

# Charnwood NEWSLETTER



Visiting 14th-century  
St Mary's Church in  
Wymeswold.

## A message from Rupert Matthews

Welcome to the first PCC  
newsletter compiled for the  
Charnwood district.

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**





*Inspecting graffiti and vandalism at the pedestrian underpass at Queens Park, Loughborough.*

# What's happening in Charnwood?

**People living in the area say that their biggest concerns revolve around anti-social behaviour and late-night noise. In Loughborough, people have also mentioned cycle theft and e-scooters.**

I have checked to see what action is being taken.

Patrols in the Town Centres have increased by both the local beat team and by local response officers. Some of the offenders have been identified and the police are working with Charnwood Borough Council, Youth Impact Team, local schools, and the families of those involved to try and reduce these issues.

I was interested that one person has been arrested for criminal offences in Loughborough Town

Centre and they are currently bailed with restrictions not to enter the Town Centre.

Cycle theft appears to be a problem in the campus and town centre areas. Although the Police are doing what they can to catch those responsible, they are also focusing on preventing the crime itself. Free D-Locks, which are better than a cable lock, are available thanks to the Community Safety Partnership, at the beat surgeries across the area.

Smaller wheels, in the form of e-scooters, have concerned my inbox a fair bit recently. I imagine that local councillors have been similarly contacted.

I have discovered that a total of 12 electric scooters have been seized over the past couple of

months. The police are working hard to do even more.

Any privately owned e-scooters cannot be used in a Public Place or on a Road, only on private land with the landowner's permission. This will hopefully address some of the issues and also ensure that our paths and walkways remain safe for pedestrians and vulnerable road users. The Force have decided that in the majority of circumstances, someone caught riding on the first occasion can be given a warning.

If the same person is then caught again the e-scooter is seized.

But more needs to be done, and I will do everything in my power to make sure it is.

To find out what is happening in the area try signing up to [Neighbourhood Link](#). Local information tailored to your interests delivered to your inbox. I would be interested to hear what you think of it as a form of communication.



*E-scooters are illegal on public pavements.*

*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.

# Tackling local issues in Bradgate Park

A recent visit to Newton Linford brought me face to face with one of the Leicestershire force's most famous landmarks!

I was pleased, and a little surprised, to find that the 'Tardis' police base at the entrance to Bradgate Park – now a listed

building – is still used as an active police base to this day.

Alongside members of the local policing team, I was also able to meet with Park Ranger Matthew Molesdale and councillors David Snarrt and Paul Baines to discuss ways to tackle local crime. Local residents also took the opportunity to share their concerns on crime and anti-social behaviour during my visit.

PCSO Mitch Jarvis highlighted concerns about speeding, in particular, which had previously been mentioned to me. As we left, PCSO Jarvis joined a speed enforcement operation on Main Road which recorded six vehicles driving at 36mph or more. I was reassured that further enforcement is planned for the future and hope that people recognise that we are trying to address their concerns.



## PEOPLE ZONES PICKS UP PACE IN CHARNWOOD

Having considered the future of the People Zones project in Charnwood and its future potential, I have agreed to provide funding to the Borough Council to deliver a variety of projects and initiatives from the Marios Tinenti Centre.

This will include increasing community cohesion with resident-led activity, improving residents' confidence to report

crime and anti-social behaviour in their community and tackling male health inequality.

We will be undertaking research in the Bell Foundry Zone, to help shape a plan to relaunch the People Zone to deliver real, sustainable change. We are meeting regularly with the council and have formed a 'Priority Action Group' to discuss the formal launch later this year.



I am intending for People Zones to become much more dynamic and progressive about the way they improve life for the people who live there [except the criminals, obviously].

# Making Charnwood Safer for Women and Girls

**In October, I learned that we had successfully bid for extra funding from the Home Office's Safer Streets Fund – receiving the maximum grant available of £550k.**

Some of the money will be invested in new CCTV cameras and improved lighting in Bradgate Park and Queens Park to deter crime, reduce the risk of women and girls being assaulted and increase the chance of offenders being caught by police.

It will also fund improvement works to increase visibility and reduce seclusion in parks through the cutting back of undergrowth and foliage and the launch of a new safety campaign to challenge misogynistic attitudes.

Women and girls have a right to feel safe everywhere – at home, online and in our public spaces. That is why we listened very carefully to local women to understand where they feel most vulnerable and at risk – and we have acted accordingly.



Visit  
<https://www.leics.pcc.police.uk/Our-Work/Safer-Streets/Safer-Streets.aspx>  
to read more about my Safer Streets campaign

*Meeting local business owner, Sharon Pole, at the Nook Corner Café in Anstey.*



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



Chief Constable Simon Cole

## 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 Charnwood 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 Charnwood district an even safer place to live, work or visit.



*With Cllr Dan Grimley [left] and Cllr James Poland [right] in Main Street, Queniborough.*

# Live Safe – wherever you are

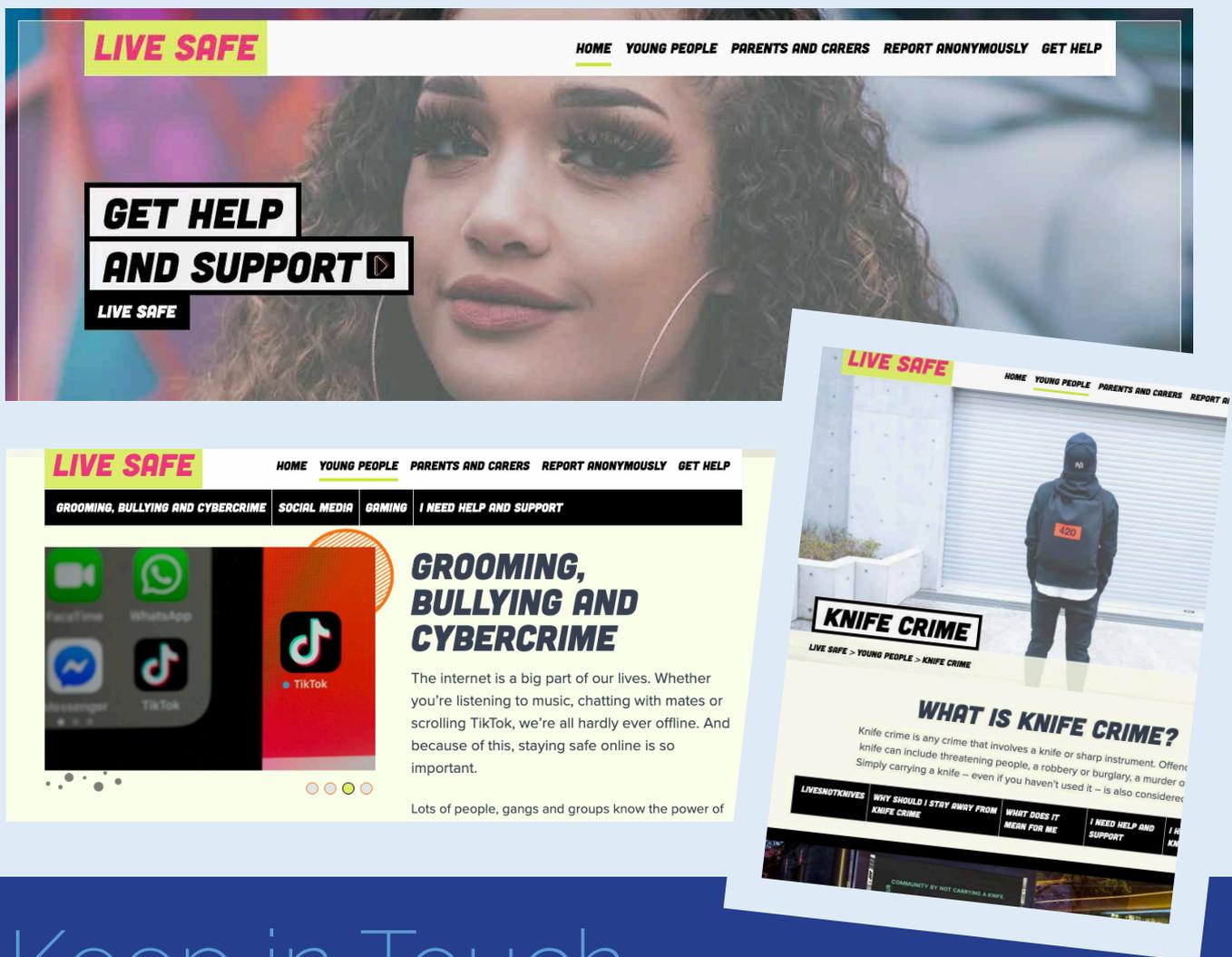
A new website [www.livesafe.org.uk](http://www.livesafe.org.uk) has been launched by the Violence Reduction Network, which I chair. It is a virtual space for local young people and their parents/carers in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

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](mailto:opcc@leics.police.uk)
- Telephone: 0116 229 8980
- Website: [www.leics.pcc.police.uk](http://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.