

From Colin Trudgeon (via email)
Community Advocate to OPPC
Bishopsclyst Parish Council

I represent part at least of East Devon as a Community Advocate to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. I am not sure if you have an Advocate in your council so have forwarded this for information and consideration of circulation to your councillors. I will forward a copy of the Annual Report mentioned in due course.

Notes of the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner seminar I attended at Greatmoor House, Sowton on 3rd September.

The Road Policing section took some time, especially when discussing Community Speedwatch. A number of Advocates related difficulties in getting it set up in their areas, especially delays in getting sites approved and with longstanding sites being decommissioned for safety reasons. I asked Supt. Leisk if they were able to give a presentation to local councillors if we were able to get a group together, he advised that may be possible. There is a link to the current scheme in the notes below.

Operation Snap relates to the reporting of inconsiderate driving and other traffic offences by people submitting screencam shots taken via in car video. It is not for submitting video relating to RTCs. Proving very popular and successful. One outcome is that Supt Leisk strongly recommends that everyone fits a screencam, as a form of defence as much as any other reason. It is run by a team of 8 dedicated officers based at Bodmin who assess the videos from across the force and decide on prosecutions, then undertake the presentations in court. This gives consistency and expertise.

Devon and Cornwall have submitted a bid for #750,000 in order to double the size of road policing in the area. It awaits the outcome. A further #500.00 has been bid for together with the RAC in order to investigate the cause of road traffic collisions, outcome again awaited. Overall there are 13,000 miles of roads to police in our area and in the last year there were 68 fatalities. In total there were approx. 870 fatal/serious injuries. 68% of the drivers involved were local.

Crimestoppers is a well known facility for anonymous information to be reported. Originally a phone in system, it is now supplemented by an online facility which is very popular. They delete any online trail from their end and if the informant does the same at that end the anonymity is maintained. The Fearless campaign mentioned is targeted at young people who are very often extremely nervous about contact with authority and the concept of passing in information, its aim is to reduce crime by young people and on young people. In addition to their normal function there is a system called 'Most Wanted' on their website, which is those criminals which are most urgently sought. It has been going since 2005 and to date approx. 4,200 people have been arrested.

I raised our lack of local police contact with the Commissioner before the seminar and in consequence it followed through into the meeting. She is concerned about the number of Advocates reporting similar difficulties. All local police commanders have been briefed as to the importance of communication with local councils so it is of concern to her. People fulfilling my function should be contacted by the local commander, should be regularly updated and have a quarterly meeting with them. Unfortunately this seems to be very patchy and in my case non-existent. Patrick Phelvin has been tasked to look into this and to reinforce the message to those involved. We shall see. On the back of this the Commissioner has promised to bring the Chief Constable to the next seminar to address issues such as these...we live in hopes

There is a survey about policing priorities currently running. If you wish to take part there is a link in the notes below.

The Commissioner gave an overview of the extra policing promised by the Prime Minister. The initial calculations indicate that Devon and Cornwall should benefit by 450 sworn officer + 150 staff...not know if staff includes PCSOs. Across the country Commissioners are attempting to prevent the 20,000 promised from being top sliced for national and regional squads, the wish the increase to go directly to the front line to address cuts. Our Commissioner is also attempting to increase the allocation to Devon and Cornwall. She is also involved in a bid for extra money to address the summer pressures in Devon and Cornwall which are unique in the country. Vastly more number visit our area in the summer than anywhere else in the country with all the attendant pressures. Watch this space.

For the next seminar in December I have asked that Gypsies and Travellers be on the Agenda, in order to better understand police action and their liason process with local authorities.

I have attached a copy of the foreword to the Commissioner's Annual Report for information. A copy of the report is held by the Clerk.

Regards,

Colin Trudgeon
Community Advocate to OPPC
Bishopsclyst Parish Council

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Councillor Advocate Seminar Wrap-Up

Date: Wed, 4 Sep 2019 12:18:46 +0000

From: Councillor Advocate OPCC <councilloradvocateopcc@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk>

Councillor advocate seminar wrap-up

Dear councillor advocate

Thanks to those who attended yesterday's seminar. I hope you found it useful – judging from the lively Q&A sessions and the positive feedback we have had I am sure that you did.

Below I have recapped the issue of local police team connectivity and recapped the talks for those who could not make it.

Yesterday's presentations

Kate Romo, Regional Manager, Crimestoppers Devon and Cornwall

Crimestoppers is a charity that provides invaluable information to the police through a system that allows people to provide information about suspected criminal activity anonymously.

Kate has been in post for nine months and is the regional liaison for the charity. She works closely with Devon & Cornwall Police, in particular its prevention department.

Kate described the different reasons why people might want to pass information via Crimestoppers rather than directly to police and updated us on the Fearless campaign it is running to reduce crime among young people.

Locally Crimestoppers is asking for ambassadors to volunteer in their communities, so if you would like to take them up on this offer please email her at Kate.Romo@crimestoppers-uk.org.

More information on the Fearless campaign is available [here](#).

Superintendent Adrian Leisk, head of roads policing, and Richard Kent-Woolsey, force ticketing manager

Supt Leisk described a number of policing initiatives which are making people safer in Devon and Cornwall. These were as follows:

No Excuse team – The policing team Supt Leisk established with help from our office continues to do excellent work in educating drivers and taking dangerous drivers and vehicles off the roads. In July alone officers in this team issued 192 traffic reports, made 13 arrests, took eight positive drugs wipes, four positive breath tests and seized 63 vehicles. Those of you on Twitter might like to follow their account at @DC_NoExcuse.

Community Speedwatch – Councillors expressed their frustration at the delay in getting new Community Speedwatch schemes up and running and Supt Leisk explained how his team had been clearing a backlog of sites so new ones could be assessed. There is overwhelming evidence that the 350 volunteers taking part in this scheme have a positive effect in reducing speeding so the police are very keen on getting more sites up and running. More information on this scheme can be found [here](#).

Operation Snap - Operation Snap is the web portal which allows people to simply upload video evidence of motoring offences. Our office secured funding for the system to be rolled out across 12 forces in England and Wales, with D&C being one of them. Since it launched just a few weeks ago many dozens of video files have been submitted by cyclists and drivers and councillors were treated to a few shocking examples of driving which were among the 50% which resulted in Notice of Intended Prosecutions being sent to the offenders. Councillors were impressed with the scheme and its ability to improve driver behaviour across the force area.

Connecting with your local policing teams

Much work has been done by the force in recent months to deliver on the Police and Crime Plan's connectivity agenda. You should find your local neighbourhood plans and teams are up to date updated and easily accessible via the [force website](#) or Police.uk and Inspectors have contact details for their councillor advocates.

However, judging from feedback we have received from you in the past few weeks and at yesterday's seminar many of you are still not feeling connected to your local policing teams and regular meetings with Inspectors are not happening as frequently as they should.

This will be fed back to the force along with updated contact details for those who have recently joined the scheme so you should be hearing from your local inspectors soon.

Our office would very much like to hear of any positive relationships that have been built with local policing teams or problems solved through joint working so that we can impress upon the force the value of connectivity with members of local authorities.

Summer Survey

The summer survey on policing priorities remains one of the most popular that we have run in terms of numbers participating. If you have yet to complete it please click [here](#) and feel free to share. We'll be at Totnes Pride and the Kingsbridge Show this Saturday if you'd like to meet members of our engagement team and complete the survey in person. Results will be shared at the end of start of next month.

Next seminar

We try to organise the seminars in line with your needs so if you have a subject you'd like discussed please let me know and we will aim to provide speakers to suit.

I will update you with dates and locations for the next seminars as soon as we have confirmed speakers. There was appetite for a seminar on the police in relation to gypsy and travellers and the demand for an update from the rural crime team remains so I will work on that basis.

I have a long list of actions following yesterday's seminars but if there is anything we can do for you in the meantime please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Regards

Patrick Phelvin
Communications and engagement manager
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

email: patrick.phelvin@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

Ext: 01392 225552

Mob: 07595 011058

Int: 302552

Twitter: [@DC_PCC](#)

[OPCC website](#)

