



Minutes of the Police Meeting held on Thursday, 18 July 2019 at The Beeches, Birch Court, Tuxford, commencing 7.00pm

Tuxford Town Council hosted the meeting with Chairman Cupit-Atkin introducing herself to the attending members of the public, introducing Mr P Tipping (Police and Crime Commissioner), Inspector Neil Bellamy and PC James Martin.

The notes and minutes were recorded by Clare Fox (Tuxford Town Council Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)

Mr P Tipping addressed the audience to state that nationally all public bodies are having a tough time with a 25% reduction in resources, equating to £2.3 billion. 70% of money given to the police isn't from Council Tax but from Government Grants, where there has been a £54 million cut.

Numbers are at an all-time low, in 2010 22,000 police were lost, but in Nottinghamshire figures are picking up. £24 of your council tax goes to Nottinghamshire Police and this year they are looking to recruit 200 extra police officers and they also recruit officers faster than any other authority. There are currently 2,024 police officers, and the public will see an increase in neighbourhood officers.

Knife crime is up in Nottinghamshire, but they are seeing that the statistics are going down due to a dedicated knife crime team. They have also set up a street robbery team.

Nationally they have noted an increase in recorded crimes but this is partially due to the way in which crime is now being reported. Lancashire are recording an increase of 40% in crime, but they know this is not statistically correct but shows an increase due to the change in the way crime is reported. Nottinghamshire has seen a marginal increase of less than 1%.

Nottinghamshire Police are also seeing the nature of crime changing:

- Terrorism

Armed police officers are deployed to tackle this crime, whilst Nottinghamshire has seen a slight uplift, the most has been in the larger areas, like London, Birmingham and Manchester.

- Online Crime

Statistically there is a 4:1 ratio from online abuse. Locating the culprit is difficult due to the nature of cyberspace.

- Serious Sexual Offences

Gone up in Nottinghamshire by 14%.

These three areas of crime take up a lot of police resources.

999 reported crime has gone down and is remaining steady.

Inspector Neil Bellamy then addressed the audience.

Insp Bellamy gave an update on policing in Bassetlaw, stating that he currently has 90+ police officers, responders, beat team, 3 op's teams and special constables/volunteers, together with a local CID and burglary team based in Worksop.

The team work on a graded response

Grade 1	Response RURAL	10 minutes
	Response URBAN	15 minutes
Grade 2	Response	1 hour
Grade 3	Response	Incident Team

Crime within Bassetlaw in general has seen a 3% reduction, 19% less crimes. Tuxford (Bassetlaw Rural) has seen a 4.9% reduction in crime and violence against person and public order offences. There has been a 17% reduction in burglaries, with a 48% reduction from business burglaries.

Resources have increased on the response side due to recruitment, beat numbers are increasing. Worksop are below strength, whereas East Bassetlaw are at strength.

Neighbourhood policing is in the same position as last year.

PC Mitchell is currently away on a fireman training course, with PC Martin covering but Insp Bellamy explained that he can't technically replace PC Mitchell until he decides to transfer over to the fireman section, if and when he passes his training. He also explained that he is 2 PCSO's down, 1 due to maternity leave and not recruiting.

He assured the audience that there will be an increase in neighbourhood policing, but that he hasn't been told what it will be and when it will be. One possibility being considered is turning PCSO's numbers to actual police officers.

Cllr M Phillips wanted to clarify that the current PCSO on maternity leave is the PCSO that covers Tuxford, so not only is Tuxford without PC Mitchell, they also no longer have a PCSO.

Insp Bellamy stated that he has to juggle resources. Mr P Tipping advised the audience that everyone will benefit in the future.

Rampton Parish Council put to the police representatives that they hadn't seen a police officer for 2 years. They felt that the villages get overlooked and that the residents 'police' their own areas and due to never seeing any police presence the residents are very despondent.

Mr P Tipping responded to say that response cars are under a lot of pressure, but he is keen to improve the presence in the villages with a number of police officers in each area but that police presence is determined by population, number of houses and reported crimes and reminded the audience the importance of reporting crimes.

PC Martin added that as well of neighbourhood policing there are other teams and they actively patrol, with some being night operations (for poaching etc). Mr P Tipping added that the strength of the neighbourhood team is reporting crimes and wanted to reassure the audience that when the police are needed they'll come and it won't just be pc's that come.

Anthony (*****) Rampton Ward put to the panel that some units in Nottinghamshire are getting better resources and that rural policing is being neglected. Adding that the way policing is now is massively different to 2001 and felt that community threads have broken down. (*the audience applauded*)

Mr P Tipping agreed that they were good points and due to being a politician he has been involved in spending, which is allocated in cycles (called Spending Review). He assured everyone that East Bassetlaw will see more funding next year and that Nottinghamshire Police will see an increase in their crime fighting budget. Nottinghamshire Police are already policing Poaching, have night vision technology, dedicated 4 x 4 vehicle, quad bike for the rural areas.

They have to allocate resources where most crimes occur, consequence is areas with relatively low levels of crime suffer.

Rampton Ward asked for Nottinghamshire Police to communicate with the community what they doing for the communities. PC Martin assured him that they have a facebook page and Insp Bellamy reminded the audience that he sends monthly police updates via email. Rampton asked for one to be more localised than the current one. Insp Bellamy advised that if they did this for the 30 parishes under his remit then that would be taking resources away from actual policing.

Cllr Moorhouse (Tuxford Town Council) asked for the '101' system to be looked at, having heard that someone recently sat and waited 20 minutes on the telephone to be connected to an operator, she also stated that reporting crime online was also an issue.

Mr P Tipping explained that a lot of work had been done on the '101' system, that it will be recommissioned in the next couple of months, where there will be extra resources in operators and the call will be free. He added that the project had been over budgeted to deal with the issue, including a new control room and system and that by spring/summer 2020 there will be a new online crime reporting system too.

Chairman of East Drayton Parish Council put to the policing panel that the residents of his parish felt neglected and they too could not remember the last time they saw a

police officer in their village. He added that the previous local police officer, Bill Bailey, use to regularly visit and give updates.

Mr P Tipping informed the audience the reason for the meeting tonight is to keep them informed, to listen to our views.

East Markham Parish Council stated that their village have crimes of theft, vehicle crime, drugs and he would like to know what their village can do to reduce crime.

Insp Bellamy answered by telling the audience that they can help their own village's by educating the residents and continuing to report crimes but added that the parish Council could look to install CCTV, but to initially contact the District Council to enquire about this. Private CCTV installed on a resident's property are there to protect the individual house and should not be used to protect others.

Insp Bellamy added that if any parishes had anything in particular to report then to speak with him after the meeting and he would take this information away and investigate it.

County Councillor J Ogle addressed the panel and asked for Nottinghamshire Police to devote some time to bi-focal targeted policing.

South Leverton Parish Council asked for scheduled visits for policing updates. Adding that they don't even include the item on their agenda anymore, as they receive no update.

Mr P Tipping replied stating there are over 40 parish councils and he makes a commitment twice a year to attend meetings like these and in the meantime parish councils should be receiving a bulletin update.

One Tuxford resident put to the panel that Tuxford have an issue with speeding vehicles along Eldon Street/Burleigh Court and would like to see a speed camera installed.

Mr P Tipping stated that it was a case for Nottinghamshire County Council but agreed that it was a sensible suggestion and he would personally speak with Nottinghamshire County Council on our behalf. It was also suggested that the villages do 'Speed Watches'.

Cllr Cupit-Atkin (Tuxford Town Council) stated that Tuxford chose not to participate in the speed watch programme due to their own personal safety. PC Martin advised that a lot of parishes alternate between each other for this very reason. As an example, residents of Tuxford would conduct a speed watch in East Markham and vice versa. Darlton Parish Council informed the audience that they came out of the programme as they use to send the data to Nottinghamshire County Council and there was never any outcome from it.

Insp Bellamy advised that they don't advocate residents patrolling streets, but did recommend Neighbourhood Watch groups.

Bothamsall Parish Council informed the audience that they operated a Neighbourhood Watch but get nothing from Nottinghamshire Police nor the

Neighbourhood Watch. Mr P Tipping advised that he had attended the Neighbourhood Watch conference earlier in the month and that it has been recognised that they need to improve and asked for people to leave their details with him at the end of the meeting and he would follow it up.

District Council Councillor K Isard asked whether it was possible to have speed cameras that have a photo system in them to enforce financial penalty, when conducting speed watch sessions. Cllr Frost (Tuxford Town Council) advised the audience that Tuxford did participate in 'Speed Watch' for 4 years and found that it was successful.

Mr P Tipping said he would look into this suggestion.

ITEM ON AGENDA

Councillor representing Dunham-on-Trent with Ragnall, Darlton and Fledborough Parish Council saw the item on the agenda regarding Cable Thefts but she informed the audience that she had not been fed the information and knew of no details of what it referred to (this was an email received from the Parish Clerk on 7 June 2019 to Tuxford Town Councils clerk) regarding the cable theft from Laneham Road where some residents were left without power and heating for a substantial period of time).

PC Martin referred to his crime report and stated that there had been no reported cable theft crimes in the area (please see the enclosed email from PC Martin regarding crime statistics for your reference).

Councillor Cupit-Aitken (Tuxford Town Council) put to the panel that Tuxford have reported crimes, been given crime numbers but then no officers come out and there is no update from the police.

Insp Bellamy advised that there is a method of operating:

- Telephone call received to the Investigation Bureau.
- If there is no investigation opportunity a crime number is given, then the case is closed.
- If there is an investigation opportunity available, they will pursue it.

He added that they no longer attend every incident, they don't have the resources to do it any longer.

Gamston Parish Council felt that it is not what he perceives police officers to be, that they should respond to any member of the public that needs their help.

Mr P Tipping agreed to this point but stated that 40% of calls police officers respond, whereas in the West Midlands the response is only 24% and that the amount of money the police receive has been reduced.

It was put to Mr P Tipping that he has been saying the same thing since March 2017, where the same speech was given and yet two years later still nothing has changed.

Mr P Tipping reminded the audience that there has been an additional 200 police officers (10% increase) but there is still limited resources. He also added that Insp Bellamy had been straight with everyone and that it's the control room that make the decision on where there is sufficient evidence to investigate a crime and pursue it. The operatives are trained and highly skilled in what they do.

Allocating resources is solely down to the Chief Constable. If a serious incident were to occur, Police Officers across the county would attend but added that building strong communities is everyone's responsibility.

Cllr K Phillips (Tuxford Town Council) informed the audience that there was a recent hit and run incident in Tuxford and it took over 82 hours for the police to attend and then it was questioned whether they only attended after the press were informed and in attendance.

PC Martin agreed and accepted that it appeared that the incident was not reported correctly.

Mr P Tipping said that Nottinghamshire Police had been through a lot of change and through a difficult time but it has been rated good and improving and as they employ more recruits the moral within the police will improve. He added that wherever you are within East Bassetlaw and Nottinghamshire everyone deserves the same support. He said that he has fought hard to put extra money/resources into rural East Bassetlaw, they have an excellent Chief Constable in Nottinghamshire and as a result things are getting done.

Councillor Moorhouse (Tuxford Town Council) asked why PC Mitchell was not being replaced if he was to be moving to the firearms department and why the community have to wait until he leaves before a replacement is sought.

Insp Bellamy informed everyone that there will be no gap in policing and that PC Mitchell would be returning to work after completing his training in the following few days.

Councillor Frost (Tuxford Town Council) asked whether Nottinghamshire Police still had 'Special Police'.

Insp Bellamy advised Nottinghamshire Police seek volunteers, called 'Citizens In Police' for areas like 'victims of crime'. They advertise on their website, local papers, social media and if anyone were to contact him, he would reply as he can only do so much to reach out to the parishes.

Someone put to the council that the level of policing is diminishing.

Mr P Tipping informed everyone that the cost of his office compared to others is one of the lowest in the country.

There is currently:

1 Chief Constable

1 Deputy Chief Constable

2 Assistant Chief Constables (previously 4)

4 Chief Inspectors (previously 14)

Adding that it would be ideal to reduce the higher ranks and increase the grass roots police officers. Of the 200 extra police officers, these are in addition to the police officers that have retired or resigned.

County Council J Ogle stood to thank Nottinghamshire Police for attending and said he hoped that they can deliver a better service moving forward. He also thanked Chairman Cupit-Atkin on behalf of Tuxford Town Council for hosting the meeting.

Mr P Tipping thanked everyone for inviting him and said it was good to receive feedback from the public and reminded everyone to contact him with anything, as he's always happy to hear what's going on.

Chairman Cupit-Atkin (Tuxford Town Council) thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting closed at 9.20pm