

Sent: Tuesday, 24 March 2015, 21:03

Subject: Rural Policing in Tunworth, Upton Grey & the Candovers Beat

Dear All,

We have been asked by Cllr Mark Ruffell (Cllr.Mark.Ruffell@basingstoke.gov.uk) to forward the two emails below from Daphne Taylor. Daphne is Chairman of the Tunworth Parish Meeting.

Following Cllr Mark Ruffell and Edward Belcher's meeting with Assistant Chief Constable David Pryde, on Monday 16th March, it is clear that the only way to retain a Rural Beat Officer, not just Andy but for our future Rural Policing, we personally, as well as our Parish Councils and anyone else who is prepared to help financially, will have to make pledges to cover the cost of an Officer (as detailed in the first email).

The increase in the Policing precept in your Council Tax Bill of 2% is the maximum that can be raised without a Referendum. A Referendum would be a very expensive exercise and the Police Budget will not support one. So it is down to us all to pledge a sum, to keep a Rural Beat Officer, this is self-funding for the very best reason, our continuing security. If we lose the role of our dedicated Rural Beat Officer, we will not be able to reinstate it, so this is last chance Saloon!

Could you please let Daphne Taylor (dcmtaylor@btinternet.com) know what you are prepared to pledge, any amount will be gratefully received, she and Edward Belcher will collate the pledges and, with Cllr Mark Ruffell, will take the matter further with ACC David Pryde. We only have until 1st April 2015 to get the pledges in place, so please respond as soon as you can. It would be helpful if you would give Daphne your address. If you have any queries please email Cllr Ruffell.

Please forward this to anyone you can think of who would be affected by the loss of a Rural Beat Officer. We are sorry there is so little time to respond but we have only just been made aware of this situation.

*As ever, if you would like to be removed from this please just let us know. With best wishes
Joanne & Zani*

Dear Friends in Tunworth

I thought that you would like to see the email that I have sent to the Parish Chairmen in the Upton Grey and Candovers Beat. We have received a significant number of positive responses from Parish Councils and individuals alike. We have until 1 April to get the pledges in. We want as much buy in as possible so that we can keep a dedicated beat officer for our area. Please let me know whether you are able to support this. You will have seen from your new Council Tax bill that the Police have increased their precept by a maximum 2%. They cannot levy the increase needed to keep a dedicated beat officer for us without a very expensive referendum and they cannot levy it just on us. Our only option is to raise the funds ourselves. We have received pledges of £100 per annum and £1000 per annum. None too large or too small.

With many thanks,

Daphne