



Newsletter

Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

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Rutland's rural policing team

Rutland is a beautiful and most rural county. But that does not mean that it is crime free. Many of our villages and farms suffer from vehicle thefts, vandalism, and theft as well as more specifically rural crimes such as hare-coursing, livestock theft and church roof thefts.

That is why one of my Police and Crime Plan's key pledges was to establish a dedicated Rural Policing Team to our rural areas of Rutland and Leicestershire. And to ensure that Rutland, like other rural areas, has a local neighbourhood police officer specially trained

in rural crime. Rural areas require rural policing, so I am delivering on my promise.

So, I hope that people living in the rural areas of Rutland are pleased to learn that the Rural Policing Team now has eight officers dedicated to supporting and protecting our rural communities. All of the team is experienced in rural matters and understand the specific problems faced by rural communities.

Supported by the local neighbourhood and response teams, they are also equipped with vehicles suitable for the rural terrain!

Rupert Out and About in Rutland

I have spent some useful and very enjoyable days in Rutland over the past few weeks.

I had a very good meeting with Empingham Parish council Chairman and Deputy Chairman Vic Pheasant and Jonathan Corby when we discussed rural crime in the area, so I could reassure them that real action was happening. Among other things, we also touched on transportation. Sadly, I'm less able to influence the transportation infrastructure, but I can see the problems it causes people reliant on public transport.

I have fed back their comments to the local policing

team and can report on progress being made when we next meet.

I was also hugely impressed with the Out of Hours Club Rutland, which is a charity catering for young adults with additional needs. Often these young people are isolated due to their vulnerabilities – or at risk of becoming so – and Jacqui and Ashley provide an inspiring service.



Onwards and Uppingham

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.

But while I was in Uppingham, I visited the Rutland Police office in Uppingham Town Hall and, amongst other people, met the resident "traumateddy" used by the police to comfort children in difficult circumstances. Such a good idea.



I also had a helpful meeting with the Council, discussing how we can increase police visibility in the area. More to come on this one!



OPEN FOR BUSINESS IN OAKHAM

Having promised to open up more police contact points, I am delighted that I have been able to secure the reopening of a police front enquiry desk in Oakham.

Part of Oakham Police Station is being transformed into a new front enquiry office to make it easier for the public to contact their local police. At a cost of around £60K, this represents the best option for both the purse and the public.

The new facility is expected to be completed in December or early January.



PRIDE IN RUTLAND

I was delighted to attend the first Oakham Pride. My over-riding memories include over 500 people enjoying themselves with no hint of bother; a very positive atmosphere, and boy, was it hot. Oh, and the scones from the café inside the castle are possibly the best EVER!

I really hope that the organisers will repeat the experience next year. It was well worth it.

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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