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DAVENTRY DISTRICT CRIME REPORT/UPDATE

I had the pleasure of representing Daventry Police at the Parish & Town Councils meeting in the Council Chamber at Daventry District Council last Thursday. The Leader of DDC, Councillor Richard Auger, chaired this biannual meeting of representatives from our 53+ parish and town councils, when various District and Country public servants take questions from a full council chamber. I had been asked to address concerns of a crime increase in Daventry and so prepared a verbal report which I committed to reiterating in this, one of my regular updates. I try and get to as many parish council meetings as I can, and rarely get questions on crime statistics, so this gives me an opportunity to report on the figures. After all, our slogan is ‘fighting crime, protecting people’ – and we never forget that behind every crime statistic is a victim.

The headlines for the year ended 2019 are as follows:

Daventry Town | Crimes were down slightly from 2162 to 2051. Abbey North Ward was up from 581 to 615. Abbey South Ward was down from 777 to 629. Hill Ward was up from 441 to 490. Drayton Ward was down from 363 to 317.

Daventry Rural | Crimes were up slightly from 3045 to 3190. The more significant crime areas were Barby & Kilsby Ward (485). This is accounted for in part by the crimes at the prison institutions within this ward, which is why we have a Prison Offences Team based at Daventry, to deal with these volume crimes. Long Buckby Ward had 338 crimes (up from 305). Moulton had 304 crimes (down from 360) and Brixworth Ward had 232 crimes (down from 273). Weedon Ward had 219 crimes (up from 192)

Total crime comparison | Total crime across the Daventry District therefore rose slightly from 5207 to 5241. In the same period, total crime in South Northamptonshire District rose from 3788 to 4185. To place this into some context (especially in the light that we have recently merged the policing of these Districts with Northampton Borough, to mirror the prospective new Northamptonshire West Unitary Authority), it is worth noting that Northampton



Borough suffered a total of 23,693 crimes. Or, put another way, the entire Daventry Town crime figure of 2051 or the entire Daventry Rural crime rate of 3190 is still less than the Castle Ward at Northampton (one of 23 Northampton Borough Wards) which suffered 3945 crimes. I don't say this to comment critically on the crime rates at Northampton, but to give some context to the emphasis the Force has to invest in Northampton in order to influence county crime rates. You can see why I regularly say that Daventry is a safe place to live in the county.

Crime types of note | Within the Daventry figures, there is no escaping that violent crime accounts for 34% of our crime (and of those figures, 37% stems from domestic violence). This includes stalking and harassment – growth areas for policing. If there is any good news in this category, it is that, compared with most similar Districts, our increase in violence is slower than other most similar places. Better news is that burglary is down 10%, as promised by the Chief Constable when he took office. Of our 1012 burglaries in the year, 534 were burglaries in dwellings and 478 in non-dwellings, so there is still much to do. Antisocial Behaviour reports continued to fall (by 16%). We are proud that the trajectory has fallen from 6490 incidents of ASB in Daventry in 2007 to 1510 in 2019.

Neighbourhood Policing Team | Your local team, which sits alongside the 24/7 response teams based in Daventry remains as follows:

- ◊ *Daventry Town* | PCs Stuart Rands, Daniel Faint and Susan King with PCSOs Mia Ball (sponsored by Daventry Town Council), Kirsten Bates and Tara Cooksammy
- ◊ *Daventry Rural* | PC Jim King, Specials Sergeant Stephen Coleman, PCSOs Les Conopo & Duncan Cumming (sponsored by Crick Parish Council and DIRFT), Carl Barton (sponsored by Woodford Halse Parish Council), Paul Miller (sponsored by Brampton, Boughton, Harlestone, Pitsford & Spratton Parish Councils), Jo Wright, Steve Sangster and Craig Egdell

OTHER ISSUES OF NOTE

Woodford Halse | I am pleased to say that a local woman has been charged with aggravated burglary following a quick response to a crime reported in the village last week

Daventry Town | The team continues to work hard with a problem family in the town linked to a number of antisocial incidents, involving the deployment of firearms officers to an address in the town following reports of a gun being seen during a disturbance. Enquiries continue.

Immigration matters | Following close work with community associations, the District Council and HM Border Immigration Enforcement officers, we continue



to make enquiries into reports of illegal working, illegal housing and overstayers. Our motives in this are to ensure that Daventry is a hostile place for those who exert pressure on people who have got themselves trapped in immigration matters, and to reduce the risk of coercion and enslavement.

Social Housing | At the meeting last week, I commented how more work is needed to protect the position of social housing provision in the town, especially in the new housing estates. We have seen evidence of poorly managed tenants causing problems for privately owned houses, and we have committed to working closely with the Council Housing Department to bring pressure on the problem people and their landlords. We also have a number of neighbour disputes which, frankly, take up inordinate amounts of our time.

Crime Prevention Design Advice (CPDA) | Our CPDA officer works regularly from the council offices at DDC, alongside Planning Officers to ensure that all planning applications consider crime and disorder issues to design them out. This will be crucial as the town expands exponentially.

Motor vehicle crime | We are currently running a specialist operation to deal with the trend of criminals entering the county to steal catalytic converters from cars. We ask people to be vigilant to anyone paying attention to the underneath of domestic cars, particularly in daytime hours.

PSPO | The Public Space Protection Order is currently under review by the District and Town Councils. Our contribution to that review, which will be subject to wider consultation has been that the area covered by the Order is extended from the Town Centre area to include the whole of Daventry Town Parish. We have also suggested that the behaviours cited extend further than drinking in a public place, to include antisocial begging, antisocial begging and antisocial cycling. The offence would be to fail to stop these activities at the request of a constable, PCSO, Council Warden/Ranger or accredited person.

Shoplifting | Shoplifting in the town has reduced, thanks to the work of the Street Ranger and Town PCSO. However, as local stores have reduced their security provision, since the New Year, we are seeing criminals from outside Daventry engaged in crime sprees, stealing high value liquor, baby milk and razor blades. In one week, one store suffered in excess of £2.5k worth of loss.

Begging | I am aware of three men who have received complaints of begging in the town. Two are more aggressive, one less so. The more aggressive individual has now been served with a Community Protection Warning to curb his behaviour. Another man has been referred to the Council and Food Bank because of a genuine need.

Rural Crime | Twitter followers will know that our rural crime team of three officers supplement the work of the rural neighbourhood team, with PC John Hutchings based at Gulsborough and PCs Abigail Anstead and Chloe Gillies based at Towcester.



Operation Stock | This was the force's response to the illegal slaughter and theft of sheep throughout Summer 2019. Three men stand trial in connection with these offences, listed in the Crown Court at Northampton for a six-week period at the end of March 2020. I receive weekly requests for information on this crime series which attracted much local attention. For legal reasons, no more information can be given so as not to prejudice the case. More information will become available as the case is heard in public and will no doubt be reported.

Church crime | It is seasonal and appropriate (given recent offences) to remind those responsible for our wealth of local village churches that the issue of metal theft from church roofs is raising its ugly head again. If you have a lead or copper roof and the roof is not protected by an alarm, please consider investing in an alarm, and seek advice from us or the church authorities if you need more assistance. You can also contact John Heath, one of our police volunteers, who is working on this issue from a prevention perspective.

Police structure | I was asked to comment on the new police structure as the force has moved towards two LPAs (local policing areas) to mirror the new Unitary structure. I have said, simply, that local policing remains. The LPA Commander is Superintendent Chris Hillery, and the local policing inspector covering Daventry & South Northants remains Inspector Tracy Moore. The rest of the structure should not affect the delivery of service to you. We know that there are concerns that any arrangement involving the Borough of Northampton might draw in resources from the rural area. This is a dynamic of which the LPA Commander is aware, and in fact, met Daventry Town Council members today to discuss. It is also why I have unusually gone to lengths to show comparisons between Daventry and Northampton crime volumes.

Working with you | We have some great partnerships and relationships with no end of individuals and organisation across the town and district. Policing would wither on the vine without these. We also have some excellent leadership in the force, and I was recently heartened to see the Chief Constable stressing the need for our policing to include emotional attachment to our communities. I also liked that he has included having a sense of humour in our newly-stated leadership traits. With some of the challenges that we face (and you can see some of them on the current run of '999 What's Your Emergency' which features Northamptonshire officers), being able to smile is a vital part of the job. You can continue to be assured of our passion and commitment to keeping you safe, hopefully cheerfully, across our Daventry District,

I hope you find this update useful in knowing our patch

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