



THE BEAT

Thin Blue Line set to get fatter

I am delighted that our biggest recruitment campaign in recent years is about to get underway.

The force will recruit a total of 200 officers in 2017/18 and we hope to do even more in 2018/19. The next round of recruitment will start in September, so if you're interested, look out for the advertisements.

We revealed the news during a great morning with the Chief Constable, Craig Guildford, at the force's training centre where we met two cohorts of police officers in training.

I'm really pleased because I know that people want to see more police officers and PCSOs on their streets and neighbourhoods. They want to see a visible, easily accessible police presence in their communities. I can understand that, which is why I have been working hard with the force to secure enough sustainable funding for an increase in officer numbers.

We hope to see the number of officers grow in Nottinghamshire to a figure approaching 2,000. However, that will depend upon November's budget and the outcome of



discussions on the Police Funding Formula on Government funding.

"But after a long recruitment freeze, today's confirmation that we intend to fatten up the blue line is good news for both the community and the force."

The announcement comes hot on the heels of the recent PCSO recruitment programme which will strengthen our neighbourhood policing teams.

The Chief Constable and I agree: people are the most important part of any organisation and we are both determined to have a top-quality workforce that truly represents Nottinghamshire's communities.



Paddy Tipping
Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner





Putting the brakes on bike theft

Progress is being made on the issue of bike theft which is impacting areas of Nottinghamshire.

This month, I brought together motorcyclists and police officers to look at the problem after being contacted on Facebook by motorcyclists Martin French and Barry Briggs.

The issue of 'bike-jacking' – where criminals rob people for their bikes or motorcycles – is causing real fear among the motorcycling community and this meeting was a chance to discuss the options available for dealing with these offences safely and effectively. There's a strong desire from both parties to work together and a number of positive actions are being taken.



SEARCH AND RESCUE TRAINING

Volunteers and specialist emergency workers were put to the test when they took part in a major training exercise on the River Trent.

I was invited to join Nottinghamshire Search and Rescue Team (NSART) and a multitude of partners for the training drill which tested the response to a 'missing persons' incident at Gunthorpe Lock.

All the blue light agencies involved worked very effectively on the day. These training events are vital for learning and help us to plan and coordinate the deployment of specialist resources in a real incident.



Fairer funding deal for Nottinghamshire

Nottinghamshire's MPs have been given an insight into the funding challenges facing policing in the county and the future risks to safety.

The Chief Constable Craig Guildford and I met eight of the county's MPs to outline the burden we face of increasing public safety against sustained budget cuts. The force has lost £54m, or 20 per cent of its funding, over the last five years and we asked MPs for their support in getting a better growth budget for the force when the chancellor unveils his budget in November.

The tragic events in London and Manchester have focussed our attention on the threat of terrorism to our communities and how we can combat the kind of hate that breeds despicable violence. We will continue to fight for the resources needed to meet this challenge and others head on.

2015
2016
budget 2017
2018
2019
2020





United against hate

More than 20 faith leaders joined me for a positive workshop on tackling hate crime in the wake of the recent terrorist atrocities.

Attendees from a range of faith groups contributed to the workshop, which included discussions on the importance of reporting hate crime, supporting victims and increasing security in our communities.

Ultimately, if we share a common goal to protect everybody whatever their background, ethnicity, religious belief or colour, we are sending a strong message of unity by working together in this way



One Walk

Hope, togetherness and compassion were the key messages behind a special awareness walk through Mansfield Town Centre on June 22.

The One Walk event marked Learning Disability Week and saw people with learning disabilities including autism walking together to demonstrate the town's understanding and compassion for everyone who lives or visits there, especially the most vulnerable.

I was honoured to walk alongside those taking part in the event and help to promote a message of togetherness and support.

First class dog kennels unveiled

Nottinghamshire Police has unveiled its fully refurbished dog kennels at Force Headquarters which have been named in memory of Nottinghamshire Police dog handler Ged Walker who was killed in the line of duty in 2003.

A major building project has been taking place at the force's Sherwood Lodge Headquarters to upgrade and modernise the kennels.

The welfare of all those who work for Nottinghamshire Police is hugely important and the dogs are no exception. I'm delighted they have new facilities in recognition of their exceptional hard work.





RURAL NEWS

It has been a productive three months for Nottinghamshire's Special Constabulary Rural Pro-Active Team which carried out 538 hours of rurally-focused crime prevention work including illegal poaching patrols, rural crime training and arson prevention work.

As part of Operation Jericho, which targets illegal and antisocial motorbike driving, police seized six bikes, issued eight Section 59 orders, and handed out five 'Direction to Leave' notices (these give police powers to order someone out of an area). Meanwhile, officers carried out 174 angling license checks across the county's waterways to tackle illegal fishing.

Uniting with our local partners

Over the last few months the force has moved into several new premises, all of them shared with other organisations. I am delighted. This is a great way to make more use of existing facilities in the interests of the local community and it will keep the police firmly located in the heart of the community.

In June, Carlton Fire Station has become the first station in the country to unveil a unique fire and police service collaboration.

The station welcomed officers from Nottinghamshire Police for its new front counter policing service which is being staffed by Carlton Police Station staff. It means members of the public will now be able to speak to police between 10am and 6pm Monday to Friday at the Manor Road site.



In July, a new contact centre was officially opened on the site of the old Post Office in Eastwood, on Nottingham Road - just 150 yards away from the old police station.

It shares its location with Eastwood Town Council and will save money for the Force, which will be reinvested into front line policing.

I am really grateful to Eastwood Town Council for all their support to make this happen.

This emulates the successful shared locations elsewhere in the county such as Broxtowe, West Bridgford, Byron House in the City, Mansfield and Retford. It makes sense.



Horse Watch takes off

The launch of Horse Watch is another strand in the work to tackle rural crime and I was delighted to go along to meet some of the volunteers and officers who have worked to bring this scheme to life.



Photo Courtesy of Newark Advertiser



Horse Watch is a bit like Neighbourhood Watch. Members will share information about any suspicious activity or issues that concern them as well as alerting the police and partners to issues such as fly tipping, fly grazing and illegal off-road biking.

"I provided funding for head-cams, available to those wishing to wear one while riding out, enabling information to be captured on video if they see something suspicious."

Horse Watch members will share their information with police and partners and indeed the public, as the Facebook page has already proved really popular.

The project was led by Inspector Louise Clarke who explained to me that Watch members will not intervene in any incidents nor be asked to address any particular policing problem. In fact, they will not be doing anything beyond their normal riding behaviour and activities and reporting to the police if they see something that they feel is suspicious.

Elsewhere, similar schemes have also promoted road safety in rural areas, prompting drivers to slow down, particularly when they are passing horses. I hope for similar outcomes.

If this pilot proves successful and I think it will do that very quickly, we intend to roll it out across the county. If you own a horse and are interested in becoming a member, have a look at our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/NottsPoliceHorseWatch/

KEEP ON TALKING

I'm delighted that so many people contact me, with problems, compliments and comments. This is particularly important as I need to be able to listen to your views and learn from them and also know that you can keep up to date with what my team and I are doing.

Whatever I do, I am answerable to you, the electorate. You can contact me at any time to ask questions or put your views across.

You can visit:
www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk

You can follow:
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or **Facebook NottsPCC**

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