



**September 2016**

**Message from the Police and Crime Commissioner Kathryn Holloway**

Last month, I held my first Parish Councils' Conference with Chief Constable, Jon Boutcher, to unveil the county's rural policing plans on 10 September.

We explained that a fairer deal on policing – whether you live in the town or country – is among the top priorities of my Police and Crime Plan for Bedfordshire, which was the first to be published by any PCC of the 41 Commissioners in England and Wales.



Parish councils are an absolutely vital link for Bedfordshire Police to be our eyes and ears to pass on crucial information about crimes and anti-social behaviour happening in the villages and smaller towns and, also, to pass on the word to local residents of what the Force is doing and why to tackle crime.

The top tier team from Bedfordshire Police attended to show just how seriously rural crime issues are now being taken by the Force and to pass on the information about its operations to get on top of matters from fly-tipping to illegal travellers' encampments. The aim is also to let parishes know just what other pressures Bedfordshire Police are facing across the board on a day to day basis.

All parishes were asked to come up with three top policing priorities in their area which will be addressed at a follow-up event on December 16 at a venue to be announced.

**Kathryn Holloway**  
**PCC for Bedfordshire**

## New Plans Announced To Enhance Public Protection in Biggleswade

The PCC has announced new policing plans for the Biggleswade area, including a new policing team of high visibility community officers to fight crime in the town.

The plans were revealed at a busy public meeting held on 20 September at the Old Court House in Biggleswade. Residents who attended heard from the PCC, as well as Deputy Chief Constable Mark Collins, Superintendent for the North Julia Pink, Cohesion Inspector Hob Hoque and Inspector Bill Abram from the Force Control Room.

“I have become increasingly aware of the concerns of Biggleswade residents over matters from ASB to illegal traveller encampments,” said Commissioner Holloway.



“I’m fully aware that residents of the smaller towns like Biggleswade feel they’re losing out on policing due to the demands of larger neighbours like Luton and Bedford.

“I gave an absolute commitment to the people of Bedfordshire to increase community police officers on the Frontline and ensure they are deployed in the highest profile ways possible in town centres where local residents and workers can see them out and about.

“With the introduction of new Community Hubs across the county, officers will be able to tackle the issues that specifically affect Biggleswade, like anti-social behaviour and speeding offences, and this personal approach will offer a more effective service.”

Additional officers will be assigned to the town including one police sergeant, four police constables and four PCSOs, two of whom will focus on anti-social behaviour. The town will share an Inspector for the North of the County Community Team. More rural surrounding areas will also be served by the Rural Crime Liaison Officer, who came into role earlier this summer.

New plans for policing the Biggleswade area include a new base at Sandy Station, to be used for occupational health personnel to try to support the maximum number of officers and staff back to full working, and a new initiative called Business Watch, similar to the Force’s Speedwatch and Streetwatch volunteer schemes.

## Bedfordshire PCC Joins Junior Police Squad On Parade

In September, The PCC joined the first ever team of primary school police cadets to launch the Force's brand new Junior Police Squad programme.



The cadets, who are aged between 9 and 11, will follow a year-long police training programme culminating in a passing out parade at Kempston Police HQ to be attended by the PCC and Chief Constable. The first Junior Police Squad cadets went on parade at Putnoe Primary School on Church Lane, Putnoe, Bedford.

During the year, the fortnightly lessons will teach team-building and problem-solving skills as well as introducing the pupils to guest speakers and events including visits from the police dog handlers and forensic services officers and a planned police helicopter team.

“This scheme achieves so much for the pupils involved and for Bedfordshire Police. They learn life-skills around working together and listening carefully to instructions and also have a lot of fun. Nobody wanted to go home and my new uniforms, which will be worn on parade each week, seemed to be very popular,” said the Commissioner.

“Where the Force is concerned we are able to build strong bridges to children and communities which may not have had previous relationships with Police. I need the pupils to really trust us for their own sake to be able to pass on information about those who might want to harm them. I genuinely hope this scheme may also plant a seed for those taking part to become real-life police officers when they are older.

“The first Junior Police Cadets went on parade at Putnoe Primary School where the Head tells me 42 languages are spoken. Imagine if, in future, Bedfordshire Police had the benefit of recruits who brought those sort of skills to policing!” said the Commissioner.

The Junior Police Squad will be introduced in schools across Bedfordshire as part of a pilot scheme and aims to develop and maintain trust in the police as well as educate young people in the county around important issues like crime, anti-social behaviour and community safety.

Bedfordshire's PCC Kathryn Holloway granted £3000 of funding to buy caps, mini-versions of police officers' polo shirts and pocket books to kit out the Cadets.

Once older, from 16, the Junior Police Squad members will have the opportunity to join the full Police Cadet scheme.

## **PCC proves Fire Service collaboration is helping save lives and police time**

The Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service are assisting the ambulance service at least once a day to force entry and reach patients in emergencies - a service previously provided by police who now have been freed-up for 999 duties.

Two months on from the launch of the initiative, which sees fire crews instead of police officers helping paramedics gain entry to reach patients who cannot get to the door in medical emergencies, figures show the fire service are attending at least one incident per day, freeing up significant time for police officers to attend other 999 emergencies.



“To see such successful results so soon after the agreement was made shows just how beneficial collaborative working between Bedfordshire’s emergency services is to the people of this county,” said the PCC.

“It’s quite clear to me that if something as relatively simple as transferring forced entry responsibilities to free up police time is this successful, the other collaborative projects going forward will deliver even more benefits to the public. It’s just a fantastic start,” she said.

“This scheme gives a much better service to the public, particularly bearing in mind that those involved here are the vulnerable, the ill and, usually, elderly patients.”

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service have been assisting the East of England ambulance service with forced entry since the beginning of July 2016. The agreement was part of a Memorandum of Understanding that covered wider collaboration, signed by representatives from the fire service, Bedfordshire Police, the ambulance service and the Police and Crime Commissioner at a launch event on July 25.

For further information about collaboration and the Police and Crime Commissioner’s priorities, please see her Police and Crime Plan on [bedspcc.org](http://bedspcc.org).

## **Upcoming events**

8 November – Dunstable public meeting, Grove House, High Street Dunstable

13 December – Houghton Regis public meeting, venue TBC

8 February – Ampthill public meeting, venue TBC

If you wish to contact the PCC about this newsletter or anything else, please email [policeandcrime.commissioner@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:policeandcrime.commissioner@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk). You can also follow us on twitter [@BedsPCC](https://twitter.com/BedsPCC) or Like us on Facebook: [facebook.com/bedspcc](https://facebook.com/bedspcc).