



**Philip Seccombe**  
**Police and Crime**  
**Commissioner**  
**for Warwickshire**



## MONTHLY UPDATE

*The latest news from the Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner*

**April 2018**

A new review of the powers available to police, local authorities and the general public to deal with unauthorised traveller encampments has been announced by the government, providing a welcome opportunity to add our experience in Warwickshire to the national debate.

Communities across the county, but especially those in Nuneaton & Bedworth, Rugby and Warwick districts, have seen for themselves the issues that can be caused when large numbers of caravans turn up unannounced and set up home for a period on public or private land.

With Warwickshire's central location, good road network and inclusion on traditional routes used by travellers, unauthorised encampments have been prevalent for a long time, though have become particularly marked in recent years.

It's a complex issue. The travellers will point out that there is a relative lack of sites available for them to legitimately use and many cause few or no problems, moving on after a relatively short stay. As in all walks of life however, there are a minority who show little or no respect for the law or the communities they set up camp in and it is these few who cause real disruption and concern for local residents.

Tackling the problems unauthorised traveller encampments cause has therefore been something that has been the focus of much work by my office and our key partners, so therefore I welcome the opportunity to feed into the national debate.

Some significant progress has been made over the last two years. While there are still frequent encampments across the county (by the end of March, there had been 30 recorded, the majority on Rugby district) thanks to the Warwickshire Protocol I championed, there is now much better co-ordination of the response, with expert advice from Warwickshire Police's Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Liaison Office, PC Martin Rone-Clarke.

Last year I held a summit meeting to look at this issue, bringing together our local authorities, the police and county MPs to discuss the existing legislation and what powers


might be helpful in supporting better management of encampments when they occur.

One area we heard about was the difficulty local authorities have in achieving planning consent for permanent or emergency traveller sites – which are key to providing legitimate alternatives to unauthorised sites and also would unlock further powers which the police could use. This might be an area where legislative change would bring some immediate improvements.

The national consultation – carried out jointly by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Home Office and Ministry of Justice – covers police and local authority powers, court processes, government guidance, the provision of legal sites, and the impact on settled and nomadic communities.

It will emphasise the commitment to the fair and equal treatment of all communities, including respecting people’s right to a nomadic way of life, while balancing this with the interests of settled communities.

I will be encouraging our partners in local government and policing to contribute to this national review, so that the work we have done here in Warwickshire can help to shape future national policy and legislation.



**Philip Secombe TD**  
**Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner**

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## **New policing model protects frontline**



A new policing model has been introduced across Warwickshire Police this month to ensure that Safer Neighbourhood Teams are protected, patrol policing is boosted and that officers, PCSOs and specialist teams are on duty in the right numbers at the right time to meet increased demand, protecting communities and vulnerable people.

It comes as part of my pledge to invest the additional money raised through the police precept this year directly into frontline policing.

Following extensive research, Warwickshire Police are making the changes to focus on problem solving, addressing changing demands, improving visibility and maximising the benefits of new technologies.

The new model retains its locally-based Neighbourhood Policing Teams, with staffing realigned to fill vacancies and ensure that each team has the right resources to meet the demand in each area. This will in turn ensure they continue to be a visible presence in the towns and villages of Warwickshire, tackling crime, disorder and issues that significantly impact on the quality of life for those who live and work in the county.

Elsewhere, an additional 10 roads policing officer posts are being created to enable a greater focus on road safety initiatives and reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on our highways, while a new prisoner processing team will free up patrol officers to spend more time out in communities.

A new Missing Persons Team will also work alongside existing Child Sexual Exploitation officers, with the objective of tackling the causes of people going missing, in order to safeguard vulnerable people and - in the longer term - reduce the number of people who go missing, again freeing up capacity for officers to concentrate on other policing priorities.

Together with the considerable investments I have already made in new technology to support frontline policing, I am confident these changes will ensure that we can continue to build a safer and more secure Warwickshire

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## **Brinklow becomes eighth 'Supported Village'**

Brinklow has become the latest rural community in the north of the county to join a crime prevention scheme organised by my Rural Crime Co-ordinators.

By gaining 'Supported Village' status, villagers are demonstrating that their

community is not a soft touch for rural crime, with households and community buildings being offered advice on how to protect themselves against crime and working with local officers to mark their property.



The Supported Villages programme, part of the Rural Crime Project, aims to help communities with proactive crime prevention action and advice, providing

a sustainable scheme which can then be maintained by the community.

Over the past year, parish councillors have been working with PCSO David Banks, supported by other members of the Rugby Police Safer Neighbourhood Team and North Warwickshire's Rural Crime Co-ordinator, Carol Cotterill, on the project.

Several property marking days have been held where villagers were invited to bring items to be marked and get crime prevention advice and community locations such as the church, school, allotments and clubs have all also been proactively involved and provided with signage.

'Thieves Beware' signs are also now at all village gateways stating that you are entering a village where property is marked.

[Read more about this story >>](#)

## **#GameSafeWarwickshire is coming - book your place!**



A special event designed to help educate young people, parents, teachers and other professionals about staying safe online is nearly upon us – but there's still time to sign up to attend one of the free sessions.

Game Safe Warwickshire takes place on Thursday 26 April 2018 at the Bridge House Theatre in Myton Road, Warwick. It has been organised by my two Cyber Crime Advisors, Sam Slemensek and Alex Gloster as part of my ongoing commitment to reduce cyber crime by helping people understand the risks they face online and what measures they can take to keep safe.

At this free event, you will hear from Lorin LaFave, mother of Breck Bednar and founder of The Breck Foundation, a charity that educates the Digital Generation to keep safer online. She campaigns for a safer internet and helps train police, educators, health practitioners, safeguarding leads, parents and pupils to ensure that young people are empowered to make safer choices for themselves online.

This event will help you find out more about what you can do to help protect yourself or others from potential harms of online gaming. The event will also look to talk about safeguarding and how to keep young people safe.

Two sessions are being held during the day for students in Years 7 & 8 across Warwickshire Schools, as well as Designated Safeguarding Leads and other teachers. These take place from 10.30am to 12 noon and from 1pm to 2pm.

The evening session is designed for parents (along with their children), youth groups and other professionals and will run from 6pm to 7.30pm. Please note, some of the topics covered in this event may be unsuitable for very young children.

Local partners will be on hand to give you information about support, information and how to report issues young people may face.

Places are limited, so book your place, and send any queries, to: [communitysafety@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:communitysafety@warwickshire.gov.uk)

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### Diary dates

Here are some of the key events in my diary for the next few weeks:

**Apr 16:** Meeting with Southam Town Council

**Apr 17:** Meeting with Derrick Campbell,  
Independent Office of Police Conduct

**Apr 18:** Attending National Crimebeat Awards,  
London

**Apr 18:** Citizens' Academy, Stratford

**Apr 19:** Trust Integrity and Ethics Committee, Leek Wootton

**Apr 20:** Regional policing governance meeting, Birmingham

**Apr 23:** Chairing an Emergency Services Collaboration Working Group  
conference, London

**Apr 24:** Addressing Leamington Rotary Club

**Apr 26:** Game Safe event, Warwick

**Apr 26:** Meeting with Mark Pawsey MP, Rugby

**Apr 30:** Addressing Tysoe Parish Assembly

