



Welcome to the May edition of my monthly newsletter in which I highlight some of the work taking place to enhance our response to crime in Cambridgeshire and increase community safety. There is a distinct rural theme in this month's newsletter. As a force operating across a predominantly rural county, rural crime continues to be a primary area of focus and this month we have progressed work to improve our understanding of the criminal risks facing rural areas as well as enhance our response to such threats.

As the following developments show, local people can play a hugely important role in keeping criminality at bay whether as volunteers or vigilant members of the community. Intelligence fed to our police teams via the general public is critical to our ability to detect crime and I would like to thank the residents of Cambridgeshire for their ongoing support in keeping our communities crime-free.



We are continuing to monitor the various reports and statistics to ensure that Cambridgeshire and Peterborough remain safe. The recent publication by the Office of National Statistics of crime figures for the year ending December 2014 showed an increase in recorded crime, particularly in relation to violence and sexual offences. The Crime Survey for England and Wales however found that levels of crime are decreasing. Historically many people have chosen not to report crime and methods of recording were inconsistent. As people become more confident in reporting crime and recording processes have been tightened up, recorded crime has risen. There is little evidence of actual offending increasing but we are not complacent. Cambridgeshire is still a safe county and it is important that we all work together to maintain this.

Sir Graham Bright
Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner

Launch of Volunteer Police Cadet Scheme, Soham

Following a successful pilot last year, a second Volunteer Police Cadet Unit has launched at Soham Village College to encourage young people to take an active role in the safety of their community.

The new unit follows the successful introduction of the first Volunteer Police Cadet Unit at the Thomas Deacon Academy in Peterborough last year - 28 young people have joined the scheme in Soham and are looking forward to making a difference to where they live.

The Volunteer Police Cadet Scheme was developed by Police and Crime Commissioner Sir Graham Bright to inspire young people to participate positively in their community whilst promoting a practical understanding of policing. It encourages the spirit of adventure whilst giving young people the opportunity to support local policing priorities through volunteering.

Once the Volunteer Police Cadets have completed their training, they will spend at least three hours every month assisting their local communities and helping with crime prevention measures.

Sir Graham has made it clear how valuable young people can be in keeping people safe and is excited to see the scheme expand so soon.



[Find out more here](#)

Community Navigator Scheme

Elderly people are among the most vulnerable members of society and often experience a higher fear of crime. In recognition of this, Sir Graham has lent his support to the Community Navigator Scheme – an initiative which sees volunteers helping older people find their way to activities or services that they might enjoy or find useful.

Cambridgeshire's team of volunteer Community Navigators help improve the health, wellbeing, confidence and independence of older people by providing information about relevant services. One of their primary tasks is to help elderly people overcome the barriers to using these activities and work with activity providers when a gap in provision is identified. Community Navigators will also seek out isolated people to ensure they are aware of the support network available to them.

If you are interested in helping with the project or would like to contact a Community Navigator, call Care Network on 01954 212100 or email: community.navigators@care-network.org.uk.

Find out more here

New Devices to Tackle Alcohol-Related Crime

A new approach to combatting binge drinking using breathalyser kits is being trialled in Cambridge.

The Commissioner is funding 20 devices which are being distributed to various venues across the city to help security staff deny entry to anyone who appears heavily intoxicated. Security staff in pubs and nightclubs are often the target of drunken aggressive behaviour and it is hoped the new tools will reduce incidents and keep revellers safe.



Trials in other parts of the country using breathalysers have shown promising results, with incidents of disorder down by around a third. The devices are so accurate they are able to pick up whether soft drinks being carried into venues actually contain alcohol.

This initiative is not about stopping people having a good time. It is merely a tool to help venue staff manage those who appear to be excessively drunk.

Among those to trial the testing kits is Cambridge United Football Club who used the devices at the last match of the season (May 2). They are the first football club in England to use the devices and generated considerable national media interest.

Find out more here

National Rural Crime Network

Rural communities and businesses face different public safety challenges than their urban counterparts. One of the primary goals of modern policing is to understand these complex risks and threats so that they can be better addressed.

In recognition of this, the Constabulary and the Commissioner have signed up to the National Rural Crime Network – a multi-agency think tank which champions a better understanding of rural crime and delivers effective ways to keep rural communities safer.

The network, which will undertake extensive research into rural crime and anti-social behaviour and will publish information for community safety providers on its website, was established in July 2014. It is currently supported by 29 Police and Crime Commissioners and police forces across England and Wales in addition to a host of other bodies with an interest in community safety and rural affairs.



The network will also facilitate the sharing of best practice across multiple forces to increase resilience against rural crime and highlight the emergence of national trends. It adds to the excellent work already undertaken in the county by the likes of Countryside Watch and the National Farmers Union.

Find out more here

New Police Contact Point Opens

Visitors to the Morrisons store in Cambourne will have the opportunity to have face-to-face contact with a police officer - while they shop - in a new scheme to make local police more accessible.

The new Police Contact Point was officially unveiled on Wednesday (May 13) by Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner Sir Graham Bright. Staffed by Sir Graham's Outreach Worker and local police, members of the public will be able to chat to local officers about issues of safety and crime prevention advice.

Local people value being able to talk one-to-one with a police officer but find visiting a police station is not always convenient. The new Police Contact Points are located in areas frequented by the public to make it easier for people to air their views or seek advice.



Inspector Jon Hiron, Safer Neighbourhood Manager, said: "We know that people want to see officers out in their communities as much as possible and having a regular Contact Point at such a busy location allows more people to drop by and talk to their local policing team."

[Find out more here](#)

Report It, Stop It Campaign

Safeguarding vulnerable people is a key priority in Cambridgeshire. Although vulnerable people are more likely to become a victim of crime or abuse, they are often less likely to report the incident. In recognition of this, Cambridgeshire Constabulary has launched a month-long awareness campaign to encourage people to report concerns about vulnerable adults.

Members of the public, who have concerns about relatives, neighbours or someone they know, are being urged to "Report it, stop it". The campaign is the latest strand of the Constabulary's Get Closer campaign which aims to communicate with the public about key issues in a targeted and creative way.

[Find out more here](#)

Countryside Watch

Empowering local people to help fight crime is something every police force wants to achieve. The public are the biggest asset to police both in solving crime and gaining intelligence – particularly in isolated rural areas where officers have large geographical areas to cover.

The Commissioner is appealing for more rural residents and business owners to sign up to Cambridgeshire Countryside Watch (CCW) – an organisation which works with local police to provide reassurance, detect criminality and offer safety and crime prevention advice.



CCW has been in existence since 1993 and has the technology to deliver targeted text messages and email warnings to its 850 members in the county within minutes of being notified of an incident or suspicious activity by the police. The scheme has been credited with helping to drive down crime and reduce the fear of crime among rural residents.

CCW makes an invaluable contribution to rural crime and policing efforts in the county. If you would like to become a member of CCW please visit:

www.cambscountrysidewatch.co.uk

[Find out more here](#)

Resilience Courses

Mental health charity Mind has launched a series of free resilience courses specifically targeted for staff and volunteers in the emergency services.

The courses, which are being held in Peterborough, will be run over a period of six-weeks and will provide advice and information on how to cope with the stresses and strains of life and the unique pressures of the job. One in four people develop a mental health problem every year and research shows emergency services workers are most at risk.

[Sign up here](#)

Useful Links:

Cambridgeshire Police

www.cambs.police.uk

**Cambridgeshire
Neighbourhood Watch**

www.cambsnhw.org.uk

**Peterborough
Neighbourhood Watch**

www.peterboroughnhw.co.uk

Police UK

www.police.uk

**Cambridgeshire
Countryside
Watch**

www.cambscountrysidewatch.co.uk

**e-cops Cambridgeshire
Constabulary**

www.ecops.org.uk

Crimestoppers UK

www.crimestoppers-uk.org

**Government Services
Website**

www.gov.uk

**National Fraud and Cyber
Crime Reporting Centre**

www.cambs.police.uk

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Surgeries / Contact Points

Details about local surgeries, Police Contact Points and other events where Sir Graham Bright or his representatives will be present are regularly updated and listed on the Cambridgeshire PCC website. Click the link below for details:

[Find out more here](#)

Speed Campaign to Help Save Lives

Speeding motorists are the target of a month-long enforcement campaign throughout May. Speeding remains one of the biggest contributing factors in fatal collisions. The THINK! campaign sees targeted patrols carried out by the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire Road Policing Unit to enforce anyone caught flouting the law.

[Find out more here](#)

New Instagram Account

Cambridgeshire Constabulary has recently launched an Instagram account providing members of the public with access to photos and videos of the work being undertaken to make their communities safer.

Instagram is an online social networking service which enables users to take photos and videos and share them across a range of social networking platforms. Cambridgeshire police's new account can be accessed via: <https://instagram.com/safeincambs>

MAKING CONTACT:

I know that it is important that you can keep up to date with what my Deputy, my team and I are doing. I am here to represent the public ensuring the voice of the people is heard and that the police are accountable to the public.

I pledged to be the voice of the people. You can contact me at any time to ask questions or put your views across.

You can visit:
www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk

You can follow me:



You can write to me at:
Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Commissioner
PO Box 688, Huntingdon, PE29 9LA.

Email me at:
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