

# Safer in Kent

News from Matthew Scott: Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner

## MATTHEW WOULD LIKE TO HEAR YOUR VIEWS

**As the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner, I would like to know how safe you feel where you live, what matters to you in your local community and what your views of Kent Police are, amongst other matters.**

**Please click the button below to complete my short Annual Policing Survey 2019. If you would prefer hard copies of the survey then please let my office know and we will be happy to send some out.**

**The survey is anonymous, and the answers you give will assist me in making decisions about policing priorities and spending.**

**<https://www.kent-pcc.gov.uk/haveyoursay>**

**We have already had over 2000 responses so far, which is very much appreciated but the aim is to have as many as possible, so my Police and Crime Plan reflects the views of all Kent residents.**

### What does the PCC do?

- Set's Kent Police's priorities
- Holds the Chief Constable to account
- Decides the budget and council tax
- Commissions services for victims
- Runs a custody visiting scheme
- Works with councils and others to prevent crime



With a resident at a shopping centre in Swanley

### KENT IS TOP OF THE CLASS

Kent Police recruited an additional 291 police officers in the last financial year, figures published by the Office of National Statistics have confirmed.

The annual [police workforce](#) data shows Kent had the full-time equivalent of 3,553 police officers at the end of March 2019 compared with 3,261 a year earlier.

The extra 291 police officers were brought in as part of Kent Police's biggest recruitment drive for a generation and funded by money the Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Scott raised through council tax.

No other police force in the country increased police numbers by as many last year.

A huge thank you to you as residents of Kent in supporting this funding boost and for those responsible for recruiting and training these officers. It is my hope that this boost will go some way in maintaining Kent as a safe place to live, work and visit.



## PCC's Violence Reduction Fund

Thousands more young people in Kent will be warned of the dangers of becoming involved in gang-related activity, thanks to money from Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Scott.

Reformed gang member Francis Osei-Appiah began delivering inspirational talks in local schools in 2017. Now, as **one of nine projects** to be awarded money from Mr Scott's Violence Reduction Fund, he will soon be visiting new areas of the county like Dartford where the PCC has identified a lack of provision.

## Additional Government Funding to tackle Serious Violence

Kent is receiving an extra £1.7million from the Government to help tackle serious violence in the county. While Kent has not experienced the same levels of serious violence as inner cities have in recent months, we have our own unique challenges linked to county lines activity operating out of London and other areas.

This money has the potential to do so much good work in addressing some of the underlying issues in our communities which can later lead to violence.



## Summer engagements

This summer has been a very busy time for engagements, which enabled me to speak to residents throughout the whole county, regardless of whether they work for Kent Police or not.

I had the pleasure of speaking to numerous members of the public at this year's successful Kent Police Open Day where Police Dog Barker (the force's mascot) put me through my paces on the assault course. Over the three days we had 17,000 people through the doors giving them a real insight into the great and varied work the force does.

Additionally my office was also present at the Kent County Show along with Kent Police teams, including; recruitment, the rural taskforce, the Special Constabulary and the Road Safety Team amongst others. It was great to hear the positive feedback the rural communities had in relation to the proactive work the rural team get up to.

My engagements throughout the summer also included street stalls, radio interviews and coffee mornings. In the last few months I have visited Penshurst, Cranbrook, Sheldwich, Sandwich, Higham, Reculver, Hoo Peninsula, Leybourne and New Ash Green amongst others to listen to local people's concerns about policing and community safety. Combined with this I have also held street stalls at Fremlin Walk, Swanley Asda, Gillingham Tesco and Folkestone Sainsbury's amongst others.



## Statement on Tunbridge Wells Police Station

Matthew Scott has formally ceased discussions with Tunbridge Wells Borough Council about the possible sale of Tunbridge Wells Police Station.

Having carefully considered all the information available, and the impact on local residents and businesses, I have decided against selling Tunbridge Wells Police Station.

'A sale would not be a good enough deal for

the taxpayer at this time and would leave Tunbridge Wells without a police station, which is unacceptable to me.

'I travel all over Kent, listening to residents about their policing concerns and priorities. Since my election in May 2016, residents have consistently made it clear how important a strong local policing presence is to communities. I have strived to deliver this through 450 extra police officers, making it easier to report crime and speaking up for victims.



**I'm happy to help you or answer questions—please do get in touch with me using the details below**

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