



Meeting with Philip Seccombe, Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner and local residents in Coton & Boughton ward 20 August 2019

Present: Philip Seccombe, Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner

Mark Pawsey, MP

Cllr Carolyn Robbins, Rugby Borough Council, Chair of Public Meeting

Cllr Jill Simpson-Vince, Warwickshire County Council and Rugby Borough Council

Cllr Derek Poole, Rugby Borough Council Deputy Leader

Philip started with an introduction of his role. The PCC is elected via the 500k voters across Warwickshire. The county is varied, with everything from old mining towns to agriculture. The PCC holds the force to account and controls the money but has no operational control. Philip meets the Chief Constable weekly. There is a £110m budget, £55m comes from central government and £55m from council tax payers. The money is spent on the call centres, detectives, roads policing, there are 32 SNT teams in Warwickshire who get involved locally. Warwickshire has more motorway miles per head of population than any other county.

Due to the increases via the council tax precept payments that go to the police, the number of officers in Warwickshire is increasing from 850 to 1,000 officers. With regards to the recent announcements from the government about extra officers, we do not know the detail yet or how that will affect Warwickshire.

There is a Police and Crime Plan which indicates the priorities for the police:

1. Looking after victims and survivors of crime. They need to be supported.
2. For the force to be properly equipped – with bodycams, tasers and the creation of a rural crime team
3. Prevention – help the police
4. Reduction – working in partnership with agencies, communities, local authorities, for example the Community Safety Partnerships are based across the county and all emergency services attend these meetings, along with voluntary services and local authorities.

Philip then took questions:

1. Streetlights and crime – not all street lights are owned by WCC. To be clear, there is no evidence of crime rising when the lights are off. If there is a special operation or a need for surveillance then they can be turned on for the duration. Given that the local authorities are now dealing with climate emergencies, and the ongoing financial challenges, this is the way it will continue.
2. Concerns about crime around the area – Anyone can arrest someone, but suggest you don't get involved. A good way to help is to establish a neighbourhood watch scheme, but this depends on

people to be involved and want to run it. It acts as a deterrent to a one-off burglar or car thief, there is a reporting mechanism but it needs a co-ordinator. I do not recommend using a private security company, it is better to get together as a community.

- JSV pointed out that there used to be a neighbourhood watch scheme in the Crackthorne Drive area of Coton Park but it dropped away when people moved on and no one took over the co-ordination of it.

- CR to get in touch with the Rugby Neighbourhood Watch and set up a meeting with the residents at the meeting who wanted to get involved.

- Philip mentioned the role of Special Constables and suggested that anyone who wanted to, could volunteer to be a Special Constable in the local area.

3. Crime in the Ward: Across Warwickshire there are 5 burglaries a day, compared to other parts of the country this is better. A resident suggested that crime is not reported as it affects everyone's home insurance quotes. Philip said it is better to report it and get it dealt with. In the last month on the ward for reported crime there were 6 ASBs, 4 criminal damage, 3 violent/sexual offences/ 2 vehicle crime and 1 public order offence. In terms of knife crime, the police are now the service of last resort and have to deal with situations when it has gone wrong elsewhere.

4. Travellers – Philip said that the injunction with RBC has helped this area. The settled traveller community experiences prejudice so it has to be handled sensitively. There is a Traveller Officer who works with the travelling community and local authorities and land owners. There are transit and permanent pitches.

- One of the residents said that during the last incursion onto the park, a police officer just stood there and watched and took no action. Philip asked for the details to be sent to him, as that shouldn't have happened. Another resident said that when they turn up, the police are called but they just turn up, count the caravans and leave. Do they actually check the cars.

- A resident mentioned the issue of the car park and fencing. JSV pointed out that all the land there is owned by the developer, not RBC, and they are responsible for evicting anyone who turns up there.

- MP added that government is looking to make trespass a criminal rather than civil offence, as is now the case in Ireland, and this has hugely helped the unauthorised encampment issue in Ireland. This has already been out to consultation so is working its way through the process.

5. SNT –Rugby Rural North is one of the biggest SNT teams in terms of geography, as covers from Clifton all the way up to Shilton and Barnacle, plus Coton and Eden Parks. PCSOs cover the areas, will keep the SNT structure as they talk to schools, care homes, residents, etc. Would work with Neighbourhood Watch team in area.

- Feedback from residents and Councillors - It is hard to get hold of SNT team and responses via email or phone are long. Don't have mobile police van here anymore, used to have it on Tuthill Furlong but few people ever visited. This was mainly due to being here at 3.00pm on a weekday afternoon!

Going forward – if see a crime, e.g. drug dealing, phone the police. We have 500k residents and currently have 850 officers. Some crimes take huge resources, e.g. modern slavery, domestic violence.

- Response times targets are 10 minutes in urban areas and 20 mins in rural areas
- Plenty of people want to join the police so hopefully we can increase numbers again with new initiative from govt
- Victims of crime want to know that cases are being worked on
- For Coton Park, we are closest to motorway network, so that needs to be considered with the police working with the community, as it is easy for criminals to be on the motorway network and a distance away in 10 mins.
- Philip happy to have anyone contact him with concerns or questions and will respond. Details are below.
- Carolyn will contact Neighbourhood Watch to set up a meeting, MP happy to attend the meeting.

Can contact Philip Seccombe on 07773 326046 or philipseccombe0@gmail.com

Update on Service Road area on Coton Park from JSV:

The Coton Park Consortium was set up when Coton Park first started and all the developers were part of it. The consortium looked after the roads and lights, shrubs, etc, pre-adoption. They worked with developers, councils and utility companies, as well as the Coton Park Residents Association. The lead developer on the estate is usually responsible for doing any work on behalf of the consortium. So, until about 2013, David Wilson Homes were the main contractor on site and did work – this included putting grit bins on Long Hassocks and Lancut Hill even though they were Persimmon homes. The CPRA worked with them on any issues across the estate. By the time DWH left, many of the roads had been adopted by Warwickshire County Council, however the green spaces had yet to be adopted by Rugby Borough Council (RBC).

According to the consortium and RBC, there were issues around the boundaries of the land held on documents by Land Registry which delayed the handover process for quite a while. I think those issues have been sorted but the Consortium and Persimmon have still not completed all the paperwork. In the meantime, RBC have maintained the land on behalf of the consortium. Persimmon are the lead developer now within the consortium and therefore responsibility for dealing with issues lies with them.

I think the issues with unauthorised encampments has focused minds and Persimmon are looking at what paperwork still needs to be completed in order for the land transfer to happen. As soon as this happens, I will let everyone know.

In terms of the service road itself, the final plan is for it to become a bridle path when all the construction has finished. However, this also has to tie in with Central Park Drive opening up and linking onto the estate. The service road also currently doubles as an emergency access route for emergency services if Stonechat Road is blocked. This road is designed to take all construction traffic into the estate but occasionally sub-contractors might not be aware of this and go through the estate. If you see a company consistently doing this, please let us know. The service road is not for residents' use, either vehicle or pedestrian.