



**Police Liaison Representative (PLR)
3rd Annual Conference
1900 – 2100, 27 June 2023**

The 3rd PLR Annual Conference took place on 27 June 2023 with 48 PLRs in attendance and a further 12 attendees from Northants Police, Northants CALC and invited guests.

1. Welcome and Introduction (*Chief Constable, Nick Adderley*)

The conference was opened by the Chief Constable, Nick Adderley. He welcomed PLRs and said that the scheme was valuable to Northamptonshire Police. He said that the number of officers in the Neighbourhood Policing Teams had increased and was intended to increase further.

2. Introduction to the new Roads Policing Team (*Chief Constable, Nick Adderley*)

Driving standards in Northamptonshire are poor, and the new Roads Policing Team will focus on improving road safety as well as responding to incidents – the team's vehicles are fully equipped for dealing with road safety matters and include medical and safety equipment.

The Force has one unmarked road safety van – used primarily for monitoring speeding offences. Social media reports that there are six unmarked vans are incorrect, although it acts as a deterrent if people believe that!

Cold Higham Parish Council	
Why is the standard of driving so bad in this county in particular?	Nick Adderley: There has been little proactive deterrent in Northamptonshire when it comes to road safety for 10 years. The Force is trying to change this image.

Eydon Parish Council	
What are the options around Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) camera's being installed in local areas?	Nick Adderley: It is possible to have them installed, but due to GDPR there are many factors that need to be considered. The final decision rests with the Information Commissioners Office – if you want to discuss this further and/or start a case application, please contact me by email.

Chelveston-cum-Caldecott Parish Council	
What is the Force doing regarding drug driving?	Nick Adderley: Drug driving is likely to become a larger issue than drink driving in the coming years, so is something the Force is focusing on. Responders have drug “wipe” kits with them (appearance similar to that of an EpiPen) to test if drugs are present – once the kit has been used, it then gets sent to the Forensic Team for analysis.

There's a possible introduction of “Community Safety Officers” to focus more on the outlying areas of the County. Northants Police now has one of the most advanced fleets and their deployment areas have been reviewed to ensure that there is wider coverage across the county. Community Speedwatch is also going to be encouraged further – Ash Tuckley (Assistant Chief Constable) has been tasked with ensuring there is a volunteer scheme in each parish – there will be more information to follow on this.

Flore Parish Council	
What about the effectiveness of 20mph speed limits?	Nick Adderley: National Highways and the Local Authorities deal with the speed limits for different areas. Setting a 20mph limit alone does not work to combat speeding – it needs to be used in a more systematic way.

Kevin Fagan highlighted that the Community Safety Partnership has a joint roads team in the West – there is a similar team in the North also.

3. Crime Statistics, How to Use Them, and Standardisation Across the County (Chief Inspector Policy Local Policing, Pete Basham)

<http://police.uk/>

<https://data.police.uk/>

The websites above can be used to access and download crime statistics.

It's important to note that crime statistics are less accurate when it reaches more rural areas due to “snapback” within the system – meaning that the boundaries used for data searches are less defined in rural areas.

There are some consistency issues with the reports that are produced – the frequency and content changes across local areas. While crime reports are important, building the

relationship between PLRs and local officers and exchanging information is more valuable. Often the data makes little sense unless it is put in context. Additionally, the Force is conscious of the need for consistent reports but is looking into ways to provide the information without consuming officer time, which is better spent in the community.

The Force can, if necessary, extract data at civil parish level, but does not do so regularly as the format for this has to be requested – it is not one of their standard templates. Pete Basham asked the PLRs to reflect on what data they would find helpful to see regularly, as well as what's working well. Stop and search is an area of data on the police website where much more detailed data is available.

Greens Norton Parish Council	
How to produce reports about crime journals when you have to contact the API.	Pete Basham is going to take this away and look into the issue further.
Is there a way to view countywide averages to compare with your local data?	Yes – this information should be available on the police website.

If a PLR sees a spike when looking at the police data, then it's advised they contact a local officer to discuss the narrative around this – it's all about two-way communication, and in the same sense the PLRs could help the Force if they identify an intelligence gap.

Earls Barton Parish Council	
The context around the data is key, so with the data optics is there a way of linking the two? For instance, there might be a spike of 30 crimes in an area, but they could all be related to one person.	Pete Basham is going to take this away and look into the issue further, as he thinks the website will only produce the raw data.

Moreton Pinkney, Preston Capes, Woodford-cum-Membris Parish Councils	
Are there options for overlaying the crime statistics into something like Parish Online or a mapping system?	Pete Basham: This is something the Force has already been talking about and is reviewing options.

4. Neighbourhood Alert Relaunch and New Features (*Superintendent Local Policing West, Rachael Handford*)

The relaunch date is the 3 July 2023, and the new brand is "Northamptonshire Talking". There will be new features with the relaunch, such as the ability for outgoing and incoming messages.

Geofencing will be a key feature of the new system and through this Northamptonshire Talking will have more targeting functionality with 'Local Priority Targeting' – this will help messages received through the system to be focused more effectively on a specific area or group.

Steve Freeman is the Superintendent working on this in the North of the county.

Greens Norton Parish Council	
is there a way to identify if the message is going to just PLRs?	Rachael Handford: New templates have been created for Northamptonshire Talking and they can introduce methods including, e.g., "For PLRs" in the subject line. The Force is currently receiving training on these new templates.

Far Cotton and Delapre Community Council	
What features will be for external and/or internal use?	Alan Earle: There will be different levels of permissions on Northamptonshire Talking that will be based on the role of the individual.

Dawn Allingham highlighted that not all PLRs are yet registered with Neighbourhood Alerts/Northamptonshire Talking – there will be a continued push to get everyone signed up to the new system.

If PLRs receive messages that are missing details or aren't complete, then please reply to the sending officer to let them know so the service can continue to improve.

Hinton in the Hedges Parish Meeting	
There seems to be a crossover between Neighbourhood Alerts and Neighbourhood Watch – our NHW Co-Ordinator has been told they have to stop contacting people if they're signed up to Neighbourhood Alerts. Is this the case?	Alan Earle: This is definitely not the case, and NHW Co-Ordinator's do not have to stop contacting people in their communities because they may be signed up to Neighbourhood Alerts.

The preference is to not have only one person from an area signed up and then filter the information through to others in their community. Instead, Northamptonshire Talking wants as many residents as possible to be signed up to the system. When you first register with Northamptonshire Talking, you will be given suggested organisations to receive updates from – they are Action Fraud, Neighbourhood Watch, Northamptonshire Police and the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

5. PLR Feedback, Comments and Questions

Far Cotton and Delapre Community Council	
It would be helpful if we could have more information available on the PLR website.	This will be reviewed to see what improvements can be made to the website.

Wicken Parish Council	
How is the Force upskilling their officers regarding cyber-crime?	This is a key (and growing) concern at the minute and upskilling/training officers on this is a priority.

Welton Parish Council	
As a new PLR, it would be helpful to have some form of PLR Orientation to attend to get a greater sense of the role from the start.	Dawn Allingham: This is something we can certainly look into providing – we could hold one or two orientations a year for new PLRs to attend. If you are a new PLR and would like more information regarding the scheme and how it works with Northamptonshire Police, then please contact Dawn.

6. Closing Comments

Danny Moody thanked Nick Adderley, Pete Basham, Rachael Handford, Alan Earle for their input. He especially thanked Dawn Allingham and Sophie Harding for their work on the PLR scheme, which has developed enormously over the past year. Finally, he thanked the special guests, Keith Stevens, National Association of Local Councils (NALC), Kevin Fagan, WN Community Safety Partnership, David Watts, NN Community Safety Partnership, and Colin Moore, Northamptonshire Neighbourhood Watch.

Keith Stevens, chair of the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) said *“Thanks for inviting me, and I found it very informative. I think it is upon us to look at this [PLR Scheme in Northamptonshire] to see what can be done nationally. The more parish councils talk to the police and vice versa the more you help one another”*.

The meeting closed at 9:05pm.