



Welcome to my latest newsletter.

This month's edition includes a summary of the Spending Review's impact in West Mercia, my focus on crime in our rural communities, and more.

Police and Crime Commissioner, John Campion



Sign up to have your say on road safety!

I am focused on my playing my part to reduce the harm too often caused on West Mercia's roads.

safety concerns being a top postbag item.

That's why I am running a series of online events, in collaboration with West Mercia Police, which will give you a chance to have your say.

There are four meetings over the course of July for motorcyclists, cyclists, horse riders and pedestrians - the most vulnerable groups on our roads.

[Register your interest](#)



Spending Review risks stretching the thin blue line even thinner

As the dust settles on the Spending Review and the full details have come to light, I am deeply concerned about the Government's spending plans for policing.

Whilst the Chancellor's speech mentioned a 2.3% increase, that figure is actually backdated from 2023. The real increase from this year is 1.7%, which includes the Council Tax precept.

With an outdated funding model which does not see West Mercia receive its fair share of Government funding, the bill will, once again, be left at the door of local communities.

Crime has fallen significantly in West Mercia over the past twelve months thanks to the force's hard-working police officers and staff.

enable them to succeed.

It's vital the Chancellor listens to leaders across policing and quickly changes course as the Government risks stretching the thin blue line to breaking point.



Views of rural communities put to the Chief Constable

Thank you to everyone who had their say and got involved by sharing their views, experiences and concerns in relation to crime in our rural communities.

I am committed to ensuring your voice is at the heart of change, so I used the feedback to shape my latest public Assurance & Accountability meeting with the Chief Constable.

Covering consistency of service, accessibility of police, reporting crime, hare coursing and crime in our rural communities – the meeting is now available to watch in full.

[Check it out](#)



£68k awarded to road safety education projects

I am supporting road safety education projects that will benefit communities across West Mercia, including in your local area!

After I launched a grant round following my road safety conference, I have now awarded £68,558, in total, to seven initiatives to support all road users to be better and safer.

Across the three counties, the **Motorcycle Riders Hub – Digital Upskilling Platform**, will help upskill motorcyclists with the help of digital learning videos.

U17 Pathfinders educates pre-licenced drivers aged 17-24 around the risks of the road, combined with technical driving skills. While **West Mercia Police's Mature Driver Review** will provide those aged 65+ with a practical refresher course to keep their skills sharp.

Shropshire Fire and Rescue – VR Road Safety Education will use the funding to invest in virtual reality kit to expand the delivery of their evidence-based education workshops.

In North Worcestershire, **Wyre Forest School – Promoting Safe & Active Travel** will use the funding to purchase bikes so children who don't own one can join training that teaches how to ride safely.

In South Worcestershire, funding is being supplied to **Bike Worcester – Room to Ride**, to deliver safety training videos and printed safety advice for cyclists.

In Herefordshire, funding has been awarded to **Ely Memorial Fund**

to drive.

[Read more here](#)



Tackling organised crime in our communities

I know communities expect a strong response to the criminals profiting off the misery illegal drugs cause in West Mercia.

In my role as Chair of the Combatting Drugs Partnership, I continue to work closely with West Mercia Police and partners on ensuring our efforts are both collaborative and effective.

This year-round focus has seen some big results in recent months with a drugs gang sentenced for supplying class A drugs in **Leominster, Herefordshire** in May with five offenders now behind bars.

Later in the month, a cannabis farm containing plants with an estimated street value of £1m was found by officers on foot patrol near **Cosford in Shropshire**.

And this month, a man described by the judge as being “at the top of the tree” in a county drugs supply chain into **Worcestershire** and beyond, was finally put behind bars for 22 years.



Celebrating neighbourhood policing

This week is Neighbourhood Policing Week - a celebration of the work being done in your local community to keep you safe!

The force has 82 locally based Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT) covering each county of Herefordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire. Each SNT is made up of police constables, PCSOs and is led by a sergeant.

I know the public share my admiration and thanks to the hard-working officers and staff who form the thin blue line in West Mercia.

A vital thread in the very fabric of policing, these teams work all-year round to tackle crime, build relationships with their communities, and address local priorities so it's right that those efforts are celebrated.

You can keep up-to-date with the work of your local policing team by signing up to Neighbourhood Matters. It's free, takes less than 5 minutes to sign up and is a great way to know what's going on in your area!

Neighbourhood Matters



Thank you to our volunteers

Policing really benefits from the amazing people who give up their free time, no matter how short, to make a difference in their community.

Over #VolunteersWeek, myself and my team joined volunteers to see the important work they do.

Whether they are a...

Special Constable - part-time police officers who play a vital role in keeping our communities safe. As a fully trained Special, you will have full police powers, wear a police uniform, and work alongside regular officers and police staff.

Independent Custody Visitor - a key part of the justice system, my ICV teams make sure the rights of those in police custody are being maintained across West Mercia.

Community Speed Watch volunteer - coordinated by West Mercia Police but managed and run by volunteers, there are more than 45 active sites operating across the force area helping to make our roads safer.

...they are all a key part of the policing family 💙

Get involved



Record numbers of police officers in West Mercia

Police officer numbers have increased by 29% since I was first-elected in 2016.

There are 2518 police officers in West Mercia, the highest number on record and those levels will be maintained.

Congratulating the latest cohort of officers, DPCC Marc Bayliss attended a passing out ceremony on sunny Thursday afternoon.

As part of the ceremony, the DPCC delivered a speech to the officers, and their families and friends, about the important role they play in keeping our communities safe.

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Murder 24/7 turns the camera on the work of West Mercia Police

Some parts of policing are often unseen and without fanfare.

The latest BBC series, Murder 24/7, shines a light on some of West Mercia Police's staff and officers as they solve a number of serious and complex cases whilst maintaining an unrelenting focus on delivering justice for victims and their families.

Highlighting the professionalism, bravery, compassion and tenacity of the men and women who make up the force, it's an eye-opening showcase of what takes place behind-the-scenes.

[Murder 24/7 - BBC iPlayer](#)

In the heart of your community

Worcestershire

With temperatures soaring you may be tempted to cool off in water.

But did you know that 50% of people who accidentally drown, didn't intend to enter the water?

APCC Steve Mackay visited West Mercia Search & Rescue's Kidderminster team to thank them for the hard work they do to

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I am a proud supporter of the voluntary organisation, who save lives and educate communities on water safety.



Herefordshire

Seeing the work of Community Speed Watch volunteers, APCC Steve Mackay thanked the Aston Ingham team for the work they do to reduce speed where they live.

I continue to make funding available to purchase equipment and clothing to support the teams to do their work safely and properly.



Telford

The latest police and community open day took place at Telford police station and it was a great opportunity to speak to the public about the work myself and my team are doing to deliver on their priorities.

This event kicks-off a first of a series of engagements my team and I will be going to over the coming months. Next up is Shrewsbury Food Festival on Saturday 28 June.



Shropshire

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Shrewsbury, APCC Steve Mackay went on patrol with PC Taylor to see the work they are doing to reassure communities and reduce offences.

Steve then went and visited a Steer Clear workshop, delivered by The Children's Society, where young people learnt about the dangers of carrying a knife.



Police action in your local area

Find out some of the work West Mercia Police is doing by clicking your local policing area.



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Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner, West Mercia · West Mercia Police (OPCC) · Hindlip · Worcester, Worcestershire WR3 8SP ·
United Kingdom