

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

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21 Nov 2016

Ms S Cretney
Bourton-On-The-Water Parish Council
GL54 2AZ

Dear Ms Cretney,

Thank you for your getting in touch, and for previously responding to the Police and Crime Plan consultation. You will not be surprised, as I was not, that the message you conveyed then, and in your letter, about neighbourhood policing was echoed many times either by councils like yours or individual members of the public.

As you know, I am powerless to intervene personally in operational matters like those to which you refer but I have passed on your letter to the Cotswolds' Local Policing Inspector, Karen Ellis.

I do, however, agree with you on the importance of local policing which is vital in maintaining peace and good order in our towns and villages. That is why in the new police and crime plan I stress the importance of maintaining neighbourhood policing even if it means the Constabulary adopting a different approach. I expect the Chief Constable to produce a plan and I will monitor progress.

Of course, we must all accept that demands on the police today are greater and more complex than ever before. It is, nevertheless, important that neighbourhood teams are valued and maintained as they are vital to the relationship between police and public. That said, I am not sure any operating model could deliver everything we need given the circumstances and resources at our disposal.

Operational changes that were introduced in 2015 constituted the Constabulary's biggest re-organisation in more than 40 years. It now needs to try to understand why it hasn't yet delivered everything that was planned and refine or change the model as necessary. Part of my rôle is to hold them to account.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Surl
Police and Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire

