

Cuckoo Oak and Ironbridge Newsletter - 12 November 2018

Community Messages

16/11/18 - Focus on Public Spending in Live Event

As the Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion, begins to set the budget for the next financial year, members of the public are invited to take part in a live event, with the opportunity to ask questions around how their money is spent.

The Commissioner, holds regular meetings with the Chief Constable Anthony Bangham, focusing on key priorities raised by communities. December's meeting will focus on budget and will be broadcast live via Facebook. The public are invited to ask questions around how they would like to see resources prioritised.

Questions on this topic, can be submitted in advance via a Facebook comment or private message, or via email to getinvolved@westmercia.pnn.police.uk. Questions are also invited via a comment during the livestream.

The meeting will be streamed live on the [@WestMerciaPCC](#) page, from 6pm on Monday 10th December.

Commissioner John Campion said "The public's police service is funded with tax payer's money so its imperative communities have a say in how this money is spent. This event allows the public to be involved in the most open and transparent way and ensures they can have a voice at the highest level, helping to shape priorities for the budget moving forward."

For more information about how you can take part visit: <https://www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/questions>

Thank you

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/54080/Focus-on-Public-Spending-in-Live-Event>

16/11/18 - Herefordshire's Poacherwatch recent successes

Recently, (Wednesday 7 - Friday 9 November), ten parties of poachers have been apprehended and dealt with by West Mercia Police (WMP).

During the activity numerous interviews have taken place and an air weapon has been seized. The activity comes as a result of information from the community, specifically an organised group called Poacherwatch.

Poacherwatch is a group formed by local landowners, farmers, gamekeepers and stalkers who work in conjunction with West Mercia Police and Gwent Police forces to share information and provide a co-ordinated response to poaching in Herefordshire, the Forest of Dean and Gwent.

Further to this disruptive work by WMP and Poacherwatch; two men from Aberdare, South Wales, have been found guilty of illegally shooting a deer, under the deer act 1991. The pair entered land in North Herefordshire in February 2018 and were sentenced at Hereford Magistrates Court on Monday (12 November 2018).

Brian Morgan, aged 41, from Aberdare, South Wales and Justin Hopkins, aged 38, from Aberdare, South Wales were ordered to pay £2,400 in fines, costs and compensation, both men had their fire arms certificates revoked and Hopkins was disqualified from driving for 3 months.

A spokesperson for Poacherwatch said: "This gives a clear message that poaching will no longer be tolerated in the area we cover, we are working with the Police to continue to deter criminals and bring those that do commit crimes on rural land to justice through the Crown Prosecution Service and the Courts."

Officer Sarah Smith from West Mercia Police said: "We take poaching very seriously and are working closely with Poacherwatch to gather information for us to deal with not just poaching but other rural crime as well.

"I hope that the recent sentence given by the judge to the men that illegally shot a deer on private land shows that crimes such as this are taken very seriously and we will continue to work with Poacherwatch and the community to seek out intelligence and bring criminals to justice.

"We conduct proactive rural crime operations to enforce, prevent and encourage partner participation including cross border patrols."

Officer Smith continued: "The Rural Crime Reporting line was launched in partnership with the NFU and anyone who wants to report rural crime anonymously can do so by calling 0800 783 0137 or visit www.ruralcrimereportingline.uk or by calling 101 or report in confidence via email: Sarah.smith@westmercia.pnn.police.uk ."

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/54067/Herefordshires-Poacherwatch-recent-successes>

15/11/18 - Commissioner Welcomes Review of 'Spice' Classification

John Champion is welcoming news that the classification of 'Spice', will be reviewed as part of a series of national initiatives around drugs.

The Commissioner has pushed for 'Spice', and other synthetic cannabinoids to be reclassified as Class A drugs, due to the devastating impact they can have on users and wider communities.

The Government has asked for new assessments on the substances from both the National Crime Agency and the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs.

John Champion said: "These substances are doing significant damage to the individuals taking them, as well as wider communities nationwide. I have acted on that feedback from our communities in West Mercia and lobbied Government. I am pleased that the Government has clearly listened to those concerns."

"I believe reclassifying synthetic cannabinoids is an important step, but if it happens, that alone would not fix the problem. Reclassification would give more powerful tools to our police and criminal justice system, but I firmly believe that effectively tackling drugs needs a holistic approach with support from a wide range of local and national partners."

Synthetic Cannabinoids have been linked to 27 deaths nationally in a 12 month period*, and have led to an increased demand on policing and other public or emergency services.

Comments from the Policing Minister Nick Hurd and other MPs on the matter recently:

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-11-06/debates/3ACB4F7B-DF0F-4E38-9B41-962C5A3C05F4/SyntheticCannabinoidsReclassification>

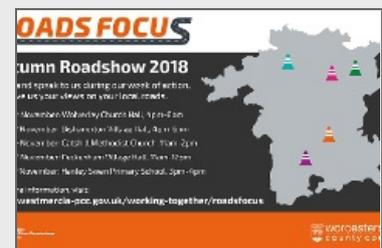
<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/54053/Commissioner-Welcomes-Review-of-Spice-Classification>

13/11/18 - Campaign launched to improve road safety

A campaign to improve road safety in Worcestershire is being launched by the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner and the County Council.

According to latest figures there were more than 600 road collisions in the county in the last year.

'Roads Focus' will highlight the risks to road safety of distracted road users. The campaign, which begins with a week of events across the county during Road Safety Week (19th-23rd November), will focus on the county's rural road network. It has been shaped by more than 400 suggestions that have been received from members of the public.



West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner John Champion said: "Both Worcestershire County Council and I have a shared aim to make our county's roads safer, and Roads Focus enables the public to have a vital say on the issues that matter most to them. I was thrilled to see that so many people had contacted us expressing their concerns over roads in their area and it has allowed us to start tackling some of the problems raised."

Worcestershire County Councillor Alan Amos, the Cabinet Member for Highways said: "Keeping the county's roads safe for all of our road users is a top priority. Much of our roads network is made up of country lanes that take traffic through our villages and small towns. It is really important for us to work with local communities to help to make those roads as safe as they can be."

Events to raise public awareness will be held in **Wolverley, Bishampton, Catshill, Feckenham** and in **Hanley Swan**. There will also be an opportunity for the public to attend a road safety awareness course free of charge.

John Campion added: "I'm pleased that as part of our week of action we are also able to offer a road safety course free of charge. This comes as a result of feedback from those who have attended courses out of necessity and found them to be useful. We hope that by opening this up to anybody, we can improve road safety across the county. I am committed to reducing the number of deaths on the roads of West Mercia and I have already earmarked £500,000 for new road safety initiatives."

For more information, go to: www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk/working-together/roads-focus-road-safety-campaign/

To view/download the dates and details of the Road Show please click on the '**readmore**' link which can be found at the bottom of your email message.

Thank you.

(Message circulated Community all West Mercia areas for information).

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/53955/Campaign-launched-to-improve-road-safety>

13/11/18 - Landmark step in PCC's Behind the Badge Campaign

On the day that Assaults on Emergency Workers Bill becomes law, Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion, is reminding communities to look Behind the Badge, to understand the impacts that assaults can have on emergency workers and their families.

The Commissioner has campaigned extensively to reduce assaults on police officers, and other emergency workers, ensuring they get the same support as any other victim of crime, and that communities treat them with the respect they deserve.

In the most recent quarter*, there were 152 incidents in which police officers or staff were victims whilst on duty, in 46 of these injuries were sustained. This equates to 1.6 incidents each day, or 1 incident for every 13 officers.

The change in legislation, which the Commissioner has backed throughout, makes certain offences aggravated when committed against emergency workers, giving courts the power to impose stronger sentences, doubling the maximum sentence for an assault against an emergency worker from 6 to 12 months in prison.

Commissioner John Campion says "We must never lose sight of the fact that police officers, and all those who do an extraordinary role in protecting us, are ordinary people, with ordinary lives. We must never underestimate the impact that assaults can have not only on those who are assaulted but on their loved ones, and those around them.

My commitment and my drive is to continue to encourage people to see Behind the Badge. This is a landmark step in ensuring the full weight of the law, will support those who are unfortunately assaulted in the course of their duties."

PC Lloyd Stone was assaulted whilst on duty in Bromsgrove, and talked about the impact this had on him and his family. Watch his story here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=spOVHPSdQDo> to read a written version, please click on the 'read more' link which can be found at the bottom of the CMS email message.

For more information about the Behind the Badge campaign visit www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk/behind-the-badge

Follow the campaign on social media:

Twitter and Facebook: @WestMerciaPCC #BehindTheBadge

*Figures cover July-September 2018, and based on officer headcount for same period.

Many thanks.

(This message has been circulated via the Community group to all West Mercia areas)

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/53953/Landmark-step-in-PCCs-Behind-the-Badge-Campaign>

12/11/18 - New road safety initiatives welcome as part of £500,000 investment

As part of Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion's commitment to making the roads of West Mercia safer, he has earmarked half a million pounds to be spent reducing deaths on the roads across the three counties.

The Commissioner has launched two grant rounds. One pot consists of £150,000 which will be assigned to the Superintendents, in each policing area of West Mercia, to work with their teams and communities to identify local initiatives.

The public, local authorities, fire and rescue services, and those involved in voluntary organisations can apply for grant funding from the second pot of £350,000.

All of the road safety initiatives need to be innovative and go over and above what is already being provided by the police, fire and rescue and local authorities.

The Commissioner is keen to receive bids that could include: road safety awareness campaigns; enhanced road safety initiatives; targeted road safety education; targeted road safety training; extending community speed watch areas; and the purchasing of equipment used to promote or facilitate road safety for the use of the public.

As part of the Commissioner's pledge to reduce the amount of those killed or seriously injured on West Mercia roads, he is looking to hear from those who support his drive. "Too many people are losing their lives on our roads and it's time more was done. Through new projects and initiatives, on top of what is already being done, I hope to raise more awareness of road safety and reduce the amount of those being killed or injured, as well as the number of those committed road traffic offences.

"These pots of money will allow more focus to be placed on something that is a priority, and concern, for everyone. I hope that people will be encouraged to apply for funding knowing that they could be making a real difference on the roads of West Mercia."

Those interested in finding out more about the funding can do so via the PCC's website: <https://www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk/about-your-pcc/pcc-grants-scheme/>

The funding will run from November 2018 until 31st March 2020.

Thank you

(Circulated West Mercia areas CMS)

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/53844/New-road-safety-initiatives-welcome-as-part-of-500000-investment>

12/11/18 - What do you know about Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR)?

What do you know about Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR)?

Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police are today (12 November) launching an online survey about the use of ANPR technology across the region.

The survey will run for 6 weeks and aims to give local communities, as well as those who travel through the region, a chance to voice their views and understanding of how ANPR is used to tackle crime.

The technology is used to help detect, deter and disrupt criminality at a local, force, regional and national level, including tackling travelling criminals, organised crime groups and terrorists.

ANPR provides lines of enquiry and evidence in the investigation of crime and is used by forces throughout England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The aim of the survey is to develop a broader view of public perceptions and understanding of police use of ANPR, allowing us to inform and engage with our communities around its future use.

To take part in the survey, simply click <https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=154089928356> or visit our

website to learn more:

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/6507/Automatic-Number-Plate-Recognition-ANPR>

Thank you

(Circulated all CMS users West Mercia)

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/53843/What-do-you-know-about-Automatic-Number-Plate-Recognition-ANPR>

Contact Details

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