



## A warm welcome to my winter newsletter.

**As Acting Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, I am pleased to present my latest newsletter which updates you on my news and activities.**

As we come to the end of what has been an incredibly challenging year, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for everything you have done to support our police officers, special constables, police staff and volunteers to help keep people safe during the pandemic.

Whilst coronavirus has been devastating to so many, I have been humbled to see that it has also brought out the very best in people in terms of kindness. I know that many of you have stepped forward to help people in your community who may be vulnerable or shielding, whether delivering shopping or dropping off prescriptions.

I want to thank all of our health and emergency service colleagues for working tirelessly throughout the year to keep people in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough safe and I also want to thank people for sticking to government guidance – it is only by your efforts that we will finally beat this pandemic.

This festive season I have joined the business community to call for people to #keepChristmaskind when shopping. Everyone has the right to go to work without fear of intimidation or violence. I want to send out a strong message that any violence against shop workers is unacceptable and will continue to work with business representatives locally to support the national effort to bring an end towards shop worker abuse.

In this edition, you can read about how I have been engaging with people living and working in rural communities to discuss the impact crime can have – from having expensive equipment stolen to the devastation that can be caused by illegal hare coursing, it was good to be able to talk openly about how these crimes can be tackled and offenders brought to justice.

You can read about the Chief Constable's changes to neighbourhood policing (page 4) and how he continues to invest in community policing and find out which local charities have benefitted from funding from my Youth and Community Fund, (page 3).

There is a reminder on page 7 about the importance of reporting crimes to the Constabulary and the range of ways you can do this.

On behalf of myself and my team, I wish you and your family a very happy, peaceful and safe Christmas and all the best for 2021.

*Ray Bisby*

*Acting Police and Crime Commissioner*



## COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER TO TALK ABOUT THE IMPACT OF RURAL CRIME

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The rural community, including farmers, National Farmers' Union (NFU), Countryside Watch and Neighbourhood Watch came together with the Acting Police and Crime Commissioner, Cambridgeshire Constabulary and representatives of the Crown Prosecution Service to talk openly about the impact of rural crime in Cambridgeshire.

The meeting included updates from the Crown Prosecution Service and Cambridgeshire Constabulary's Rural Crime Action Team (RCAT) before opening the virtual floor for a discussion about how the community can support the police to tackle rural crime.

A large section of the evening was focused on hare coursing, both on the successes that RCAT have had recently and the different tools available to prosecutors in deterring hare coursers. Those attending agreed that the current 1831 Game Act used to prosecute hare coursers is out of date and does not reflect the scale of the crime. Acting Commissioner, Ray Bisby confirmed that some progress is being made with regards to this issue in parliament with a recent debate in Westminster Hall at the beginning of December and confirmation from the Policing Minister, Kit Malthouse that he has committed to exploring the subject further with DEFRA.

It was also agreed at the meeting that the 1831 Game Act is just one tool in the armoury of tackling crimes such as hare coursing. Other methods such as community protection notices can be used to criminalise anti-social behaviour and provide the police with more enforcement powers, vehicles and dogs can be seized, repeat offenders have even been banned from entering the county. The indication was clear that RCAT and the Crown Prosecution Service intend to work closely to use every power available to them to disrupt hare coursing.

Such successes however cannot be achieved without the cooperation of the rural community, both feeding intelligence to the police, reporting incidents and agreeing to be witnesses. Rural representatives received tips for reporting suspected hare coursers and were signposted to support available to them as victims or witnesses of crime.

Victims and witnesses can access tailored end to end support with the Victim and Witness Hub including advice for what to expect if you have to attend court as a witness. The hub has a freephone advice number on 0800 781 6818 or email: [victimandwitnesshub@cambs.pnn.police.uk](mailto:victimandwitnesshub@cambs.pnn.police.uk).



## FROM MOVING BOXES TO TRAINING KITS: MORE YOUTH AND COMMUNITY FUND AWARDS ANNOUNCED

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Acting Commissioner, Ray Bisby, has announced funding worth over £21,000 to the latest recipients of his Youth and Community Fund.



11 projects, based all over Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, all receive funding to support young people to make positive contributions in their communities and to participate in activities that increase their confidence and skills.

Some of the projects awarded were:

- **Diamond Hampers** for moving boxes which contain essentials for care leavers moving to live independently for the first time.
- **March Town Athletic Club** for weather appropriate training kit for young players who otherwise would not be able to participate.
- **Missing People** to enable the charity to host an online training event for up to 75 multi-agency professionals across Cambridgeshire to improve their local response to missing children.
- **Cambridgeshire Care Leavers** to provide young people leaving the care system with bikes and safety equipment so they can travel to work and/or education independently.
- **Diaspora Arts & Educational Charity** to work with the community and local schools to deliver art workshops in the Orton area, Peterborough.
- **Young People March** for a Youth Worker to deliver workshops to young people in March.
- **Parkside Athletic Football Club** for new floodlights to enable year round training for young people.

“ My Youth and Community Fund is now in its 5th year of supporting projects across the county. It enables diversionary grassroots projects get off the ground and encourages young people to engage more with their communities and learn new skills along the way. ”

*Acting Police and Crime Commissioner, Ray Bisby*

The Fund is open to voluntary and community organisations who can apply for grants of up to £3,000 towards their project. More information about the terms and conditions of the funding can be found [here](#).



## Creating a safer Cambridgeshire

### MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING COMMISSIONER REGARDING THE CHIEF CONSTABLE'S CHANGES TO NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

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I know that when Chief Constable, Nick Dean first announced his proposals regarding changes to Neighbourhood Policing in October 2020, there were concerns around what this means for overall policing in our county.

The proposals aimed to manage the financial challenges faced by the Constabulary and reduce the budget gap for the financial year 2021/22 and beyond, predominantly through staff reductions, specifically community safety officers, enquiry office staff and PCSOs.

My role as Acting Commissioner regarding these proposed changes was to listen to the views and concerns of the public and to take these to the Chief Constable.

The Policing Protocol Order 2011 is clear that allocating police resources (including staff) is a matter for the Chief Constable and the Chief Constable alone. It is the role of the Commissioner to ensure that the Chief Constable has considered the concerns of our communities and it would be misleading to the public to imply that any Police and Crime Commissioner has any legal power to direct the Chief Constable in this matter.

All the detail of the concerns raised and how the Chief Constable has responded to them will be published on my [website](#) as well as in the minutes of the my [business meeting](#) held with the Chief Constable on 8th December.

Now that the Chief Constable has made his [decision](#), I want to take this opportunity to reassure people that, in spite of some of the headlines, we actually have more police officers in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough than ever before.

Throughout austerity the Constabulary was able to keep police officer numbers high by making savings in other areas, other forces did not. Since then, officer numbers have grown further, funded by both the local contribution people have made to policing through council tax and also the government "uplift" programme.

By March 21 we will have 1,559 officers, the highest ever in Cambridgeshire. We are then expecting about another 140 officers from the next 2 years of the uplift programme.

[More information on the changes to neighbourhood can be found on my website.](#)



## FUNDING BOOST FOR RAPE AND DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT

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Services for sexual and domestic abuse victims in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are to receive a funding boost of more than £190,000.

The funding is made up of £97,138 which will be allocated to local services facing greater demand and Cambridgeshire's additional allocation from the Rape Support Fund which totals £93,601. This will be awarded to the county's sexual violence support service the Cambridge and Peterborough Rape Crisis Partnership.

All 11 services are reporting an increased demand for emotional and practical support from victims. The additional funds will allow them to retain trained staff and continue to respond to victims in a way that meets their needs.

"While the Coronavirus health emergency continues to impact on all of us, for victims of domestic or sexual abuse, lockdown restrictions can increase anxiety."

"Positively our providers are reporting that many more victims are accepting help and are keen to spend time talking to staff who are offering both emotional and practical support", explains the Acting Commissioner.

Cambridgeshire Deaf Association is one of the local service providers to receive a small cash injection.

**" This grant has allowed us to purchase practical resources which will enable staff to continue to provide support to domestic abuse victims, such as face masks for British Sign Language users. "**

*Ruth Godden, Cambridgeshire Deaf Association*

Ruth Godden, Cambridgeshire Deaf Association, added:

"We understand the real potential for the current situation with Covid-19 to cause anxiety and concern for many, not least those processing trauma and living with the impacts of domestic abuse. We want to reassure survivors of domestic abuse that we are still here, and you are not alone."

The Acting Commissioner along with partners has already secured over £600,000 of additional funding for services supporting

domestic and sexual abuse victims since spring including three Independent Sexual Violence Advocates (ISVAs) for the county.

ISVAs offer important practical and emotional support to anyone who has been raped or sexually assaulted recently or in the past regardless of whether the crime has been reported to the police.

Any victims wishing to access support can call the Freephone advice number on 0800 781 6818 or email: [victimandwitnesshub@cambs.pnn.police.uk](mailto:victimandwitnesshub@cambs.pnn.police.uk).

There is also online advice on the Victims Services website which provides details of other local and national organisations providing specialist support: [www.cambsvictimservices.co.uk](http://www.cambsvictimservices.co.uk).



# NEWS from the CONSTABULARY

## Chief Constable Nick Dean writes...

This year we have found ourselves policing in circumstances like no other we have ever encountered, meaning our role has at times expanded and the climate in which we operate has become extremely difficult. The impact of Covid-19 has affected officers and staff, personally and professionally, but I have been incredibly proud of the resilience and commitment they have demonstrated and continue to show in protecting the vulnerable and tackling criminality.

While we have had to adapt working practices our efforts to protect the vulnerable has continued and evolved as we have worked with our communities to show a united front in our battle against this virus, dealing as is appropriate with the minority who have ignored the rules in place to safeguard us all.

But Covid-19 hasn't meant crime has gone away and we have used every opportunity available to focus on our priority areas, such as domestic abuse, child protection and burglary, while also maintaining frontline services. This is not always easy but we remain dedicated to providing the public with the best service we can.

Continued financial pressures mean I have had to make some difficult decisions this year about the way neighbourhood policing is delivered within the finances available to the force. But I remain committed to delivering quality policing to neighbourhoods.

It's been a difficult year and we are not out of the woods yet but the pace of our work continues and we will utilise every opportunity we have to keep Cambridgeshire safe.





## TOP TIPS: HOW AND WHY TO REPORT

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One of the most important things people can do is to keep reporting incidents and information to the police. Without that vital local intelligence, our local police officers can't respond effectively to what's going on.

Under-reporting occurs when community members either do not know how report or believe it is not worth the time spent. This may be related to a lack in confidence in what the police can do but local intelligence is vital in enabling the police to build up a picture of what might be happening within a community and what is needed to keep that community feeling safe.

Local policing teams use the intelligence that comes from reporting to identify trends, crime 'hot spots' to help influence where police resources need to be allocated. Areas where under-reporting is high, risk not receiving the police resources they need to keep communities feeling safe.

Over the last couple of years, the Constabulary has updated the way in which people can report crimes with a range of options:

1. Dial 101;
2. Fill out a report online at: [www.cambs.police.uk/report/Report-Shared/Report-a-crime](http://www.cambs.police.uk/report/Report-Shared/Report-a-crime);
3. Use the webchat function at: [www.cambs.police.uk](http://www.cambs.police.uk);

While you may not receive a direct police response to your report, the information you provide will give the police a clearer picture of the resources your community requires and, most importantly, a seeming small piece of information could be providing the police with the final jigsaw piece to secure arrests.



## Cambridgeshire and Peterborough leading the way with Vision Zero

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Road Safety Partnership is to relaunch as the 'Vision Zero Partnership', under a radical new Road Safety Strategy.

The new strategy is based on the principle that no human being should be killed or seriously injured as the result of a road collision and sets ambitious targets for a 50% reduction in people killed and seriously injured by 2030 and working towards zero fatalities and severe injuries by 2040.

A key element of the new strategy is the involvement of local road users and communities across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, in line with the Think Communities approach that is being used in other service areas.

As part of the strategy, earlier in the year more than 4000 local residents and road users provided feedback on local road safety and this has been used to inform the new partnership strategy, structure and priorities. The top two priorities identified by respondents were road maintenance and speeding which will be reflected directly in activity under the new

partnership workstreams for safe roads and safe speeds alongside others for safe people, safe vehicles and post-crash response.

The Strategy was created after a governance and partnership review, undertaken by independent road safety specialists Agilysis and Traject and funded by the Acting Police and Crime Commissioner which sought views from partners, stakeholders and communities alongside reviewing best practice evidence.

Acting Commissioner Ray Bisby said: "I both welcome and share this new 'Vision Zero' goal. Being able to provide funding which provides preventative and educational road safety initiatives remains a key priority for me."

"It has been a pleasure to see all the partners come together to develop this new, ambitious strategy over the past year or so."

"While the strategy itself can be considered an achievement, we are fully aware this is just the starting point and are looking forward to implementing and evolving the strategy over the coming years as we work towards zero."

The first step in implementing the new strategy has been the appointment of a new Road Safety Partnership Delivery Manager, funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, who will coordinate activity across the partners and provide the vital link with communities to help develop local, sustainable road safety solutions.

Matt Staton, who w the new Partnership Delivery Manager role in January 2021, said: "Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are leading the way in this kind of approach and that's what makes this a really exciting opportunity for all involved. The new partnership and strategy are great first steps in delivering real change when it comes to improving safety on the roads and it is really important that this now translates into actions.

"Work is already underway to develop the first action plans under the new strategy for delivery next year and to ensure the good work partners and communities are already doing is recognised, supported and added to with innovative new, collaborative programmes."



## STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST HATE CRIME

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During Hate Crime Awareness Week, Acting Police and Crime Commissioner, Ray Bisby and Chief Constable Nick Dean co-chaired a virtual roundtable on hate crime.

Over 25 representatives and activists from across the county from groups with protected characteristics joined the roundtable to discuss their concerns and fears and the help and support available to them.

A hate crime is defined as any criminal offence whereby the victim or any other person perceive to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person's protected characteristics. At present there are five protected characteristics: race, religion, sexual organisation, disability and being transgender.

Participants listened to a powerful story from a disability advocate who described hearing numerous accounts of individuals with a disability being filmed in public, without their consent, and then finding the footage mocking them on social media. This sentiment was echoed by delegates who were representing groups with other protected characteristics.

It was established during the meeting that current legislation is not adequately protecting victims of hate crime online or providing enough teeth for enforcement.

It is important to be clear, these are not examples of someone simply saying mean things on social media. Victims are facing the physical intimidation of being filmed in public without their consent, only to then find themselves publicly humiliated and shamed on social media because of their protected characteristic. The meeting emphasised that the psychological impact of this type of crime on the victim often goes unrecognised. Everyone has the right to feel safe and respected within their community, both online and offline.

The Acting Police and Crime Commissioner, Ray Bisby has since committed to support The Law Commission's provisional proposals for a new offence to be based on likely emotional or psychological harm, to replace offences in section 1 of the Malicious Communications Act 1988 and section 127(1) of the Communications Act 2003. This change will go some way to protecting victims of this type of hate crime.

If you are a victim of any hate crime, whether it occur online or offline, know that the impact of this crime is understood and it will not be trivialised if or when you choose to report it. Moreover, the Victim and Witness Hub are available to support any victim of crime whether it has been reported or not, call the Freephone advice number on 0800 781 6818 or email: [victimandwitnesshub@cambs.pnn.police.uk](mailto:victimandwitnesshub@cambs.pnn.police.uk).



# USEFUL CONTACTS ...

## CRIME:

### CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE

Report a crime online, find local information about where you live including crime statistics and where your closest station is and keep up to date with the latest news and appeals from Cambridgeshire Police.

**W:** [www.cambs.police.uk](http://www.cambs.police.uk)

**T:** 999/ 101

### ECOPS

By registering with eCops, you receive news and appeals, local crime information and crime prevention advice - direct to you as an e-mail. The service is completely free and works alongside Neighbourhood Watch, to bring you messages about your local area.

**W:** [www.ecops.org.uk](http://www.ecops.org.uk)

### CRIMESTOPPERS

An independent charity that gives people the power to speak up and stop crime – 100% anonymously.

**W:** [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

**T:** 0800 555 111

### CAMBRIDGESHIRE VICTIM AND WITNESS HUB

You don't need to have reported your crime to the Police to receive support. For free, confidential and tailored advice on which service can best suit you call the Victim and Witness Hub.

**W:** [www.cambsvictimservices.co.uk](http://www.cambsvictimservices.co.uk)

**T:** 0800 781 6818

### ACTION FRAUD

The UK's national reporting centre for fraud and cybercrime where you should report fraud if you have been scammed, defrauded or experienced cybercrime.

**W:** [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)

**T:** 0300 123 2040

## COMMUNITY GROUPS:

### CAMBRIDGESHIRE

#### NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Organisations which promote greater public participation across the county in the prevention and solving of crime and encourages improved communication between NHW Members and Cambridgeshire Constabulary so that effective liaison between the police and the public can be enhanced.

**W:** [www.cambsnhw.org.uk](http://www.cambsnhw.org.uk)

#### SPEEDWATCH

The Community Speedwatch scheme trains volunteers from members of the community to get actively involved in monitoring the speed of vehicles travelling through their neighbourhood. The scheme is used in areas where speeding has been identified as a priority at quarterly neighbourhood panel meetings.

**W:** [www.speedwatch.info](http://www.speedwatch.info)

#### COUNTRYSIDE WATCH

Operates a network across the county with mobile equipment to get targeted messages out to the rural community. This gives the community time to protect itself against such issues as suspicious vehicles, distraction burglaries and property theft.

**W:** [www.cambscountrysidewatch.co.uk](http://www.cambscountrysidewatch.co.uk)

#### CAMBRIDGESHIRE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Award hundreds of grants each year to front-line charities and voluntary groups who support people in Cambridgeshire.

**W:** [www.cambscf.org.uk](http://www.cambscf.org.uk)

**T:** 01223 410535

**E:** [info@cambscf.org.uk](mailto:info@cambscf.org.uk)



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# GETTING in TOUCH

## IT'S IMPORTANT THAT THE COMMISSIONER AND HIS TEAM REPRESENT YOUR VIEWS:

So if you want to get in touch, please do. The Commissioner is here to represent you and to make sure your voice is heard.

### You can write to us here:

Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridge and Peterborough, PO Box 688, Huntingdon PE29 9LA



[cambs-pcc@cambs.pnn.police.uk](mailto:cambs-pcc@cambs.pnn.police.uk)



0300 333 3456

## THE COMMISSIONER OFFERS REGULAR ONE-TO-ONE MEETINGS ACROSS THE COUNTY:

As a result of the current Covid-19 health emergency, these will be offered as telephone or video calls if preferred, in line with social distancing advice. If you have an issue you would like to discuss, you can book a 15-minute appointment by emailing [cambs-pcc@cambs.pnn.police.uk](mailto:cambs-pcc@cambs.pnn.police.uk)

### UP COMING SURGERY DATES ARE:

25th January at: 10.00am - 12.00 noon

25th February at: 10.00am - 12.00 noon

24th March at: 10.00am - 12.00 noon

22nd April at: 10.00am - 12.00 noon

25th May at: 10.00am - 12.00 noon