

THE BEAT



With the speed of change in mind we have given my newsletter a bit of a makeover to ensure you get the latest updates in shorter timescales. If you need more information on any item then please either get in touch with my office or have a look on the website.

Paddy Tipping

Nottinghamshire Police and Crime
Commissioner

Police Pay boost raises questions on funding



I was pleased to see police officers receiving a salary boost this year - albeit small - with a 1% one-off bonus for 2017-18 in addition to the 1% annual increase.

However, after years of effective pay cuts I believe that officers want to see an increase in their base pay, not just a one-off bonus. I hope that there will be some clarity on public sector pay in the near future. But the big question is: at a time when our budgets have already been cut by around 25% and despite inflation now topping 2.9%, how do we pay for this well-earned rise?

Police forces are being asked to fund this pay rise from existing resources. Nationally, the bill comes to £70 million - that means £70 million of cuts elsewhere in the Police. Here in Nottinghamshire the extra cost this year is £600,000 and next year the unfunded rise goes up to £1.2m.

In Nottinghamshire, we have worked incredibly hard to find the means to recruit 200 additional officers in 2017/18 and I don't want to see that put at risk. Yet the expectation that we can find this unbudgeted amount of money, on top of the current flat cash settlement, means that there will difficult and painful decisions for next year's budget.

We are repeatedly told that the police budget is 'protected' with the flat cash settlement. Now, the UK Statistics Authority has confirmed what we always knew to be the case, government statements about police force funding are misleading. A flat cash settlement means real term cuts. Since 2015 police force budgets across England and Wales have reduced progressively by £200m each year.

I'm continuing to press the government for fair pay for police officers and more importantly for fair funding for the police service. We will see if they have listened later this year.

Off-road motorbikes

Reports of anti-social and illegal use of off-road motorbikes and quad bikes in the Ashfield district have reduced by more than 50% since the launch of an ongoing Police operation.

Operation Incalculability has been using a mix of education and enforcement to tackle this issue, commonly identified by local communities as their 'number one priority' - and my postbag bears this out.

These bikes are not just a noisy nuisance, they can also pose a very real threat of danger to any member of the public in the vicinity and indeed the riders themselves.

The operation sends a clear message that this type of behaviour will not be overlooked. I hope that members of the public will support the police by giving them timely information about off-road bike usage. It really makes a difference.

People who persist in behaving in this way should be aware that bikes seized by the police can be taken away and crushed - as the picture shows opposite!



Pictured from left to right are Sgts Paul Cash and Mike Taylor, of the Newark Neighbourhood Policing Team, and Newark and Sherwood District Council anti-social behaviour officer Terry Bailey.

CRIME LEVELS IN THE COUNTY

Nationally and locally there have been many articles covering an increase in crime levels. Well, certainly cyber-crime and on-line fraud is on the up, the nature of crime is more serious and complex and terrorism is a real and immediate threat.

However, while in Nottinghamshire the actual number of incidents has not risen significantly, the way in which crimes are recorded has changed dramatically. That's why the number of recorded crimes went up this year and is expected to do so again next year, both in Nottinghamshire and nationally.

I think we need to look at the number of victims to gauge performance, not how many crimes have been recorded, because then it becomes clear that the increases are largely administrative. These ongoing changes to recorded crime statistics make year on year comparisons practically impossible which is both unhelpful and very confusing to the public.

Help at hand to keep people safe from Cyber Crime

Cybercrime is one of the biggest challenges in modern policing and we need to do whatever we can to help people and businesses keep themselves safe on-line. I was therefore very pleased to see that Nottinghamshire Police has appointed a brand new Cyber Protect Officer, with another on the way, to help keep people safe from online fraud.

The aim is to safeguard vulnerable victims, provide advice in relation to protecting and preventing people from cyber fraud and helping communities in Nottinghamshire avoid becoming victims of such crimes.

STOP & SEARCH FILM gets great reviews

A unique film, made by members of my Youth Commission and Nottinghamshire Police, was premiered in September to universal acclaim.

The film explains the rights of young people who are stopped and searched by the police and will be screened at schools, colleges, community groups and on social media. To date, it is the only film we've come across that looks at these complex issues from both the young people's and the police perspective.

It's important that we police by consent and the film addresses some of the confusion around Stop and Search, giving young people the knowledge they need to protect their rights. However, importantly, it also provides greater awareness of the issues faced by, and responsibilities of, police officers in their use of Stop and Search making for greater understanding all round.

There is no doubt that Stop and Search helps in the fight against crime, but it must be used proportionately, and people treated with dignity and respect. We are the third lowest user of any force in the country to use stop and search and our success rate is very high.

Thankfully, gone are the days when if you were a black person you were 16 times more likely to be searched than a white person.



I was proud to be asked to join the Nottinghamshire Police Dragon Boat team earlier this year - and this was no figurehead arrangement. You may have seen us honing our skills on the Trent and I can promise you, it's hard work!

The 19-strong team initially got together for the Corporate Games in July winning two bronze medals. We then went to the World Corporate Cup of Dragon Boat Racing with ten teams from across the country competing for the title at Trentham Lake in Stoke-on-Trent.

It was a great day, made even better when we came home with the Trophy. I'm not sure whether we will be able to go to the World Games in Houston later in the year, despite qualifying, but it's been a treat to be part of this dedicated and talented team.



KEEP **ON** TALKING

I'm delighted that so many people contact me, with problems, compliments and comments. This is particularly important as I need to be able to listen to your views and learn from them and also know that you can keep up to date with what my team and I are doing.

Whatever I do, I am answerable to you, the electorate. You can contact me at any time to ask questions or put your views across.

You can visit:
www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk

You can follow:
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