



The Commissioner out and about in Peterborough



IN THIS ISSUE

News from the Police and Crime Commissioner

Jason Ablewhite



Welcome to my newsletter.

Finally, I want to put the spotlight on our four-legged friends within the force.

As we head into Spring, I am looking forward to talking to you about the issues faced in your cities, towns, villages and neighbourhoods.

The role of service animals in modern day policing is vital. They often put their own lives in danger to protect the public and the officers they serve with. In this issue we recognise the work of Oz, who in his six years service has helped to bring countless criminals to justice.

Whilst budgets get tighter, it is that time of year when we have to make difficult decisions on where to spend our money most effectively on policing.

Thank you to all of you that took part in my recent survey. You said you would be willing to pay more for policing and that will allow us to put another 50 officers on the streets.

I am also delighted that the Finn's Law campaign has moved a step closer to changing the law to give our service animals more protection. Police dogs, horses and other service animals do a fantastic job protecting the public and our officers and it is time that anyone who causes injury or death to these animals receives the proper punishment.

However, it is important to say we can all play our part in keeping our neighbourhoods safer and in this edition I talk about how you can be our eyes and ears in the community and in particular spot the signs of drugs crimes.

If there are any topics you would like us to cover in future issues please do get in touch.

We have also included tips on how to keep yourself safe on-line and you can find out more about the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Against Scams Partnership which brings a whole host of organisations together to take a stand against scams.

Handwritten signature of Jason Ablewhite.



Precept survey results announced



#itsnotokay Campaign Launch



Companies warned to be vigilant about cyber crime

## OUT & ABOUT



The Commissioner alongside the Chief Constable and Chief Insp Steve Kerridge at the St Neots public engagement meeting



Giving Shailesh Vara MP a tour of Constabulary Headquarters



Out and about in Peterborough with Community First members



Friendly Guide Dog Chips saying hello at the Peterborough VI Guide Dogs Forum in March



Talking to Chris Mann on BBC Radio Cambridgeshire about hare coursing

## Latest news from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

### Making our roads safer

Police and Crime Commissioner Jason Ablewhite, has been supporting officers and the community to make our roads safer.

The Commissioner shadowed officers on patrol in Peterborough and supported residents at a Community Speedwatch event to encourage drivers to reduce their speed on our county's roads.



The Commissioner at the Speedwatch event

### Spiritual support over a cuppa

Cambridgeshire Constabulary's Chaplains recently met with the Police and Crime Commissioner to discuss how they can work together to provide greater guidance and support to officers and staff.

The Chaplains are stationed with the force around the county as Police Support Volunteers (PSV). They provide personal, practical and spiritual support to officers and staff.

If you are interested in becoming a PSV please visit: <https://www.cambs.police.uk/apply/jobs/Volunteer>



The Commissioner with the Force Chaplains

### People would pay more for policing according to survey

More than eight out of ten people who responded to a public survey said they would pay more to fund policing. A total of 2,030 people responded to the survey asking people if they would be prepared to pay more council tax to fund local police.

Out of the respondents, sixty-one percent said they'd pay an extra £2 a month for policing and a further twenty-three per cent said they would pay up to £10 a month extra. Police and Crime Commissioner, Jason Ablewhite said:

"A clear theme amongst respondents to the survey was that people were prepared to pay more if the money was spent on neighbourhood policing. I can give my assurance that the additional money raised through this year's council tax will be used to recruit 50 new warranted officers.

"I would like to thank everyone who took the time to respond to my survey"

### County-wide meetings about future policing

Chief Constable Nick Dean and Police and Crime Commissioner Jason Ablewhite joined local officers at a series of public meetings to discuss policing across the county.

The meetings held between November and January in Chatteris, Ely, Huntingdon, Peterborough, Cambridge, Swavesey and St Neots were set up to give residents and businesses an opportunity to highlight any local policing issues.

The Commissioner said: "I was pleased to have the opportunity to speak to so many people from across the county and would like to thank everyone who attended these events.

"The pressures on our forces have never been so complex, as we work hard to manage demand and deal with the challenges of modern day policing. We will continue to focus strongly on providing the public with the best service possible and encourage all residents to act as our eyes and ears in the community reporting any suspicious or criminal activity"

## Commissioner supports #itsnotok campaign

“Don’t suffer in silence” is the message from the Police and Crime Commissioner to survivors of sexual violence in Cambridgeshire.

The Commissioner made the plea as he launched a countywide campaign to raise awareness of support available to survivors of sexual violence to mark Sexual Violence Awareness Week in February.

#itsnotok is an annual national campaign to remind people who have experienced sexual violence that help is out there.

Organisations across the county, including Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Rape Crisis Partnership and Cambridgeshire County Council have been encouraging leaders, staff and officers to take selfies pledging their support for #itsnotok



The Commissioner launching #itsnotok

Police and Crime Commissioner, Jason Ablewhite said:

“The effects of sexual violence can be devastating and it is vital people know where to turn to for support. They need to know they will be believed and that action can be taken against perpetrators. By supporting #itsnotok we can all encourage those affected by this devastating crime to seek support.”

To find out more about the services available to support survivors and witnesses to sexual violence. Visit the Victim Services website: <https://www.cambsvictimservices.co.uk/>

## Companies warned about cyber crime

Police and Crime Commissioner Jason Ablewhite is reminding businesses to be aware of potential threats from theft, scams and cyber-attacks.

Companies are being urged to report any crimes using Cambridgeshire Constabulary’s on-line reporting tool to enable the police to understand the true scale of an issue and build up intelligence to catch offenders.

The Commissioner said: “Businesses are often victims of crime but we know these crimes are under-reported. We also know businesses can be a lucrative target for cyber criminals trying to steal money or sensitive data.

“I encourage any business owners affected by crime to use Cambridgeshire Constabulary’s online reporting function to report non-emergency business crimes, such as theft or damage. You can find the link on [www.cambs.police.uk/businesscrime](http://www.cambs.police.uk/businesscrime). The option of reporting online makes the process easily accessible and can be done outside of business opening hours.”

Businesses can access Cambridge Business Against Crime (CAMBAC) and Huntingdon Business Against Crime (HBAC) for support for any business related crime matters. Operating on behalf of businesses, both organisations work locally to help prevent and reduce crime.

**Report a business crime**

Report a non-emergency business crime online, such as theft or damage, for your business or the company you work for.

[www.cambs.police.uk/businesscrime](http://www.cambs.police.uk/businesscrime)

**Is it an emergency?**  
Remember, if someone is in danger and you need immediate support please call 999 now.

101 | [www.cambs.police.uk](http://www.cambs.police.uk) | #safercambs | [ecops.org.uk](http://ecops.org.uk)

## THIS MONTH'S TOP TIPS

### Keeping yourself safe on-line

More of us are using the internet to carry out every day tasks but the more time you spend on-line the more vulnerable you are to cyber crime and on-line fraud.

However, there are things you can do to protect yourself. Here’s some top tips to protecting yourself and keeping safe from **Get Safe Online** - a public and private sector partnership supported by the Government and leading organisations in banking, retail, internet security and other sectors.

- 1. Choose your passwords carefully.** Use a different one for every online account in case any get hacked.
- 2. Look after your mobile devices.** Don’t leave them unattended in public places, and **protect them with a PIN or passcode.**
- Ensure you always have **internet security software** loaded on computers and a similar app on your mobile devices, and this is kept updated and switched on.
- 4. Always download software, operating system and app updates when prompted,** as these frequently contain security fixes and improvements.
- Don’t assume that **Wi-Fi hotspots** in places like cafes, bars and hotel rooms are secure. Never use them when you’re doing anything confidential online. Instead, use 3G or 4G or if it’s for work, a VPN (virtual private network).
- Never reveal **too much personal or financial information in emails,** on social networking and dating sites and in person.
- 7. Don’t click on links in emails, posts, tweets or texts and don’t open attachments** if the source isn’t known and trustworthy.
- Remember - **if something seems too good to be true, it probably is.**

## Tackling illegal hare coursing

The Police and Crime Commissioner, Jason Ablewhite joined local MPs at a meeting at the House of Lords on 5th March to discuss problems faced by police in combatting illegal hare coursing.

The Commissioner met Lord Randall, the Prime Minister's Senior Policy Advisor on Rural Affairs together with local MPs from across Cambridgeshire, including Jonathan Djanogly (Huntingdon), Shailesh Vara (North West Cambridgeshire), Heidi Allen (South Cambridgeshire) and Superintendent James Sutherland from Cambridgeshire Constabulary.



*Meeting Lord Randall to discuss hare coursing*

With incidents of hare coursing on the rise within the county, the Commissioner has been working closely with local MPs, the Constabulary, Countryside Watch and the NFU to encourage the government to review sentencing.

Police and Crime Commissioner, Jason Ablewhite said: "Hare coursing continues to be a big problem in Cambridgeshire, threatening local livelihoods, putting pressure on policing resources and increasing the fear of crime within our rural communities.

"The police only have the Game Act of 1831 which results in the average fine per individual offender being £280. It is vital we bring about a change in the sentencing law so that the penalty better suits the crime."

Cambridgeshire Constabulary's Superintendent James Sutherland said: "While we continue to provide dedicated officers to tackle hare coursing in the

form of the RCAT (Rural Crime Action Team), the issue needs to be addressed by the whole of the criminal justice system. Therefore I was really pleased to be able to meet with Cambridgeshire MPs and government advisors who showed a clear understanding of the extent of the problem and a willingness to consider reform. There is reason to be optimistic about the future."

Anyone witnessing hare coursing in progress should call 999. You can also report concerns (anonymously) if preferred) by visiting the Constabulary website: <https://www.cambs.police.uk/report/Report>

## Students learn about slavery at Annual SAFE Award 2019

Criminology students from Sixth Form Colleges across Cambridgeshire will be teaching others how to spot signs of modern day slavery as part of the Annual SAFE Award, 2019.

The Year 1 students attended the award launch event at Cambridgeshire Constabulary's Headquarters in January. Police and Crime Commissioner Jason Ablewhite joined serving police officers of different ranks to talk about modern day slavery at the event.



*Students at the modern day slavery event*

Now in its third year, students produce materials to spread the messages they have learned. Previous winning posters have been used around the county, covering topics such as the prevention of bike crime and domestic abuse.

## Finn's Law to protect service animals moves step closer

The campaign for a new law to give greater protection to service animals is moving forward.

The Finn's Law campaign started after police German Shepherd dog Finn was stabbed in the head and chest several times while chasing a robbery suspect with his handler in October 2016.

The dog handler, PC Wardell, was stabbed in the hand in the vicious attack and despite Finn's extensive injuries he continued to protect his handler. The suspect was later charged with Actual Bodily Harm (ABH) for the injuries he caused the officer but only criminal damage for the horrific injuries he caused to Finn the dog who nearly died in the attack.

Finn's Law is run by a group of volunteers who are campaigning to change the law to give all service animals greater protection.

Finn's Law has now had three readings in the House of Commons and in February had its first reading in the House of Lords. To find out more visit [www.finnslaw.com](http://www.finnslaw.com)



*PC Wardell and fighting fit Finn*

## News from the CONSTABULARY

### Celebrity crime fighters

Famous faces have been joining our Police Officers and Special Constables on the front line of policing as part of a Channel 4 documentary series aired in February and March.

TV presenter Katie Piper, Loose Women panellist Penny Lancaster, Made in Chelsea's Jamie Laing, Gogglebox star Sandi Bogle and comedian Marcus Brigstocke were the five well-known rookies given the chance to see what it's really like to be at the sharp end of policing when they joined Cambridgeshire Constabulary responding to 999 calls, out on drugs raids, policing busy city centres and solving crimes in CID.

Police and Crime Commissioner Jason Ablewhite said: "This series was a fantastic opportunity for Cambridgeshire to showcase the tremendous work of the Special Constabulary and give viewers a chance to see the challenges faced by our officers every day as they work to keep our streets safe for us all. It also highlighted the unique role played by our volunteer officers in policing their own communities. Hopefully the series will encourage more volunteers to join us."

If you are interested in becoming a Special Constable visit: [www.cambs.police.uk/apply/Jobs/Specials](http://www.cambs.police.uk/apply/Jobs/Specials)



### Police target speeding drivers

Police across Cambridgeshire targeted speeding drivers in a two-week crackdown in January.

The campaign saw officers from Road Policing Unit (RPU) targeting known problem areas in Peterborough, Melbourn, Linton and Longstowe to enforce safe speeds.

The campaign also aimed to raise awareness of the potentially fatal consequences of driving at an inappropriate or illegal speed through an online campaign.

The campaign supported the Europe-wide TISPOL campaign, which aims to reduce road traffic fatalities.

To report an incident of dangerous driving, visit: [www.Cambs.Police.Uk/Report](http://www.Cambs.Police.Uk/Report)



Creating a safer  
Cambridgeshire

### Changes to lost and found property

Mobile phones and computers, wallets and cash, and personal documents are the only items that will be processed by the police following a nationwide change in the way police deal with lost property.

Cambridgeshire Constabulary has joined other police forces nationwide by ceasing to take reports of lost property and accepting only certain types of found item.

The police service has traditionally recorded lost and found property, despite there being no statutory duty to maintain a system of recording non-evidential property.

Now a consistent approach has been adopted across the country and this should help to reduce call volumes and remove an unnecessary burden on policing.

Find out more by visiting: [www.cambs.police.uk/information-and-services/Property-and-animals/Lost-and-found](http://www.cambs.police.uk/information-and-services/Property-and-animals/Lost-and-found)

### Award-winning German Shepherd police dog retires

German Shepherd Police Dog Oz whose nose has sniffed out vital evidence, tracked down missing people and caught crime suspects leading them to lengthy prison sentences has retired from duty after six years' service.

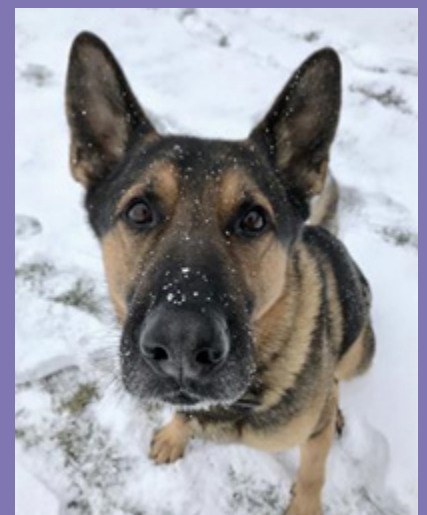
In October, seven-year-old Oz and his handler were awarded the Joint Protective Services Officer of the Year Award in Hertfordshire.

Oz was also the face on the relaunched Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and

Hertfordshire (BCH) Dog Unit's Facebook page.

Oz – formerly called Woz – was born as part of a litter in the West Midlands Puppy Breeding Scheme and started working with his handler in the BCH Dog Unit in 2013.

Now he has retired he will remain with his handler.



## Spotlight on... County Lines

**W**ould you recognise if drug dealing was happening where you live or work in Cambridgeshire? Would you know if a child or vulnerable person in your neighbourhood was being used as a drugs mule by a drug gang? The Commissioner writes...

The underworld of drug dealing has always been sinister.

But there is now a growing body of evidence that shows that increasing numbers of vulnerable and young people are being exploited in order to expand drug dealing networks into new areas.

The drug networking, also known as county lines, involves organised crime groups recruiting vulnerable children and young people to help them expand their drug dealing business from big cities to other places.

These groups will use a phone number, known as a 'drugs line', to contact their customers and sell class A drugs.

The drug dealing groups often use young people to deliver their drugs, by paying them or by forcing them through violence and grooming.

These young people, known as 'runners', are usually male and aged between 12 and 20. The young people travel between cities and other areas to deliver drugs and collect cash on behalf of the dealers.

In most cases, those delivering drugs across the country are being forced to do so by the dealer. These organised

criminals will often target vulnerable people to handle drugs for them, to take away the risk of getting caught with drugs themselves. The people who feature high on their target list include children in care, children absent from school, children missing from home and single parents on low incomes.

The organised crime groups are known to use violence and manipulation against these vulnerable people.

Most of us feel far removed from this world but we can all play our part in helping to close in the net on those responsible. It's important we all learn to spot the signs of drug activity and how to report it to the police.

Have you noticed more people living at an address of a vulnerable person? Drug dealers often take over vulnerable people's homes, making them sell drugs and using their home as a place for others to take drugs.

Unusual activity you might see could include:

- Lots of different people coming and going from an address
- People coming and going at odd times of the day and night
- Strange smells coming from the property
- Windows covered or curtains closed all the time
- Cars pulling up to or near the house for a short period of time.

We all have a role to play in keeping our local areas safe from drug dealing.

If you have noticed any of this type of unusual activity and suspect drug dealing at a house in your area, you can report this online at [www.cambs.police.uk/report/Report-Shared/Report-a-concern](http://www.cambs.police.uk/report/Report-Shared/Report-a-concern) or call the police on **101**.

### Questions to help you identify drug activity

**H**ave you seen something you think could be drug related?

Do you know someone who is being forced or asked to deal drugs?

Do you know someone who has a drugs debt?

Do you suspect someone is dealing drugs?

Have you seen a vehicle you think is transporting drugs?

Are lots of vehicles visiting a particular house at all times of the day and night?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you can report the information online to police at [www.cambs.police.uk/information-and-services/Contact/Contact](http://www.cambs.police.uk/information-and-services/Contact/Contact) or call on **101**. You don't have to tell us your name, just what you know or have seen. Your information could be vital.

If someone is in immediate danger or a crime is taking place you should always call **999**.

If you'd prefer to stay anonymous, you can contact **Crimestoppers to report anonymously online or by calling**



## Getting in touch:

It's important that the Commissioner and his team represent your views, so if you want to get in touch please do. The Commissioner is here to represent you and to make sure your voice is heard.

You can write to us here:

### Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

PO Box 688  
Huntingdon  
PE29 9LA

Email: [cambs-pcc@cambs.pnn.police.uk](mailto:cambs-pcc@cambs.pnn.police.uk)

Or phone: **0300 333 3456**



## Police and Crime Commissioner Surgeries:

The Commissioner offers regular one-to-one meetings across the county. Surgeries are held every month, and are rotated around the county in order to provide a location suitable for everyone. If you have an issue you would like to discuss, you can book a 15 minute appointment.

Please email: [cambs-pcc@cambs.pnn.police.uk](mailto:cambs-pcc@cambs.pnn.police.uk) or phone 0300 333 3456 to make an appointment:

## Upcoming 2019 dates:

10th April	Ely Police Station	10:00 - 12:00
7th May	Cambs Constabulary HQ, Hinchingsbrooke	09:30 - 11:30

## Are you online?

Are you on social media? Keep up to date with the Commissioner's activities here:



## FIND OUT MORE BY CLICKING:

[CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE](#)

[CAMBRIDGESHIRE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH](#)

[SPEEDWATCH](#)

[POLICE UK](#)

[COUNTRYSIDE WATCH](#)

[E-COPS](#)

[CRIMESTOPPERS UK](#)

[GOVERNMENT SERVICES](#)

[ACTION FRAUD](#)

[CAMBRIDGESHIRE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION](#)

[VICTIM SERVICES](#)