

POLITICAL LIFE

ISSUE 58

Our Magazine is published every other month and is freely available to our members

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www.cenca.co.uk

Stay 'In Touch' with the

Corby & E Northants Conservative Association

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TEMPORARY OFFICE CLOSURE

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR LOCAL ASSOCIATION OFFICE

During this time of uncertainty, I would like to update you all on the position regarding the Association office in Corby.

For the moment to avoid unnecessary contact and possible infection the office is closed. The Conservative Club is also closed and access to the office is no longer possible so mail cannot be collected.

I will be working from home to keep the essential business running properly and you can still reach me via email or phone should you have urgent matters to discuss. My details are below:

Email: ray.boyd@talktalk.net Telephone: 01536 742954 (Unless already registered you may have to identify yourself on this phone before being connected).

The main office email address remains as: office@cenca.co.uk and this is being monitored daily. The office phone is not being monitored.

You can also contact the Chairman, Cllr Lee Wilkes, and his contact details are:

Email: l.wilkes@weteachyou.co.uk Telephone: 07720 890 273

Let us hope that this situation does not continue too long and we can soon get back to normality.

Kind regards and keep well,

Ray Boyd Communications Officer

PLEASE WATCH OUT FOR MAILCHIMP COMMUNICATIONS WHICH MAY GO TO YOUR EMAIL SPAM BOX

WE ARE THE NUMBER ONE ASSOCIATION IN THE WHOLE OF THE EAST MIDLANDS.

Conservative Association Chairman's Report to Members

Cllr Lee Wilkes (Association Chairman)

24 Mar 2020

So the first report as your newly re-elected Chairman (and thank you to you all for your votes and support), is quite probably the most difficult report I've ever had to write. Whilst ensuring that we continue to keep on top of our commitments as an Association, it is impossible to pretend that the world is the same as it was a few short months ago.



200 Club Annual Lunch. Many thanks to Ray Jackson for organising a splendid lunch at Glaphorn Village Hall for the 200 Club, and thanks to all who attended in support. The food really was excellent

Covid-19. There can't be a person alive on the planet who doesn't now know that we are in the grip of a terrible pandemic. At the time of writing, there are over 400,000 cases worldwide, and over 18,000 deaths, and sadly it appears this is just the beginning.

Local elections postponed for a year. The Government has confirmed that the local elections (Parish, Town and Unitary) are delayed for one year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It isn't currently clear what that means for the creation and operation of the Unitary Shadow – more details will follow.

Obviously all campaigning, canvassing and leaflet delivery (the leaflets are not case sensitive, so hold on to them) has stopped. Now is the time to look after ourselves and each other, particularly those who may be elderly or classed as more vulnerable. If you are able bodied and not needing to self-isolate, please look out for other members, neighbours, family and friends.

Selections. It seems like a lifetime ago already, but the Selections for the Unitary positions has concluded, save for a handful of vacancies. Thank you to all of you who put yourselves forward, and congratulations to the duly selected candidates. They are: shown below.

The advice from the NHS (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>) and from the Government (<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>) changes on an almost hourly basis.

Of course we now have a year until the election, so the list is subject to change.

Continued>>>>

Corby Rural	Corby West	Irthlingborough Division	Oakley Division
Macaulay Nichol David Sims Kevin Watt	Rosalie Beattie	Kirk Harrison Dorothy Maxwell Roger Powell	Rosemary Armstrong Oliver Curtis Alexandra Wellings
Oundle Division	Raunds Division	Thrapston Division	
Annabel De Capell Brooke Tom Priestley Jane Sadders	Helen Howell Richard Levell Lee Wilkes	David Brackenbury Wendy Brackenbury Geoff Shacklock	<i>We are likely to have more seats available and members are welcome to put their names forward for these.</i>

Currently everyone must stay at home to help stop the spread of coronavirus.

You can only leave your home:

- to shop for basic essentials – only when you really need to
- to do one form of exercise a day – such as a run, walk or cycle, alone or with other people you live with
- for any medical need – for example, to visit a pharmacy or deliver essential supplies to a vulnerable person
- to travel to and from work – but only where this is absolutely necessary

If you do have to go outside, you need to stay at least 2 metres (6 feet) away from other people.

These are incredibly difficult times, with people's anxiety and stress levels rising. And this sense of panic is sometimes not helped by well-meaning

friends and family, all sharing information on their social media accounts or sending it to us directly. Now, more than ever, is the time for us to be proactive about creating small moments of happiness in our days, given the findings in psychology research that positive emotions help us to undo the negative effects of stress.

And don't spend 24 hours a day watching the news!

As a final thought, Boris Johnson has, in my eyes, performed admirably, as has Rishi Sunak. Thank goodness we aren't relying on Corbyn, McDonnell and Abbott to protect the nation.

Take care all.

Yours,

Councillor Lee Wilkes
Chairman – Corby & East
Northamptonshire
Conservative Association



Your Association contact details:

Tickets for all events can be ordered through the Conservative Association Office (Ann)
Phone: 01536 200255
Email: office@cenca.co.uk
Web: www.cenca.co.uk
Mail: CENCA, Cottingham Road, Corby, NN17 1SZ

A LITTLE NOTE ABOUT FACEBOOK GROUP 'CORBY CHATS BACK'

This group is not a genuine chat group of friendly Corby folk. It was started by a Labour activist and is a thinly-disguised Labour Party advertising sheet. The nasty trolls on it spreading poison and using foul language give Corby and the Conservatives a bad name and it should be called '**Corby Rants Back**'

FORMER LABOUR MP A BIT OUT OF TOUCH, PERHAPS?

The former Labour MP for Lincoln shared some sage advice for her successor in two now-deleted tweets. Karen Lee, who served as the city's MP until 2019, suggested organising a 'two-hour public engagement event' in 'a public venue with a large capacity', for local people to gather together in one room and hear from local authorities. **Perhaps she'd like to invite the elderly and people with pre-existing conditions as well?**



Karen Lee @Karen_karenelee If I were Lincoln's MP now I'd be organising a 2 hr public engagement event (I did a number of these) around the implications of COVID19 on Lincoln's constituents. I'd invite local heads of emergency services + City and County leaders & appropriate officers as panellists.
19/03/2020



THE QUEEN'S SPEECH DISCUSSION

A report by George Whittaker, CPF Chairman

Because this was such a comprehensive paper, it was decided to exclude any sections that will come up at a future meeting, ie. Criminal Justice and the Environment, we only had time to briefly comment on many of the subjects included herein.

Agriculture Bill.

Most EU policy on agriculture was drawn up for the benefit of the small farmer within the rest of the EU. Britain is different, we have many large private landowners that receive high payments from the EU. We felt our own small farmers still require financial subsidies especially in hill areas and therefore any new system of basic farm payments should only apply to farmers for the first 500 acres or less favoured areas. Other payments should be made available if it benefits the environment. More should be done to make Britain more self sufficient in food production such as pig meat, tomatoes etc. Which can lessen our dependency on imports.

Fisheries Bill.

The EU has almost destroyed our fishing industry! Leaving the EU gives us the best chance to reclaim control of our waters ensuring the sustainability of our marine life and environment. As much of our fish finishes up on the European market, this is an excellent chance to rebuild our export trade with Europe. We would also control the size and type of fishing vessel used in the industry. Incentives for new entrants should be introduced.

This industry must not be used for a bargaining tool in negotiations. We must protect and expand our fishing waters.

Trade Bill.

More products must be manufactured in this Country. This would alleviate the "just in time" problem of supply of parts from abroad and cut down the transport of the parts from abroad thus helping to improve the environment and the amount of traffic on the roads.

We were not too worried about the Chinese companies supplying infrastructure so long as a close eye was kept on our Country's security and there was no loss of relations with countries such as the US, Australia, New Zealand and Canada. We were certain that given time British technology could quickly catch up with China in this field.

Immigration.

Most people voted Conservative because of our immigration policies. We must not let the British people down on this. The point system was widely accepted in our manifesto and should be further pursued.

This Country is full! We should only let people in from professions that we need. This is as wide spread as doctors and nurses to agricultural seasonal workers. Where ever the immigrants come from it should be a prerequisite that they have a good command of the English language.

Financial.

This section is not up for negotiation with the fishing industry. Both should be considered separately. We must not be bullied by Mr. Barnier. We must stand up to him and tell him what we want. This approach will protect not only the City but all aspects of British business. Foreign aid should be more carefully considered. Equipment and training should be sent rather than giving money as both are essential to a country but by sending equipment it would cut down on fraud and corruption.

Public Services.

We need more doctors, nurses and paramedics with less managers and overpaid chief executives. The NHS is a bottomless pit so it is important that the money is spent in the correct places. Many immigrants are filling up our A&E because that is what is done in their country. We have a different culture and for minor problems they should visit their GP. More GPs are required to take the pressure off hospitals. The general efficiency of hospitals should be improved with less waste both in purchasing of requisites and their use. Further education is required to limit drug use, alcohol and obesity.

Education.

Standards must improve. Why do we have excellent, good, bad and failing when the pupils all come from the same area. It must be from the quality of teaching from the head teacher down. Restoration of discipline and respect are essential. This is best done by encouraging more sporting activity as it teaches team spirit and it builds friendship.

All children must be able to read and write at an early age not left struggling into their teens.

Employment Bill.

We agreed with the statements on the paper.

Infrastructure.

The whole country should at least have good 4G coverage before 5G is considered. Broadband speeds need to be improved particularly in rural areas. These areas have been left far behind London in both of these facilities and puts them at great disadvantage to city areas.

It is more important to maintain our roads (repair pot holes) than to build new ones and to stop spending money on smart motorways. We were told by one member that pot holes can be filled with a rubber material which is more resilient than current methods used.

Constitution.

1. The Fixed Term Parliament must go.
2. New boundaries should be implemented as soon as possible. Voter ID should be introduced.
3. All these must be done whilst we have a large majority in the House.
4. Reform the Civil Service, this needs to be done quickly to get away from the "Yes Minister" mentality.

Our group met at the Corby Conservative Club for the discussion session and the Conservative Association are grateful for the facilities freely offered by the Club. It was interesting to hear as the group left their meeting a comment from a club member. The member said: *'That's what's wrong with the Conservative Party—too old and too male. And it is only members of the Party who get to make the decisions.'*

In fact there were people aged 45 to 80 in the group and there was one lady. The meeting was also not confined to Party members but was open to anyone who wished to take part in the discussions. This was clearly stated in the February issue of *Political Life* and the Club's own magazine, *Club Life*

5. Reform of The House of Lords is overdue. We now have about 800 members claiming £323 per day which is madness. We would suggest

- a. New boundaries for the House of Commons (this would reduce members).
- b. A new Parliament for England (we already have one for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland).
- c. An elected non-political House of Lords to be a revising chamber (about 200 members).

Armed Forces.

We agree with all the statements in the paper, particularly continuing to uphold Nato commitment and also bring an end to the unfair pursuit of our armed forces through vexatious legislation.

George Whittaker

Chairman Corby CPF Group

Please watch out for details of our next CPF discussion group—and remember everyone is welcome, whatever their political views.

Our 2020 policy consultation paper plan (SUBJECT TO CORONAVIRUS MEASURES)	
17 Feb – 29 Mar	Policing (Cancelled)
11 May – 12 Jul	The Environment and Animal Welfare
13 Jul – 13 Sep	Infrastructure, investment and Devolution
14 Sep – 25 Oct	Workers and Families
26 Oct – 13 Dec	Public Services
2021	
4 Jan – 14 Feb	The Union & Constitution
15 Feb – 28 Mar	The Justice System

DO YOU GET OUR MAILCHIMP EMAILS?

We have 470 members on our email list and a regular email is sent out to keep members informed of latest news.

Unfortunately a number of members have reported that they have not seen these emails.

It is likely that they have gone into their spam box so this should be checked and the sender marked as acceptable for future emails.

If you are still not receiving them please email the editor on ray.boyd@talktalk.net and your address will be checked. If there is still a problem then copies of Mailchimp emails can be sent from the office email address.

And of course you can always check our website which also contains the latest news. Go to: www.cenca.co.uk

Please be aware that already there are scumbags out there using the Coronavirus to scare people into parting with their money. Usually they call at your door and pretend to be from the council or perhaps the water board, etc. No matter, they will try anything to scam you. Don't be taken in - and watch out for scam emails trying to do the same thing.

MEMBERS SHOULD CHECK THAT THEIR MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION IS UP TO DATE. SUBSCRIPTIONS FALL DUE ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF JOINING, NOT ON 1st JANUARY. CHECK YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD OR ENQUIRE AT THE ASSOCIATION OFFICE IF UNSURE.

THERE IS ALSO ANOTHER SMALL PROBLEM WITH CENTRALISED MEMBERSHIP IN THAT IF YOU PAID BY VISA AND YOUR CARD EXPIRES THEN CCHQ AUTOMATICALLY ENDS YOUR MEMBERSHIP IF YOU DON'T REGISTER. CONTACT THE OFFICE IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

TOM PURSGLOVE, MP's WEEKLY ADVICE SURGERIES

At the moment following government advice Tom's surgeries are being held on line.

Telephone 0020 7219 8043 to make an appointment.

Regular surgeries will continue once we get through this period of difficulty.

200 Club Annual Draw results

86	Mr George Whittaker
19	Mrs Mary Shirville

Our Annual Lunch was on Sunday 23 February 2020 at Glapthorn Village Hall.



The Grand Draw took place at the Lunch and the results are shown above.

Tom Pursglove, our MP, attended and addressed members present and gave an update on Parliamentary matters.

Ray Jackson 200 Club Chairman

Copy for the next issue must be received by 10th May please. Contributions and letters from members are welcome but some editing may be necessary by the editor. You can email the editor, Ray Boyd at ray.boyd@talktalk.net All emails will be acknowledged.

The Budget—things you need to know: Chancellor Rishi Sunak

Our budget delivers for the British people, levelling up our economy and delivering on our manifesto pledges. Here's the top things you need to know about the 2020 budget:



1. It makes sure the NHS has all the resources it needs, with 50,000 more nurses and 40 new hospitals.
2. It keeps the cost of living low with an over £200 tax cut for the typical family. We will increase the National Insurance threshold to £9,500 this April, benefiting 31 million people with a typical employee saving over £100 in 2020.
3. The National Living Wage will increase by 6.2% to £8.72 from April.
4. We're axing the tampon tax now we have left the EU. We will reduce the cost of essential sanitary products for women in the UK, abolishing the tampon tax from 1 January 2021.
5. We are also freezing fuel duty for a tenth year in a row to help with the cost of living. We will freeze fuel duty for the tenth year in a row saving the average car driver a cumulative £1,200 compared to Labour's plan. And we're freezing duty rates on beer, spirits, wine and cider helping with the cost of living. This will be only the second time in almost 20 years a government has frozen all these duties.
6. We will double the current investment in flood and coastal defences to £5.2 billion over six years. That means we will be better protecting 336,000 homes across the country. We will also provide £120 million to the Environment Agency to repair assets damaged by recent floods.
7. It keeps people safe by increasing funding for counter-terrorism and our intelligence community. This includes £83 million for counter-terrorism policing and £31 million for the UK intelligence community. We will also provide an additional £67 million so our intelligence agencies can build on their world-leading technological capabilities and protect the UK's security.
8. Supporting veterans with £10 million for Armed Forces mental health charities. We will commit £10 million to Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust to support veterans with mental health needs.
9. Today I pledged £500m every single year to tackle potholes. That's enough to fill 50 million potholes by the end of the Parliament.
10. And it pledges £9.5 billion to build affordable homes, helping people onto the housing ladder.
11. We're giving the green light to new strategic road schemes helping everyone get around. The Budget confirms the development of 15 local road upgrades across the country helping to reduce congestion. And we are investing over £27 billion to 2025 on the Second Road Investment Strategy.
12. Delivering next generation broadband to the most difficult to reach areas of the UK with a record £5 billion of funding. This funding will support gigabit-capable broadband which is 40 times faster than standard superfast broadband benefitting 5 million premises and the hardest to reach parts of the country.
13. We promised to deliver the housing people need. Building on our **housing policy** last year, we've set out an ambitious package to build quality homes that this country needs.
14. The Budget announces £9.5 billion for the Affordable Homes Programme helping to prevent homelessness and help people to get on the housing ladder and taking the total funding to £12.2 billion from 2021-22.
15. Creating a new £1 billion fund to remove unsafe cladding so residents feel safe and secure. Having taken expert advice, we will provide this additional funding to remove non-Aluminium Composite Material cladding from residential buildings above 18 meters to ensure people feel safe in their homes.
16. Ending rough sleeping in this Parliament with £643 million of targeted support. Most recent rough sleeping stats show a 9 per cent fall on the previous year, this Budget will build on this to provide up to 6,000 beds and a substance misuse treatment services with the full capacity to help 11,000 people a year.

So much has happened since I started to write this report last week. What was pertinent to draw attention to less than a week ago is now common knowledge. I will take much of the opening part of this report from the statement at the beginning of the meeting as it is the most up to date account of the current situation at the Council which is developing very quickly.

I think we can all agree we are facing an unprecedented situation nationally and we are rightly concerned for our friends, neighbours, businesses and our residents, especially those who may be vulnerable or elderly.

Yesterday evening we have had the announcement regarding the closure of schools which is a significant development. A communication went to all staff including school staff earlier today providing information and thanking everyone for their response so far.

We face a challenging few months ahead but we will be ready. I can give you my personal assurance that the Council has been working with every partner and agency across the county, and with the support of government, to prepare and implement robust plans to manage the Corona Virus impacts. I and this council will do whatever we need to do to keep residents safe. This is why we launched our critical incident plan last week and since then we have been putting in place comprehensive teams, plans and contingencies to achieve this.

I am kept well informed of what is happening and have to acknowledge our senior team and every staff member I have dealt with this last week or so, is acting and performing, as one would expect, in a highly professional manner. The fact we have both the MHCLG and DFE commissioners with us also adds a significant amount of experience and value to our organisation in this very challenging set of circumstances.

There is a comprehensive joint COVID command and control structure in place between all partners and a single strategic command centre with all senior leaders coming together to oversee our response. This structure has been in place for 3 weeks and our plans are progressing well. Our own emergency planning team have been working with services tirelessly to support this and our public health service has been at the forefront of system planning and decisions. It is important we make informed and sensible decisions to manage the situation effectively.

This will not be a quick fix and we are having to prioritise our effort. Theresa, myself, other political group leaders and our commissioners agree that the virus outbreak must have our full attention and to that end we are now repurposing staff to these tasks and vital services. Our key frontline services, like Adults and Children's Social care will continue to function and we are repurposing staff and working closely with partners and our hospitals to make sure we can still keep people safe in appropriate settings. This may mean moving people in the short term but their safety and wellbeing will be our first concern.

In line with our plan this means the Council has stood down some lower priority services to focus our staff and effort on preparing to support those who need our help. As soon as possible and it is safe I will ensure these will be re-established.

Protecting our own workforce will be vital and we therefore also took the decision yesterday to allow staff who can to work from home to do so where they are not in one of our critical or front line services or needed to support our COVID response. All staff will remain in contact and will be set clear tasks and rules set about how they work and what we need from them.

We recognise that community and community spirit is one of the most vital resources we have in this situation. This is particularly the case in a county with such a diversity of rural and urban areas with many vulnerable and elderly residents. We want to harness this in a way that keeps people and volunteers safe and we have a dedicated community resilience lead within our emergency planning team who will be coordinating this.

The County Council is in the process of setting up the web capability on behalf of all partners, to which all volunteer and community groups can be directed to get advice, guidance and to be safely connected to those in need. This will help our residents be certain they are receiving a genuine offer of help. This I am sure will be of interest to us as members and I have been assured that as soon as preparation is complete, we will advise all members of where to direct offers of help and where to get information.

I would like to thank all members and staff in advance for their professionalism and support during this challenge and believe that working together we will get safely through this. When asked, I would always direct people to the NCC

website where there is lots of up to date information and advice with links to NHS and official government guidance.

All of us are aware of the enormous amount of work that has been happening at NCC. We have all been working hard to recover the financial situation by transforming many of our services, to improve our children's services and create a children's trust as well as the massive amount of work gone into the local government reform programme. All in addition to business as usual. It is clear with the pressure and challenge Corona Virus presents the Council needs to prioritise the response to the virus and protecting the most vulnerable. This will mean some elements of the work mentioned above will have to move aside for the time being.

Another major development is the announcement of the cancellation of this year's elections. Conversations are taking place with MHCLG to discuss what options are available in order to meet the go live date of April 1st 2021. This will more than likely mean the creation of two shadow authorities made up of all of the current members of the district and borough authorities and the county councillors whose divisions sit in either West or North Northamptonshire. A decision will be expected very soon.

Once again I can share positive news with you about our budget position with the revenue report for the 2019/20 financial year now forecasting a £119k underspend at year end which was reported at Cabinet last week. What a fantastic achievement and a huge testament to the hard work and dedication of teams across the organisation, and strong evidence of our commitment to ensuring our finances are in the best possible position as we rapidly approach Vesting Day.

There's less than 400 days to go now until the two new unitary authorities are in place and steady progress is being made across the Future Northants programme. Milestones are being reached at a fast pace, the latest being completion of the discovery phase where current services and how they are delivered has been reviewed. And of course, news of the Structural Changes Order being approved in Parliament back in February gives us certainty the two new unitary authorities will exist on 1st April 2021. However, current events will most probably mean the pace will slow to allow staff to support the wider needs of the organisation.

This month's Cabinet, which does seem a long time ago, had a very busy agenda with many reports detailing more of the fantastic work that is being delivered across the organisation, and with our partners.

The report on our partnership response to address climate change in Northamptonshire and update on the progress made to become carbon neutral by 2030 is a particular highlight and shows how much we have achieved. This includes reducing transport emissions through our Smart Move initiative, supporting residents, schools and communities to better manage energy usage, and planting over 250,000 trees across the county in conjunction with The Woodland Trust. There's more to be done and plans are in place to continue this fantastic work.

We are also addressing the hot issue of potholes on our roads with a report and business case seeking Cabinet approval to purchase thermal road repair machinery. I was able to see this great piece of machinery in action last week and if the purchase is agreed, it will enable our Highways teams to repair a significant additional amount of defects per year.

The quarterly performance report updates and illustrates positive achievements across Council directorates and is an interesting read, plus there's reports on bikeability cycle training, new highways scheme preparations, the future of LGSS and our street lighting PFI where approval is sought to convert existing street lighting to LED lighting using an invest to save approach.

Finally I wish everyone well and hope we can all stay safe. As members we will all be expected to play a lead in our communities and I hope we can keep information and updates regular from NCC in order for us all to perform our roles to the best of our abilities in this most unprecedented of times.

Thank you

Cllr Matt Golby

If any members would like to submit a letter or an article for the Magazine or comment on our contributors' articles please email the editor at ray.boyd@talktalk.net. Letters may be edited.



Just a thought: 'At Jeremy Corbyn's last PMQs he announced. "My voice will not be stilled, I'll be around, I'll be campaigning, I'll be arguing, and I'll be demanding justice for the people of this country" *Given last December's election result, this news will not necessarily dismay Conservative activists and voters.*

A READER'S VIEWS

The UK is now in the process of leaving the E.U. so people should be happier and smiling again, but at this time it's hard to keep smiling with the threat of the current virus. Social Media (which I have nothing to do with) is still frightening adults and children alike over the virus and 'Climate Change', please educate rather than scare people - especially our children.

***Please spare a thought about how YOU CAN protect our health workers who after all are on the front line currently, please be sure you need their help before going to see them.**

Boris has been the target for abuse over not visiting flooded areas of UK, do people expect him to 'Stick a finger in the dyke'? I am certain he will visit at some point hopefully to give those emergency services the praise they deserve for all they have been doing to help control parts affected by flooding issues. I know the Chancellor has announced big new expenditure on flood defences in his first budget and this is a really good thing.

We do not know how the UK is going to get through this period of being affected by the virus, but I do know we will smile again, we are so resilient.

Be sensible, be safe.

Member Dee Davis

The comments of all Magazine contributors are obviously their own opinion which do not necessarily reflect the views of the Conservative Party, our members, the Association or its management.

PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARIES

The government will abandon coalition-era plans to radically redraw parliamentary boundaries to cut the number of MPs in the House of Commons from 650 to 600 as the UK parliament faces a "greater workload" after Brexit. Parliament had approved plans to slash the number of constituencies to 600 in 2011 but moves to implement the changes have been repeatedly delayed.

Don't fall victim to scams during the Coronavirus emergency

Sadly, we are starting to see that some individuals are taking advantage of the situation in a negative, and frankly appalling way, and using it as an opportunity to mislead and scam the population for their own gain.

For example, you may have seen emails and messages yourself, informing you of health tests that can tell you if you have contracted Coronavirus and how to cure it for a huge price, or had people you don't know or trust contacting you offering to help with running errands, or to pick up prescriptions and shopping.

The Northamptonshire Trading Standards Service are warning people against these and telling them what they need to do to report any suspicious activity.

Cold callers: People you don't know or trust shouldn't be knocking on your door. If you do experience this, always ask for ID and never be pressured into donating money.

Scam emails and text messages: Please don't click on the links or attachments in suspicious emails, and never respond to unsolicited messages and calls that ask for your personal or financial details.

Online shopping: If you're making a purchase from a company you haven't used before, carry out some research first, and ask a friend or family member for advice before completing the purchase. If you decide to go ahead with the purchase, use a credit card if you have one, as most major credit card purchases are protected if the item is over £100.

Protect electronic devices from the latest threats: Always install the latest software and app updates to protect your devices from the latest threats.

 **BBC Sounds** Real cooking is about opening a cupboard, seeing what you've got and just going with it'.



Northamptonshire PFCC Stephen Mold's Newsletter

23 Mar 2020



In the light of the coronavirus pandemic, I have joined Nick Adderley, Chief Constable of Northamptonshire Police, and Darren Dovey, Chief Fire Officer, to publically reassure people that their emergency services are working hard to keep the county safe.

While people are being told to work at home, our officers and staff are still at work, ready and prepared to meet the changing needs and the challenge of keeping the county safe, as they always do. Our contingency plans are under review on a daily basis and we are working with our partners in the NHS and other agencies through the county's emergency planning arrangements to ensure that we can respond flexibly to any new situation.

I want our officers and staff to be confident that we are all following the best advice to ensure their welfare, and I want the public to be aware that the force is continuing to respond, to fight crime and keep them safe, as they always do.

Our Fire and Rescue Service also has contingency plans that are under review on a daily basis to ensure that they can

respond to emergencies. They have stopped doing some community-focussed work to ensure that firefighters and staff remain fit and well and are able to respond to emergencies in the normal way. Plans have been put in place to ensure that our ability to respond to fires, accidents and other emergencies is not affected.

I have made sure that both the Force and the Fire and Rescue Service have the resources they need to ensure they have capacity and resilience during this unprecedented situation and I would like to thank them and all their officers, fire fighters and staff for the commitment they are showing to keeping us all safe.

This unprecedented situation has undoubtedly placed a great strain on our county and its emergency services and underlines the importance of ensuring our emergency services have the resources and resilience to deal with the demands of an ever growing county and unexpected situations.

Last year I pledged to recruit 83 additional police officers to increase the numbers in

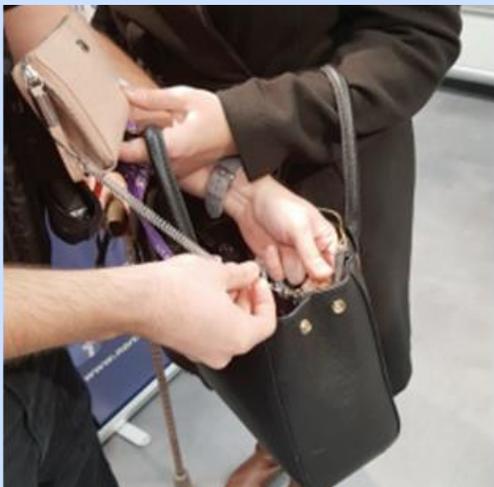


Northamptonshire Police to 1310. We will have reached these numbers by the summer. With the Government's extra funding for policing, this will boost the

Continued>>>>

number of police officers even further, to 1,367 officers by March 2021. While the funding isn't yet confirmed, this should take the Force to over 1,500 officers by 2023.

Other improvements we have made include: visiting every victim of burglary and improving investigation; putting a focus on local policing, with the establishment of two local policing areas and bringing teams such as roads crime and dogs back under local control. Northamptonshire Fire and rescue Service is also benefitting from increased investment, which has allowed the Chief Fire Officer to invest in seven new fire vehicles and 20 new firefighters – increasing the size of the fire service by 12.



As the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, I am also in the position of being able to work with our key partners to highlight new and emerging issues that will place a demand on our emergency services.

For example, the first ever officers in Northamptonshire dedicated to supporting people that have been enslaved or trafficked are now trained and ready to begin their new role as Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Victim Liaison Officers.

Liaison officers have been used in homicide investigation and fatal road traffic investigations for some time but are a recent innovation in supporting people

thought to have been enslaved or trafficked. This is a role that requires determination and skill as well as compassion and patience and a team of officers from Northamptonshire Police completed a course at the end of January to fully understand this highly complex crime.

The decision to create the new roles came from the Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Partnership, which I currently chair. Tackle modern slavery and human trafficking is a key commitment in my Police and Crime Plan and I am confident that these officers will make a real difference to what is a growing issue for our county.

Another way I am able to make a difference to people's lives is through providing small crime prevention grants. Recently officers from the Corby Neighbourhood Policing Team were handing out crime prevention advice and specialist purse strings to local shoppers.

PC Mark Walker and PC Brad Wilson fitted nearly 40 purse strings in the space of an hour at the Corby Retail Park, to help customers protect themselves from would-be thieves.

The strings are easy to fix the purse to the inside of the bag and have been designed to help reduce the chance of members of the public, particularly the elderly, from theft. The purse strings were funded through a grant of £1,000 from my office and I was so pleased to be able to support initiatives such as this, which give people the chance to meet and chat with their local officers at the same time as picking up some useful crime prevention advice.

As ever, if you need any help or assistance please contact me at:

Commissioner@northantspfcc.pnn.gov.uk

Stephen Mold

Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire

THE MISERABLE OLD GIT - 'WE ARE ALL SHAREHOLDERS IN THE UK'

18 Mar 2020

Hello everyone

I hope that you are all remaining well in these torrid times.

If you have been a regular reader of my back page comments you will remember that on a few occasions I have referred to our NHS. You will remember that I have suggested that an all party body of MPs and experts sit-in a darkened room for as long as it takes to make a five/ten year plan for the service.

In these next months we will rely on this excellent service more and more and we will all applaud the excellent work that they are doing to combat this pandemic which is largely of our own making. The members of the service are working tirelessly to ensure that the mortality rate for this pandemic is as low as possible. BUT they are working mainly in the dark. Over the last many years of Conservative, Coalition and Labour Governments we have all expected this service to miraculously continue with no extra funds - and when I say extra funds, I mean extra in addition to the normal increases needed to fund age longevity, population increases, pay roll increases and a significant change to our personal lifestyles which lead to more sedentary living.

This has to stop.....

Following this crisis which will be largely dealt with by this excellent service we must form this all party commission to map out the future.



Why do we need all these 'trusts' to administer multiple pockets of the service?

Why is the system not joined up between GPs and the hospitals?

Why are we using private care for NHS beds?

Why is social care not included in the NHS but under local Council control?

Why are drugs and equipment not centrally funded to obtain the best prices?

There are probably 100 more 'Whys' but this is a start.

I hope and pray that this service on which we all rely will at some point be funded to capacity which will allow some slack in its working. It is not a Company which needs to make profit for shareholders. In effect we are all its shareholders and if the proper decisions are made by clinicians and not pen pushers, then we will all need to pay more in .

I will leave on that note but I do believe that Boris and his advisers are handling this crisis well up to this date.

I would wish you all a good spring and above all - Keep well.....

Bye for now,

MOG

MOG's comments are obviously his own opinion which do not necessarily reflect the views of the Conservative Party, our members, the Conservative Association or its management.

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