



Police and Fire Commissioner

Ben Adams,

Meeting with the public

25th March 2024

Tutbury Village Hall

Summary

The crime commissioner covers the entire county of Staffordshire, which is diverse in terms of Stoke, Cannock, Stafford, and farmed rural areas including the moorlands in the north. Thus, requiring different policing. His role is to appoint the chief constable and chief fire officer leading the police and fire services and ensure that targets are met and holding them accountable. Ben Adams's role is to represent the public and set the budgets. The police budget was £264m, and the fire service budget is £50m which is balanced for the next 4 years. The role is elected, and elections are taking place in May this year.

The services are inspected every 3 years and Staffordshire has improved since the last inspection just after the period of Covid lockdowns. The services have grown with active recruitment taking place for additional officers. There are 2000 police personnel in Staffordshire. Response times have improved.

Statistics

- Average response time is 13 mins to a 999 call.
- There are 1500 staff in control centres.
- 40% of crime is online and dealt with by expert staff, not officers.
- 90% of forensic investigation will have a digital link which will require evidence gathering from electronic devices. However, to gain entry to devices is difficult and time consuming. Mobile phone theft is on the decrease due to the increased security on phones.
- Violence and burglary are half to what they were 10 years ago.
- Reports of domestic abuse have shown an increased, during and since Covid lockdowns.

- 90% of homicides are domestic related. Rare cases involve strangers.
- Police force recruitment are now 50% men and women.
- A large percentage of new recruits are student officers.
- Ethnic minority officers are in line with the police average of around 6%, Staffordshire would like to recruit more Muslim officers.

Tutbury, Outwoods and Rolleston Area

- Crime is up 14% from 12 months ago. With February seeing a blip.
- 19 crimes were committed which is an increase by 9 in this area.
- Burglary incidents number 29, a rise of 13 compared to last year. The majority of which were attempted car key thefts. Mr Adams advised the purchase of a protected key pouch which blocks the signal being bounced to unlock cars.
- Burglary includes sheds and outbuildings.
- Police visit every burglary.

Vehicle crime

- Car crime has increased over the last 18 months. After covid restrictions car parts and cars were harder to get hold of. Vehicles will be stolen or stripped of parts.
- Gangs will task young people to conduct the crimes. Officers work with road policing to detect the stolen cars on routes. This area including Uttoxeter, is well connected to main routes such as the A38 and A50. The gangs are spreading from Birmingham.
- Mobile and static APR cameras are used to detect illegal number plates and placed on main routes. This intelligence is used by road policing to assist in arrests.
- The police Service are doing everything they can and pursuing criminals through road traffic teams.
- Masked young people aged 16 to 17 years have been detected trying doors and cars before they move on to the next area and being traced. Mr Adams asked if anything was seen that was suspicious to contact 101 or log it on Staffordshire Police website, do not just post it on social media. If number plates are reported, then there is more chance that the criminals can be stopped.

Antisocial behaviour

40 incidents were reported in the Tutbury area within the last 12 months, which is a reduction of 15% and is very low.

The most common incidents are neighbourhood disputes.

Antisocial parking should also be reported to the Community safety partnership. This team deal with incidents before it becomes a police matter. If incidents are raised 3 times, then the police can get involved. Antisocial parking around schools is the most common problem and should be reported.

Harassment is now a crime not anti-social behaviour. If this is not tackled, then it can lead to violence.

Fire Service

- The Fire service received 1300 call outs last year.
- 3 people died last month in fires.
- Vulnerable people who cannot get out of the property and may cause the fire due to mental health or addiction are most at risk from fire caused from smoking.
- 3 children died in the water.
- 44 people died in road traffic accidents, with a majority speed related. The force continues to invest in cameras. A third is due to driving whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Heart attack /stroke whilst in control of a vehicle are another cause of road accidents.
- Death on the roads can also be caused by lack of visibility of pedestrians. Wear clothing that can be seen at night.
- Road safety is a key issue.

Fire Service Assisting NHS

- If an ambulance cannot attend a callout for a fall, the fire service can assist in get people up using inflatable equipment. 1200 incidents have been attended.
- The Fire service can also assist with discharges from hospital to home. The fire service checks the house and can fit key safes externally. This is effective in preventive measures and is less expensive for the NHS. The fire service is funded by the NHS for this service.

Questions

Q. If car crime increases in Feb/ March this year and last year should we be more vigilant next year at the same time of year?

A. Car crime increased from 25 to 35 last year. Mr Adams advised people to be more vigilant and log any key information from ring doorbells with 101 or the website. Do not just rely on social media.

Q. Do police join local whats app groups for gaining information?

A. Police do seek local information but work 4 days on and 4 days off and therefore it is better to log incidents and information to 101 so the issues can be dealt with by working officers not staff that are on leave or off duty.

Questions were raised about visibility of the police in Tutbury. The visibility of a PCSO is poor and does not act as a deterrent to drug use or illegal parking or reassure the residents.

Mr Adams said he would take the comment away.

Q A resident reported her property being hit by a car but was not satisfied that no conviction was made.

A. Mr Adams asked for further details and said that the quality of investigation has improved since 2022.

Q what measures are taken in holding the police service to account?

- Contact and response time is a measure. The response to 999 calls has improved due to moving the response teams out of Stoke and Cannock and deploying them to each area to manage their own.
- Visibility in the area should now improve with a rise in police numbers, however there are unfilled vacancies for PCSOs. Unmarked cars can be more effective.
- Feedback on cases is not currently provided and the public have to contact each time to chase up a case, Technology is being used to feedback when cases are updated.
- Arrests. This includes issuing court orders for mental health and drug treatments.
- Effective stop and searches lead to more arrests for knife crime.

Q. Can police influence vehicle security if phones are more secure vehicles need to follow?

A. The politicians determine the law not the police, however the police can offer feedback to manufacturers to improve security.

Q. Derbyshire have a scheme where households can have a free key safe box fitted is this something Staffordshire could do?

A. please provide the details and Mr Adams agreed to investigate this.

Police Visibility

Mr Adams agreed more officers are required and the chances of catching a criminal on patrol is rare. However, visibility is key for reassurance and deterrent.

Patrolling is now more do-able and should be done.

Meeting concluded 8.45pm