

# Community working together

2020 has been a challenging year for all of us and your local councillors and community campaigner continued to work for the community during the pandemic.

Tim Willis made shopping trips for elderly family, friends and neighbours as well as maintaining his support to the Wolston Conservation Group, which continued its good work, such as the reclaimed Wolston Manor Spinney, in line with government safety guidelines.

Hopefully 2021 will give us an opportunity to turn even more attention to the local issues that we have continued to address throughout the pandemic, such as fly-tipping and protecting our rural environment. We will continue to work closely with our community groups to ensure that Wolston and the Lawfords remains a great place to live and work.



Tim Willis at the Wolston Manor Spinney



The Safe & Active Travel programme is open to all local primary schools

## SAFE AND ACTIVE TRAVEL PROGRAMME

On the 8th October 2020 (Clean Air Day), Warwickshire County Council launched a brand new Safe and Active Travel programme. This is a free award scheme that is open to all primary schools.

The scheme aims to reduce the number of car journeys made to and from school - something which is an ongoing issue for schools, residents

and businesses. The award scheme encourages walking and cycling, promotes healthier lifestyles for children and their families, and aims to reduce carbon footprints therefore improving air quality. The Safe and Active Travel team have contacted all local primary schools in Rugby & Bulkington to encourage them to join the scheme.

## YOUR CONSERVATIVE TEAM FOR EARL CRAVEN DIVISION, WOLSTON & LAWFORDS WARD

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Follow us on Facebook: fb.com/Wolston & the Revel

Help shape our recovery in Rugby & Bulkington by taking our 60 second survey today!



or visit [www.rugbyconservatives.co.uk](http://www.rugbyconservatives.co.uk)

Working hard for Earl Craven Division and its local residents

# intouch



Delivered free by your local Conservatives

SEE INSIDE for news from PCC Philip Seccombe

## Local councils on your side in fight against COVID

Since the pandemic began Warwickshire County Council and Rugby Borough Council have worked together to ensure residents and businesses have been protected as much as possible. A Shielding Hub was set up in just 8 days and mobile testing stations operated on a regular basis until a permanent testing station was established on Railway Terrace.

The existing working relationship between the councils made it easier to respond to the pandemic. Both councils were able to re-

deploy staff in the fight against COVID, businesses grants were paid out swiftly, and accurate data and information regarding the spread of the virus was relayed to the public. Also, every effort was made to maintain essential services including bin collections.

We still have a long way to go in the fight against the virus but the strong relationship and ongoing co-operation between both of our local councils has been key in supporting residents and businesses in Rugby.



Our local councils have been doing the right thing for Rugby

## Local issues across the area

In Long Lawford, the long awaited pick up and drop off for the school area (Holbrook Road garage site) is finally due to start in June 2021.

The contractors have been appointed and some preliminary work will be undertaken in advance of this start date. County Councillor Heather Timms has in the meantime been reporting the parking issues to the police and patrols are being undertaken. The county council has also started Road Safety sessions with primary schools (see page 4), there is also a project in the pipeline to improve the Cross Street/School Street/Round Avenue corner.

Heather is committed to improving

access to open space including putting in contactless pay at county parks and improving footpaths in and between our villages locally, particularly as access to the countryside has become so important this year. The disability access onto the boardwalk on Wolston bridge is being reviewed for improvements.

Flooding was a major issue for Brandon and Wolston last year and work has been done throughout 2020 to clean gullies and improve drainage. Heather is also working with the County Flood Management Team on a longer term scheme to try and divert some of the flood water away from Brandon village.



Heather is keen to improve the access to the countryside

Working for you all year round

Find out more at [rugbyconservatives.co.uk](http://rugbyconservatives.co.uk)  
Group photos used in this leaflet were taken prior to the lockdown

Promoted by Jill Simpson-Vince, on behalf of Rugby Conservative Association, both of Albert Buildings, 2 Castle Mews, Rugby, CV21 2XL & Alexander Hall, on behalf of Philip Seccombe, both of 3 Trinity Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6BL. Printed by ilovedesignandprint.com, 53 Middlesex Road, Southsea, PO4 8EF.



# A message from Mark Pawsey MP

**I want to thank everyone who has helped on the front-line since the start of the pandemic. Our incredible doctors, nurses and NHS staff have ensured that our hospitals and health services have remained open for business despite enormous pressure; our teachers and everyone working in our schools have gone above and beyond to make sure our young people continue to receive an excellent education; and our police officers, fire-fighters, supermarket workers, council staff and everyone in the charitable and voluntary sectors have done so much to support people and businesses through these most difficult of times.**

Tragically many families have lost loved ones to the virus and we have all faced challenges at every level and had to make so many sacrifices. At various times this year families have been unable to see elderly relatives; people have been forced to close their businesses; and children have been unable to attend their schools.

I know that there have been severe consequences in our collective efforts to suppress and control the virus. Many businesses now face an uncertain future and, as a former small business owner myself, I know the pain and suffering that many local businesses have gone through. Although the government has provided an

unprecedented package of support for the business community it is a tragedy that not every job could be saved and that some businesses may find themselves unable to re-open their doors. I would encourage anyone facing an uncertain future to explore all avenues of personal and financial support that is available. If you personally are struggling to secure the help you need I would ask that you please contact me directly. I am here to help in any way I can.

We must look to 2021 as a year to recover and rebuild. The Government intends to pursue a policy of investment in both infrastructure and skills with the intention of fostering economic growth. This will build upon the 'levelling-up' strategy outlined within this year's Budget and the Finance Act. The Prime Minister has also been clear that there will not be a 'return to austerity' reminiscent of the economic response to the 2008 Financial Crisis.

The challenges ahead remain significant, but I know that local residents here in Rugby & Bulkington have the resolve and resilience to overcome whatever is thrown in our path. Whether you have supported a vulnerable neighbour, helped out in your local community or simply done the right thing to help control the spread of this disease, you have played an enormous part in helping us get through this difficult period in our history.



## How to contact MARK PAWSEY MP

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## Rugby Town Centre

**When Councillor Seb Lowe became the Leader of Rugby Borough Council in May 2019, he pledged to make the town centre a place where people wanted to spend time, that looked great and was busy.**

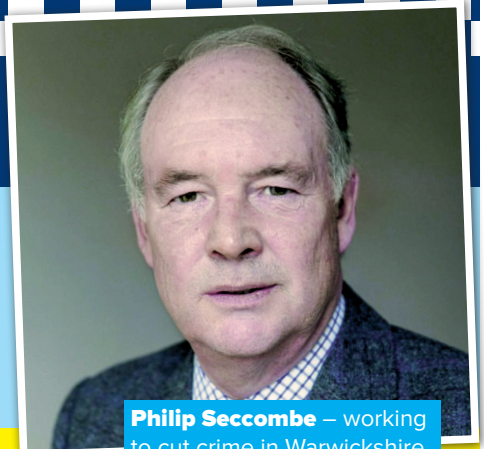
To help make this happen work on the town centre spatial strategy is now underway. Consultations are taking place in December and January with various stakeholders and members of the public and retail consultants Avison Young have been tasked to help shape the council's bold vision for the town centre.

Once the new strategy is in place it will provide a roadmap for the future of the town centre and allow the council to bid for regeneration funding. Everything will be looked at from architecture to road layout.

As Rugby Borough Council does not own the buildings in the town centre it must work closely with its partners, landlords and shop owners. This is an exciting journey for the town centre and will provide a blueprint for how it will evolve over the next few years.



## Philip Seccombe – Your local Police & Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire



Philip Seccombe – working to cut crime in Warwickshire.

**Police & Crime Commissioners have big powers:**

- ✓ Managing a multi-million pound police budget
- ✓ Setting local policing priorities
- ✓ Holding the police to account

### So it matters who's in charge

**Philip Seccombe – Your local Police & Crime Commissioner is working to cut crime by:**

- ✓ **Putting more police on our streets** – with a 25% increase in officers since 2018. And more officers, PCSOs and Special Constables to come.
- ✓ **Supporting victims of crimes** – such as burglary, violence, domestic abuse, road collisions, fraud and cyber crime. Helping them overcome any trauma.
- ✓ **Protecting our communities and businesses** – in the Towns, rural areas and on our roads. By working with neighbouring forces and local partners.

**With the extra police that we're working with Government to recruit.**

## More Police. Cutting Crime. Making Communities Safer.

# A stronger & more effective Police Force to fight crime in Rugby

**There are now 1040 police officers in Warwickshire which is a substantial increase from the 800 two years ago. There are now more officers in the 999 Response team and the Safer Neighbourhood Teams in Rugby. New teams have also been created to tackle Rural Crime and Vehicle Crime.**

Following the outbreak of Covid 19 the Force have worked with the public in a proportionate way but have issued fines when necessary. Philip has also given extra funds to support victims'

organisations who help sufferers of abuse and those who have lost loved ones as result of road collisions.

Philip says: "If re-elected in May I will continue to support the fight against crime in all its forms and give the Force the tools and funds to do so. In addition, I will not forget my pledge to listen to residents, communities and businesses and address their concerns, so that together, we can all be, and feel, safer in Warwickshire".



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