Melton provided me with good feedback and useful information from local businesses and shoppers.

I decided to simply walk around and call in unannounced – known in the office as "Free-range Rupert" – and introduce myself. I find that people are very willing to give me their honest views on policing this way.

Happily, the general consensus was that the police do a pretty good job, and there are no big issues of concern. I passed this on to the local Inspector, suggesting that they keep on doing what they have been doing!

Join my E-scooter campaign

My postbag (or inbox as it is these days) is full of angry comments about e-scooters. Near misses, actual incidents, concerns about both riders and other road users.

Leicestershire Police has a robust policy toward e-scooters that aims to prevent incidents and accidents. But this is about the safety of all concerned and I want the government to keep e-scooters off public roads before more incidents occur.

I've already asked our local MPs to join me and Leicestershire Police to ensure that the public and retailers know the risks around e-scooters and how to use, buy and rent them safely and legally.



If you agree with me, write to your MP and let them know your views. The louder we can be the more effective our message.

Uniform standards

I was delighted when Leicestershire Police announced that the distinctive domed helmet for male officers and bowler hat for female officers were to be reinstated.

As you may know, I have been calling for greater visibility in our communities. My efforts have been rewarded with a renewed commitment to standards and a force-wide

rollout of the recognisable headwear is underway.

In addition to the new headgear, improvements are also being made to officers' body armour. The improvements will make officers more comfortable and safer as well as improving uniform standards.

Do compliment any officers you see sporting this traditional head gear.



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

Please note we are unable to take details of crimes or incidents.

If you need to contact the police please either call 999 if it is an emergency, or dial 101 if it is a non-emergency.

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



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