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Weekly newsletter from Warwickshire's PCC

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Police and Crime Commissioner Warwickshire

Friday 26th February 2016

Building a safer Warwickshire



Welcome to my weekly newsletter

I'm Ron Ball, Warwickshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, and welcome to my weekly newsletter.

Here you will find out the latest news, what I've been up to during the week and how I am working to keep Warwickshire residents safe and supporting new projects and initiatives to tackle crime in the area. You can get in touch on 01926 413718 or email opcc@warwickshire.gov.uk

Thought of the week: HMIC publishes full PEEL assessment

It seems barely a week goes by these days without an HMIC (Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary) report being published. This week saw another - looking at 'Leadership' - alongside the final overall assessment of Warwickshire Police under its police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy programme ([PEEL](#)).

In its assessment of [Leadership](#), the Inspectors did not actually make any form of grading. Instead, they found widespread understanding of the force's expectations and future plans and priorities among the workforce and said that Warwickshire Police had clearly communicated its expectations of leaders. There was also strong praise for the Alliance with West Mercia Police.

The inspectors did report, however, that the force could do more to address staff and officers' concerns about job security. The force could also do more to ensure that it is identifying and developing talent, and should implement a more structured leadership programme to provide better training and development. The force is now looking at ways to improve these areas.

In the overall PEEL assessment, HMIC reports that Warwickshire Police is efficiently run, is good at investigating crime and has a strong commitment to protecting people from harm. It is disappointing, however, that the force has been labelled as 'requires improvement' in two out of the three graded categories - for '[Effectiveness](#)' and '[Legitimacy](#)'.

Both of these gradings have been commented on before ([here](#) and [here](#)) - what was published this week was simply a compendium of the inspection reports from the past year. I don't propose to comment further on these now as I would simply be covering old ground and repeating the comments I made when each of these reports were originally released.

I will however make the point once again that these assessments do not mean that Warwickshire Police is a failing force - far from it. If you read the reports in full, across the 13 questions asked by the PEEL inspections, Warwickshire Police is rated as 'good' in 7. None are graded as inadequate. So in reality what HMIC is saying is: 'some specific areas require improvement' while much of the force's activity is actually praised.

In many cases the inspections which actually informed the reports took place many months ago - in one case almost a year has passed since their visit. Since then much work has gone on to address the concerns raised in the reports and I am

confident that by the time of the next PEEL assessment, HMIC will find a much improved picture.



Ron Ball

Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire

Please note that due to annual leave and other commitments for staff in my office, there will not be another weekly newsletter until Friday 18th March, when we'll have a round up of the previous fortnight's activity.

Giving evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee



On Tuesday I gave evidence before the Home Affairs Select Committee in Parliament. The Committee was keen to hear the views of PCCs on how the role has developed, what has worked and what has been less successful. Appearing alongside me were Sir Clive Loader, PCC for Leicestershire, and Alan Charles, PCC for Derbyshire. Committee chair Keith Vaz MP explained that we had been invited as we were "free from the shackles of running for election" - a nice way of saying we are all retiring come the ballot in May.

He went on to quote the Home Secretary who said recently that at times in the process of establishing the role of PCCs she had feared she was "creating a monster" but more recently described us all as "pioneers". I was happy to confirm that I consider myself firmly in the latter category!

The committee went on to discuss the police funding formula - the system by which the central government pot of money for policing is divided up among forces. A new formula, which was supposed to come in effect this year was abandoned by the Home Office in December after flaws in the maths underpinning the calculations were discovered by the Devon and Cornwall PCC's office. A consultation on a revised formula is under way, although none of the PCCs appearing before the committee have yet been contacted by the Home Office.

I explained that, in my view, with so much change being brought into policing, it would be sensible to delay the implementation of a new formula until the final structure of policing in this country is known. I think it is clear that the Home Secretary sees policing being delivered in three tiers in the future, with many elements delivered locally, some regionally and others nationally. I think that whole process should be worked out fully before devising a new funding formula.

The committee was also keen to hear our views on Police and Crime Panels and how they work in practice. James Berry, MP for Kingston upon Thames & Surbiton, asked if the powers of panels should be increased or even reduced. My view is that the powers panels have are more or less about right. However, there may be some merit in giving further consideration to how panels could remove a PCC if they thought their conduct was unsatisfactory. I gave the offer to my own panel that, if they ever voted unanimously that I should go, I would. Whether that would be sensible on a national scale, particularly for candidates from a political background, is another matter, but possibly requiring also the Home Secretary and Shadow Home Secretary to agree to any decision to remove would provide a safeguard. The fact that there is no power of recall for the public at present remains an issue that I think ought to be given more consideration.

Unfortunately, our time before the committee was somewhat compressed, mainly due to the previous session with the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police over-running. Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe was given an intense grilling by the committee. It was fascinating to observe parliamentary scrutiny at close quarters and impressive to observe how competently Sir Bernard handled very tough questioning.

Thankfully the committee was much gentler with us PCCs!

Operation Nilo off to a fast start



I was pleased to see that an initiative to tackle nuisance and anti-social motorbike riding in the Nuneaton and Bedworth area over the half-term holidays had some positive results.

Special Constables, the off-road motorcycle team (pictured above) and the safer neighbourhood teams have all worked alongside Warwickshire County Council's 'Dob em in' campaign, conducting both high visibility and plain clothes patrols. Police identified and targeted known hotspots for anti-social behaviour caused by nuisance motorcycles.

I provided funding for the new off-road bikes last year and its really great to see them having a positive impact. Feedback from the officers themselves has been excellent and the results they have helped bring speak for themselves:

- 9 section 59 warnings were issued, warning riders that if they are seen riding again in an anti-social manner that their bikes will be seized and possibly crushed.
- 1 motorbike was seized
- Riders have been reported for 3 offences in total; 2 for no insurance and 1 for a driving licence offence.

The local inspector is keen to expand the operation in future and targeting anti-social behaviour remains an issue that the force takes seriously.

PCC Elections May 2016

PCC Elections May 2016



Elections for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire will take place on Thursday the 5th of May 2016. As I have decided to stand down at the end of my term, a new Commissioner will therefore be elected and will officially take office on May 12th.

With these dates not too far away, my office has put together a page of useful information which explains more detail about the election process and also gives prospective candidates an overview of the role of the PCC and some of the key information that will be useful to them. A candidates' briefing event has also been arranged for next week.

I have already met with a number of the publicly-declared candidates to provide an overview of the role, something I am happy to do for all those who choose to stand in the elections. A full listing of these meetings and the topics discussed can be found on the OPCC website, as well as details of how we will handle all requests for meetings and information during the pre-election period.

You can find all of the relevant details [here](#).

Public Consultation on Local Criminal Justice Board Priorities

Members of the public are invited to give their views on the 2016/17 priorities of the Warwickshire Criminal Justice Board.

To read the proposed priorities open the following document (PDF -document - opens in a new window): [Priorities for public consultation](#)

All responses should be made direct to: Claire.jones2@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

The closing date for consultation is 15th March 2016.

In the news this week

This week the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner announced a hearing into the severe tailbacks which were caused on the M6 earlier this month, after a fatal collision caused the closure of the motorway between junctions 5 and 6 for 24 hours. The hearing will examine the multi-agency response to the collision to make sure that lessons are learnt and co-ordination is as strong as it can be in the future.



Although the incident itself happened within the West Midlands Police area, the consequences were felt widely across the region, with traffic issues notable into Warwickshire as well. I too have found myself caught up in such queues and with the region's motorway network being vital to how many of us get to and from work and crucial to local businesses, I wholeheartedly support David's decision to hold this hearing.

Prior to the hearing, which will be held in public on March 18th at Birmingham City Council House, the Commissioner wants to hear from people and businesses affected by the delays so that he can get a full picture of their impact. I'd encourage anyone in Warwickshire who was caught up in the aftermath to submit their views - visit www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/m6delay for more details.

Diary look ahead: Monday 29th February - Friday 4th March



Here are my key diary appointments for the coming week:

Monday 29th February

10.00 am - North Warwickshire Serious and Organised Crime Joint Action Group, Wolston

Tuesday 1st March

3.00pm - Meeting with West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson, Birmingham

Wednesday 2nd March

9.00am - OPCC team meeting (all day).

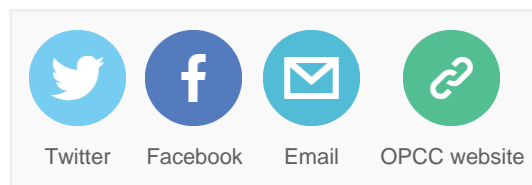
Thursday 3rd March

9.00am - Crimestoppers 'Changing the face of crime' conference, Solihull

Friday 4th March

11.00am - Meeting with Mark Pawsey MP, Rugby

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