

## **From Neil Taylor, Tunworth Parish Chairman**

Dear All,

Please allow me to introduce myself. I have taken over the position and responsibilities of Tunworth Parish Chairman from my wife, Daphne.

Now that the summer is well and truly over, we wanted to give you an update on the current situation with respect to rural policing in our various communities. I believe that I have included all the relevant parish chairmen, but in the event of any omissions may I impose upon you to forward this to all interested and relevant parties. The update covers the situation over the last 6 months, including various meetings with ACC David Pryde, attended by Councillor Ruffell and Edward Belcher and a subsequent meeting with PCC Simon Hayes attended by Councillor Ruffell, Edward Belcher and me. The below represents the current situation with respect to the status and immediate future of the policing for our respective communities.

I'm sure you'd like to join me in adding my thanks to Councillor Ruffell, Edward Belcher and my wife, Daphne for all they have undertaken on behalf of our communities.

Should you have any additional questions or feedback, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you and best regards,

Neil Taylor

***First may we begin by thanking you for your support and patience during the last 6 months. In April, we met with the Assistant Chief Constable Mr Pryde and we began the process of formulating a proposal that would enable us to keep a dedicated beat officer for our existing Upton Grey and the Candovers beat area based upon the introduction of private funding for Hampshire Constabulary. As this was a financial proposal it meant that it would be considered by the Police and Crime Commissioner ("PCC"), Simon Hayes. Mr Hayes consulted on our proposal before meeting us in July. In the meantime, the introduction of the proposed changes to our beat area on 1 April had been partly suspended: from April through to August we had kept our dedicated beat officer whose primary responsibility was our beat area, he could be deployed to incidents within the new wider beat area and he had to report to Tadley regularly, but he was allowed to keep his marked Police vehicle overnight between consecutive work days.***

***When we met the PCC, it became clear from our discussions with him that he was looking to reemphasise his commitment to "equitable policing across Hampshire", which we took as his way of describing his philosophical opposition to privately funded policing. However, a number of compromises were suggested by him and his staff.***

***1) The wording 'beat area' is now known as 'neighbourhood area.'***

***2) We would have a Police Officer who would be the lead officer for the Upton Grey and the Candovers neighbourhood area.***

***3) That Officer's default responsibility would be Upton Grey and the Candovers neighbourhood***

*area but he could be tasked to deal with specific incidents within the new wider area.*

*4) Upton Grey and the Candovers neighbourhood area will once again include Newnham, Up Nately and Mapledurwell, communities which had previously been removed.*

*5) In addition, when the lead officer was off duty, the area would be covered by another named Police Officer and two named PCSO's. Their names would be made available to all Parishes and community groups so that the direct access that we currently have with our existing officer would be extended.*

*6) This revised arrangement would operate for 6 months, on a trial basis, without the need for any private funding. The effectiveness of the arrangement will be reviewed at the end of the period and a decision made on future arrangements at that time.*

*We made it clear, that as a compromise, this may be acceptable, but that we would discuss it with the wider communities once we had seen it in writing before committing to any specific arrangements.*

*During August, Chief Inspector Dodds decided that the arrangement that allowed PC Reid to keep the marked vehicle overnight between consecutive work days was no longer feasible and PC Reid would have to return the vehicle at the end of each working day.*

*This revised transport arrangement does not seem sensible due to the time taken in travelling to and from Tadley (during shift hours) detracting from time spent "on the beat" with the consequential reduction of an effective deterrent in the neighbourhood area. We made this clear to the PCC in various communications. But to no avail – these are operational matters under the purview of the constabulary, not the PCC. We also reintroduced the possibility of a privately funded police vehicle, but this mechanism is not possible under current police guidelines.*

*We have agreed to meet with the PCC on an ongoing basis to provide feedback on the operations of the current arrangements, suggest any possible improvements and to continue to explore the possibility of private funding to secure our current policing arrangements. This latter point becomes increasingly important as we hear of new privately funded police coverage in both Hampstead and Liverpool. As such, we would like to be kept informed of the operational effectiveness of the current arrangements and the visibility of the other Police Officer and PCSO's within our beat area.'*

*Finally, we think that this community initiative has gone a good way to securing at least 1 additional year of the policing model we currently enjoy, without the need for any private funding contributions.*