

on the RECORD



*making the
money work*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Hello everyone,

I am delighted to report that the new emphasis being placed on rural crime at Bedfordshire Police is starting to pay real dividends.

You may have seen a report from the Nation Farmers Union which revealed that the cost of rural crime in this county has been reduced by £200,000 over the past year.

The NFU has been a fantastic support to me and Bedfordshire Police, providing a whole network of contacts county-wide, passing their concerns and intelligence around crime issues and anti-social behaviour to police.

As you will see from this newsletter, the Rural Crime Team which consists of a Sergeant and four PCs, under the supervision of an Inspector and Superintendent, have been joined this month by four specialist PCSOs.

I was delighted to welcome them into their posts in person and to join them on the rural beat in Billington and Slapton, in the south west of the county.

All the best,

Kathryn

Kathryn Holloway
Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire

News from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

PCC celebrates "outstanding success" of Rural Crime Team and welcomes 4 PCSOs on board

Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner - Kathryn Holloway - has welcomed four new members to the Force's Rural Crime Team as she celebrated its "outstanding success".



The four PCSOs have joined the team - known as Op

Sentinel Rural - which was created following the Commissioner's promise in her Police and Crime Plan to create a fairer deal on policing for those who live in the country. In just six months, the team has chalked up an impressive list of successful operations including, but not limited to:-

- * Over 900 speed checks
- * 39 vehicles seized
- * 87 traffic offences detected
- * 26 speeding offences
- * 9 arrests
- * 4 found fly tipping without a waste carrier's licence
- * 83 crime intelligence submissions
- * 16 verbal warnings
- * 4 Stop and Search interventions
- * 1 street caution for cannabis
- * 16 verbal warnings

"This unit has proved its worth beyond all reasonable doubt and I'm absolutely delighted to welcome four experienced PCSOs to expand it still further and build links in person with Bedfordshire's country communities," said Commissioner Holloway.

"I'm told by farmers who've experienced years of feeling ignored by police of their enormous gratitude to the team. For example, there are now daily patrols to visit those who have faced the nuisance and intimidation of fly-tipping and crop destruction through mopeds and quad bikes, particularly in South West Bedfordshire.

"This is a county-wide effort though and the team are involved in everything from preventing hare-coursing on which hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of bets are placed, providing equality in policing of both hunt saboteurs and those who would break the law governing hunts and dealing with wildlife crimes, such as the disturbance of badger setts, as one example. When you see so many badgers by the roadside in our county, you know many have, in fact, been hunted, killed and placed there to cover this up as I know well, living in the Bedfordshire countryside myself," said the PCC. Read more [here](#).

PCC praises Emerald Team for “outstanding work” after its first year

Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Kathryn Holloway, has praised the Force's Emerald Team for their success over the last year which has resulted in the highest charge rate for the last six years after dealing with more than 2,000 cases.



The Emerald Team was set up in September 2016 in an effort to tackle domestic abuse, rape, and serious sexual offences. The team was also tasked with improving investigations and increasing positive outcomes.

"In even the first six months the Emerald Team had proved the wisdom of gathering specialist detectives together in one place to deal with a particularly horrendous set of crimes, largely though not exclusively, against women and young girls. They charged more people in that six months in these areas than the Force had done for any other six month period in the last six years," said Commissioner Holloway.

“Those reporting rape and serious sexual offences, together with domestic abuse, can be absolutely certain of a truly professional response by an absolutely dedicated team, as I’ve seen myself having spent time with them,” added the PCC. Read more [here](#).

Leighton Buzzard Community Policing Team to move to new base

Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner - Kathryn Holloway - is delighted to announce the long-awaited move of police from Leighton Buzzard Police Station to the community fire station. The move will mean that Leighton Buzzard’s Community Policing Team will be based right in the heart of the town.

On 30 August, the team will move to a new policing hub at Leighton Buzzard Fire Station in Duncombe Drive as promised by Bedfordshire’s Police and Crime Commissioner, Kathryn Holloway. Response and community officers will be able to work from the new hub, and new signage will show the public that the fire station is now a Fire and Police Blue Light Facility. The former police station on Hockliffe Road is now closed.

Last year, Commissioner Holloway confirmed the sale of Leighton Buzzard Police Station as part of her plans to revolutionise policing in the town. Commenting on the move the Commissioner said, “The fire station is a much more sensible location than the police station, right at the heart of pubbing and clubbing district and off the High Street and Market Place.

“Bedfordshire Police also has the benefit of the proceeds of the sale to contribute to future building work, such as a new custody suite for the north of the county.”

The police station was sold to Central Beds Council as part of its redevelopment plan for the town, and comes at a time when the Force continues to work more closely with other local blue light services to maximise efficiency, improve public service and reduce costs. Earlier this year, as part of the Force’s on-going Blue Light Integration project, the PCC launched a seventh policing hub in the county based at Ampthill Community Fire Station. Read more [here](#).

PCC welcomes the new Head of the Specials

Bedfordshire’s Police and Crime Commissioner - Kathryn Holloway - has welcomed the brand new Chief Officer for the Force’s volunteer Bobbies to his post at a time when Specials are making an outstanding contribution to policing in the county.

Clint Sharp has been confirmed as the new Head of Bedfordshire Police's Special Constabulary.



"It's a real pleasure to welcome Clint into his new role. I cannot over estimate just how important Special Constables are to the policing of this county," said Commissioner Holloway.

"Clint works full-time, but is supported by his employer to lead Bedfordshire's Specials. Many people don't realise that Clint and his colleagues have full warranted powers, just like any other police officer," she said.

"I never dreamed I would lead the Special Constabulary when I joined in 1995 and I feel incredibly proud to have the opportunity to take the reins. In my time with the Specials I have seen a number of changes, and am proud of the way we have grown. We continue to welcome Specials to the team; in July, ten new volunteers joined and will now have further on-the-job tuition and support from experienced colleagues before they become independent," said Clint.

"Bedfordshire's volunteer Police Officers are some of the hardest working and most dedicated people I have had the pleasure of working with, fitting their volunteering in around their home life and other jobs. In the past month they have volunteered over 4,000 hours to help support their regular colleagues on duty, and continue to be a vital asset to Bedfordshire Police. I am looking forward to the next few months and seeing what more we can achieve in that time. I have set my team some tough targets but I'm confident we can reach them," he added.

There are 205 Special Constables currently within Bedfordshire Police, of whom 11 are new recruits.

"A further 41 potential Special Constables will be attending training before the end of December 2017 and will be out and about serving our communities throughout this county by March 2018. We can always do with more though!" said Commissioner Holloway. Read more [here](#).

PCC backs calls for hate crime online abuse to be treated more seriously

Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner - Kathryn Holloway - has backed a national call for hate crime abuse on social media to be treated as a crime – as it

would be if said face to face.

The national call has been led by the Crown Prosecution Service which has revised its guidance for prosecutors. It says the impact of tweeting abuse can be as “equally devastating” as shouting it.

“It is appalling that some people feel, when they get behind a computer screen, that they can deliver vile, abusive comments about a person’s race, religion, sexuality or physical appearance which, if said to the victim directly, would constitute hate crime,” said Commissioner Holloway.

“There is real cowardice in mounting a hate crime campaign against an individual or group just because it can be done anonymously. Bedfordshire Police takes hate crime incredibly seriously, which is why it has its own hate crime lead and a success rate in prosecutions in over 80%,” added the Commissioner. Read more [here](#).

Working together with Bedfordshire Police

PCC backs the daughter of fallen officer to launch new rule to support officers

The daughter of PC Jon Henry, who was killed on duty in Luton in June 2007, is working with the force to highlight the importance of supporting police officers and staff.

11-year-old Maggie Henry spent a day at police headquarters last week and during her visit a promise was agreed that anyone who is assaulted while on duty will receive contact from a chief officer, to check on their welfare and to offer necessary support.

Officers work hard to protect the public and fight crime in extremely difficult circumstances.

Jon Henry made the ultimate sacrifice 10 years ago and it is a stark reminder for the force of the very real dangers officers face when keeping the public safe.

In memory of her dad, Maggie wants to help the force ‘look after our police officers, so that they can look after everyone else’.

The law will work hand-in-hand with the force’s ‘seven point plan’, which commits to treat officers who have been assaulted as victims according to the victims



code — the same as any victim of crime.

Police and Crime Commissioner Kathryn Holloway said: “I never want another family in this county to experience what Maggie Henry and her family have had to go through. I have raised the issue of relatively low penalties for those who attack police officers within government and am about to raise this subject with the Crown Prosecution Service in Bedfordshire.

“In my view, an attack on a police officer is not the same as an assault on any other member of the public, since police are standing on the front-line between those who keep the law and those who want to undermine it. An attack on a single officer is an assault on society itself and should be met with the toughest penalty possible.” Read more [here](#).

Thousands turn out for Bedfordshire Police Family Fun Day



Bedfordshire Police’s Family Fun Day returned on Saturday 2 September.

The free event took place between 11am until 3pm, and thousands of people arrived at Police Headquarters in Kempston for a day of entertainment and insight into the work of the police in the glorious sunshine.

Thank you to everyone who came along, as well as those who helped run the event!



OPCC social media highlights

Dates for the diary

Twitter

Bedfordshire PCC @BedsPCC · Aug 11
PCC celebrates "outstanding success" of @bedspolice Rural Crime Team and welcomes 4 PCSOs on board #Bedfordshire - bedfordshire.pcc.police.uk/2017-08-pcc-ce...



2 4

Bedfordshire PCC @BedsPCC · Aug 9
PCC @KHollowayPCC welcomes the new head of the @BedsSpecials Clint Sharp - bedfordshire.pcc.police.uk/2017-08-pcc-we...



2 4

View more highlights on our [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) pages.

The PCC Annual Parish Council Conference -
Wednesday 20 September

Useful information

[Police and Crime Plan](#)

Keep in touch



[Like us on Facebook](#)



[Follow us on Twitter](#)

BedsALERT
KEEPING YOU INFORMED

[Sign up](#) to our community messaging system and receive messages that matter to you.