



**POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**
for Leicester,
Leicestershire & Rutland

Your Communities - Your Commissioner

Newsletter

Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

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Delivering a stronger frontline

Visible and accessible policing matters to all of us and I'm proud to have delivered the boost in numbers that I promised. This is something that was desperately needed in Leicestershire.

We've welcomed 332 additional officers to the force – beating our recruitment target of 297. The vast majority have already taken to the streets and are working hard to keep communities safer across Leicestershire.

On top of this, we now have a larger headcount of Special Constables. My budget this year equipped them with the tools and training they need, including the roll out of Taser training. They are making a hugely valuable contribution to policing across the force.

I have always been determined to invest the

money you pay for policing wisely, in the things that matter most to you. That's why I've supported the purchase of additional vehicles, including hybrid models highlighting my commitment to the environment. These vehicles are increasing police visibility and helping our different teams do their job efficiently.

It's particularly important to me that young people are confident that the police are the good guys. That's why I've funded the dynamic and interactive Mini Police scheme where younger children can step into the shoes of their local policing team and understand what it is all about. I've also funded the Leicestershire Police Cadets. They work hard to help make our communities safer places to be and maybe we are witnessing future police chiefs in the making?

Out and about around the County



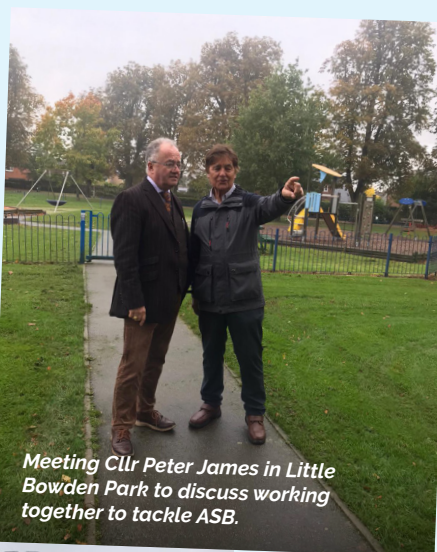
A busy evening at my Public Meeting in Charnwood. Thank you to everyone who turned out.



In Market Harborough to meet the team from Falcon Support Services and Beacon Care and Advice, to see how they are helping vulnerable people.



Meeting Community Safety Partnership Manager Mark Smith to discuss issues in the Park.



Meeting Cllr Peter James in Little Bowden Park to discuss working together to tackle ASB.



Hosting a busy meeting in Kegworth to discuss 'boy racers' following complaints from residents. Very positive partnership approach.



Visiting Brendon on the Hill to see the site of recent vandalism.



In Melton Mowbray to talk to local businesses about retail crime and celebrate the Safer Streets funding that will help prevent crime in the area.



Meeting Cllr Michael Mullaney of Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council to discuss community safety issues, including road safety, supporting victims of domestic abuse and enforcing the forthcoming XLBully dog ban.

Curbing Violent Crime

Many Leicestershire residents enjoy a night out in Leicester, I know I do. It is essential to keep the city's night time economy as safe as possible.

I have been working with the Leicestershire Police and my Violence Reduction Network on a number of schemes, including the new "Walk Away" scheme – see picture.

Together we have achieved a significant reduction in serious violence in comparison to other areas according to the Home Office's Early Warning System (EWS). We have been flagged as a 'positive outlier' for its proactive approach to reducing knife crime and serious violence. This is official recognition that my drive to push down knife crime, as prioritised in my Police and Crime Plan, is delivering outstanding results.



Protecting rural lives and livelihoods

Our newly reinforced Rural Crime Team (RCT) is making waves with over £1m in stolen property recovered in 12 months.

Fulfilling my promise to to Leicestershire's rural residents to get tough on rural criminals, the RCT grew from three to eight officers in 2022. Already, they've recovered in excess of £1m worth stolen farm equipment and plan machinery, made arrests, disrupted serious and organised crime including county lines and increased reporting.

More recently, I've funded a new Rural Crime App to enable residents to report suspicious activity to the police and assist with the recovery of stolen items. In



addition, my budget enabled new off-road 4x4 vehicles which allow officers to go where the criminals go.

I've also launched a new 'Volunteers on Horseback' scheme made up of 20 riders supporting the RCT, providing

eagle-eyed observations as they exercise their mounts.

Feedback suggests that our rural communities in Leicestershire appreciate the efforts that have been made and I am determined that this improvement will continue.



Enhancing Community Policing

Being able to see and talk to a police officer matters a great deal to our communities which is why I continue to push hard for an agile and visible policing service.

As part of my Estates Strategy, I have supported an expansion of front counters to strengthen the service local people receive. This has included a joint service desk in Coalville as part of my Police and Crime Plan pledge.

My Commissioner's Safety Fund has seen investment in crime prevention across our city and two counties which is really making a difference on the ground, diverting young people from crime, helping residents to feel safer and supporting the vulnerable and isolated.

I've also continued to carry out my regular Community Days, when I am able to go into communities to hear what local people feel about policing in the area. My multi-

agency 'patchwalks' also help to keep me abreast of any issues, which I then feedback directly to the local policing team. It works.

Neighbourhood Watch provides an army of law-abiding eyes and ears. It does a fantastic job. To support the 785 watches across the city and two counties, I have appointed a new Project Manager to help develop the work of this hugely valuable resource.

Parish Council Meetings

I often meet with representatives from Parish Councils as I travel around the two counties. Indeed, I'm a Parish Councillor myself so I know how hard they work. But their work is often underestimated, for they do a grand job. They are also a fount of local information.

I'm delighted to say that in January we are starting a series of 'surgeries' so that Parish Council representatives can meet me, or my Deputy Rani Mahal, to discuss the local problems that they face. Then we can see if we can find a solution. Together.



At Sheepy Magna Parish Council's public meeting for a Q&A

Victims to benefit from new contract

Everything we do is centred around victims of crime and I have always believed they should receive a gold medal service.

I have just awarded a new Victims Services contract which will deliver enhanced support to victims of crime across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

It includes a host of new and improved services to help victims, including children and young people, recover from their experience.

The successful organisation, Catch22, made it clear that they are committed to the type of service that I want to see, and the quality of service that our residents deserve. Importantly, this new contract will see victims able to access the service at any point and not just in the aftermath of the crime - most notably if their case goes to court.



Have a Safe and Happy Christmas!

As businesses, residents and local councillors, you are a huge part of our success! I would like to thank you for continuing to report crime and information about crime over the past 12 months – your support really does make a difference. I would like to wish you all a safe and peaceful festive season.

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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