

This e-mail has been reformatted (and some text moved around) by the Editor of the Ellisfield Community Website so that it could fit onto a single page PDF document

Email to Ellisfield Residents, from the Ellisfield Village Association (EVA) - October 12, 2014

Bad news for Policing in our part of Hampshire

Our Police and Crime Commissioner, Simon Hayes, is planning changes

PC Andy Reid's work is being moved away. His police car will be taken away from him and he will now have to drive, in his own car, to be part of a team operating from Tadley. He will not be allowed to respond to night time callouts. If we have an emergency, we will have to call 999 and someone from Basingstoke will respond (if they can find us and if they get here in time).

Andy's proactive style of policing (which keeps our area (his beat) free of crime) would be lost, along with the feedback system he has built up over a good number of years, if he stopped communicating at community level as suggested by Simon Hayes. **A lot of the crime Andy handles is solved through feedback from residents.**

Here is an example; Andy arrested a criminal around 4 years ago and stopped him again just the other day - the response to PC Reid was "Oh, I thought you had retired and left the area - I'll just tell the lads you are still here".....!!!

Simon Hayes wishes to employ six PCSOs (Police Community Support Officers) who would be asked to liaise with residents over a very large area. Currently there are 3 employed, all are looking to leave! They would also be based at Tadley. The rural areas would be very exposed and we believe that we would not see the PCSOs very much. They would not attend Parish meetings or actively undertake proactive preventative policing.

The size of Andy's beat is currently 78 sq miles, which is 22 local parishes (including the Candovers, Ellisfield, Bradley, Dummer, Nutley, Axford, Herriard, Upton Grey, Up Natley, Mapledurwell, Anwell, Newham, Cliddesden, Winslade, Weston Patrick, Weston Corbett and Farleigh). **This will increase to 4 beats including Overton, Whitchurch, Kingsclere, etc.**

We believe that the proposed changes outlined above represents discrimination against rural communities.

We do not believe that this proposal fulfils the Police and Crime Commissioner's stated aims (see below, taken from his [website](#)):

"When I first became Police and Crime Commissioner, I challenged Hampshire Constabulary to deliver a consistent policing service across both urban and rural areas, with the specific requirement to close the gap between rural and urban solved crime rates.

"My aim in doing this was to improve confidence in policing in rural communities by demonstrating that their concerns were treated as seriously as those of their urban counterparts. Over 85% of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight is rural and I am determined to do everything within my power to keep rural communities safe and protect people and places across our region."

If you agree that this is a disaster for rural policing, please join us in writing to our elected Police and Crime Commissioner, Simon Hayes, at;

George's Chambers, St George's Street, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8AJ

or email him at: opcc@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

AND to the Chief Constable, Andy Marsh, at: chief.constable@hampshire.pnn.uk

Here are some points and questions you might want to include;

1. Will the relocation of PC Reid to Tadley effect the amount of time he will spend in our parish? Can you confirm the percentage of time PC Reid will be able to give to policing **our** area?
2. There will not be a police presence in the villages and rural areas where residents are especially vulnerable because of isolation.
3. Crime prevention and proactive policing is very important. At the moment PC Reid does this very effectively. How do you propose to continue this?
4. Who will deal with crimes during the night?

Do include your personal experiences to illustrate your points. Send a copy to your local paper too.

We are hoping to create a **storm of correspondence** so that our local Bobby can be saved, giving us the appropriate police style for our rural area.

The EVA team