

# Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire Newsletter



## September 2023

- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner host first-ever awards ceremony for volunteers
- OPCC host September Criminal Justice Board meeting
- PCC visits the College of Policing
- PCC shows his support at opening of Flitwick football pitch
- Deputy PCC attends National Neighbourhood Watch conference
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## Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner host first-ever awards ceremony for volunteers

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner thanked volunteers at first-ever OPCC volunteers awards ceremony, recognising all those who go the extra mile for their communities.

On Thursday 28 September the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) held its first-ever Volunteers Recognition event.

The event saw 23 volunteers from the Stop and Search and Use of Force scrutiny panel, Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs), and a Restorative Justice volunteer have their efforts celebrated at a ceremony at Bedfordshire Police Headquarters.

The Police and Crime Commissioner, Festus Akinbusoye, opened the event by thanking the volunteers for their hard work and explaining that their work makes a difference to policing in Bedfordshire. The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, Ian Dalgarno, congratulated the volunteers and spoke about the impact that the volunteers have on our local community.

Mr Dalgarno said: "Volunteering is a critical role and each one of our volunteers play an important part in improving accountability and public confidence in policing."

[Read more about the volunteers awards ceremony on our website.](#)





# Volunteers Celebration 2023





## OPCC host September Criminal Justice Board meeting

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) recently held their monthly Bedfordshire Criminal Justice Board meeting (BCJB).

The BCJB is made up of partners who work across the criminal Justice System in Bedfordshire. These include the Crown and Magistrates Courts, Crown Prosecution and Defence, Youth Offending, Police and Probation, health organisations, Prison and Citizens Advice.

The aim is to improve communication, co-operation, and collaboration within the partnership in order to provide fair, efficient and effective criminal justice services in Bedfordshire. The BCJB also strive to provide the best possible service to victims of crime and witnesses, reduce offending and reoffending, and increase public confidence in the Criminal Justice System (CJS).

[Read more about Septembers Criminal Justice Board on our website.](#)

## PCC visits the College of Policing

Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Festus Akinbusoye visited the College of Policing as part of his role on the Board of Directors.

Following the PCC's appointment by the Home Secretary in April 2021, he has taken a keen interest in supporting the work of the College to increase standardisation of best practise across the 43 force areas, advocate for investment and improve public confidence in British policing locally and internationally.

As part of the visit, Mr Akinbusoye met with senior police officials from Abu Dhabi on a leadership training exercise at the Ryton, Coventry. He was later joined by Lincolnshire PCC, Marc Jones.

[Read more about the PCC's visit to the College of Policing on our website.](#)





## PCC shows his support at opening of Flitwick football pitch

Police and Crime Commissioner, Festus Akinbusoye attended the grand opening of the new state-of-the-art football pitch at the Flitwick Community Football Centre.

A grant was awarded to Central Bedfordshire Council for the pitch to serve Flitwick, Ampthill, and the surrounding area. The Commissioner was honoured to be invited alongside the Flitwick Football Clubs, Beds FA, Councillors, the Flitwick Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Central Beds Council.

[Read more about the opening of the Flitwick football pitch here.](#)



## Deputy PCC attends National Neighbourhood Watch conference

Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, (DPCC) Ian Dalgarno attended the Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Crime and Community Conference in September.

The purpose of the conference is to reflect on the impact of work over the past year, celebrate achievements of the NHW volunteers across England and Wales and share best practice moving forward.

Ian Dalgarno, DPCC said: “NHW is more than volunteering, it makes a huge difference in cutting community crime and not only that it is proven to increase community wellbeing and alleviates isolation and loneliness.

The conference was an amazing opportunity to network with colleagues in the NHE community and hear from other watch schemes on their projects and innovations.”

Watch schemes feature the [Police and Crime Plan](#) under priority 1 – to invest and support watch schemes as part of community safety.

[Read more about the National Neighbourhood Watch Conference here.](#)





# Deputy PCC attends regional Road Safety Summit

EAST OF ENGLAND AND EAST MIDLANDS  
**ROAD SAFETY SUMMIT**  
— Your roads, your safety, our priority —

Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner (DPCC), Ian Dalgarno attended the Roads Safety Summit in September.

The event, organised by Lincolnshire's PCC Marc Jones, showcased innovations from around the region that are being used to cut the number of road accidents.

Mr Jones believes that the East of England and East Midlands Road Safety Summit offers an opportunity to share best practice and identify ideas that can be implemented to tackle road safety.

Mr Dalgarno, a speaker at the event, said: "The impact of collisions and crashes which result in fatalities and serious injuries on our roads is unacceptable and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), took this opportunity to highlight the partnership working we are delivering within Bedfordshire to keep our young and new drivers safe, and give them the skills needed to cope with modern motoring".

[Read more about the Regional Road Safety Summit here.](#)





# Take a read of what our office has been up to throughout September!



Ian Dalgarno, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner (DPCC), attended Desi Fest in Luton which is an annual celebration of unity, diversity, and community.



Launched our fifth Public Access Terminal at Cranfield university. This will give students access to online non-emergency policing services. Are you a student at Cranfield University and have you used one of the terminals? Let us know!



Held the quarterly stop and search panel meeting with 11 members attending. The meeting reviews body worn footage by officers and the outcome of these searches. This provides independent scrutiny, learning or praise to officers.



Our Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Ian Dalgarno attended the Recruitment Day at Bedfordshire Police HQ. He showed his support by engaging with potential future candidates.



DPCC Ian Dalgarno attended the Cople Parish Council Community event alongside PCSO Steven Tarabello from the Community Policing team. They were there to speak with residents and help with any concerns raised.



The Safer Streets Team and scheme managers for the Independent Custody Visiting Scheme and Stop and Search and Use of Force Scrutiny Panel attended Freshers Fayres to speak about volunteering at the OPCC.



The DPCC Ian Dalgarno attended Barton le Clay Parish Council alongside Neighbourhood Policing teams. They discussed anti-social behaviour (ASB) and other local concerns and issues.



Follow **@BedsOPCC** to find out more on what activities the PCC and his office are doing day-to-day!





You can keep up to date with the PCC and his offices day to day work via Twitter, Facebook and Instagram



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