



Police Liaison Representative Scheme Report of the Annual Conference 2026

The 6th Police Liaison Representative (PLR) Annual Conference took place online at 1900 on 16 June 2026. Danny Moody, Chief Executive of Northants CALC, opened the proceedings and welcomed the attendees and special guests. Over seventy PLRs registered for the event, so there was a lively audience and lots of participation from the start.

Danny Moody introduced special guest, Danielle Stone, the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, who outlined her strategic priorities, with a particular emphasis on keeping women and girls safe. She highlighted the success of the Women's Charter, now adopted by nearly 100 organisations, and the introduction of allyship training for male leaders. Alongside this, she discussed early intervention work with young people, including the development of a dedicated girls' pathway to address gaps in support that had previously gone unrecognised. Investment in local communities was also a central theme, with over £100,000 distributed in community grants and £110,000 specifically allocated to road safety initiatives. These projects reflect a broader commitment to prevention, partnership working, and long-term community resilience.

Following the Commissioners talk, Chief Constable Ivan Balhatchet provided a comprehensive overview of the current policing landscape in Northamptonshire, highlighting both progress and ongoing challenges. Demand on policing services continues to grow, with approximately 900 calls received each day, around 500 of which require a formal response. Despite this demand, there has been significant investment in neighbourhood policing, with every postcode now being covered by a designated neighbourhood team. The force has also expanded its workforce to approximately 1,500 officers—the highest level to date—and increased its use of technology, including drones, facial recognition, and artificial intelligence tools to support operational delivery. While public confidence in policing has improved, the Chief Constable acknowledged that there remains work to do, particularly in improving detection rates and managing demand effectively.

Having the Chief Constable and Commissioner in attendance allowed for a Q&A session to be undertaken – some questions were submitted in advance, and others were asked in the meeting:

Questions and Answers	
How are you ensuring consistent neighbourhood policing visibility across rural communities, particularly in harder-to-reach areas?	Ivan Balhatchet: We would like to double or treble the rural crime team – we have to be conscious of meeting the needs while considering resources. Hopefully people are seeing a difference around communication with their NPT. Danielle Stone: It's difficult for people in rural areas to access services in the main town – so an aim is to try and get the services into the rural areas – the OPFCC has recently awarded a grant to Eve to offer rural support.
Crime is down – do you have a figure? And any links to available grants?	Ivan Balhatchet: Recent data indicates reductions in burglary, vehicle crime, violent

	crime, and rural crime over the past year, although it was emphasised that statistics alone do not fully reflect public experience or perception. We're supporting a "Vision Zero" approach, aiming to eliminate road deaths and serious injuries through a combination of enforcement, engineering, and education. We acknowledge that the historic removal of speed cameras had been a mistake and work is now underway to explore alternative enforcement methods, including average speed cameras and mobile units. Danielle Stone: Information on grants is available from the OPFCC website.
What's the latest position on the contempt of court case regarding the Chief Constable and who will pay the £50,000 fee?	Ivan Balhatchet: The case has been heard in court and is now a matter of public record – the fee was paid by Northants Police. Danielle Stone: it was her duty to send to the independent office of police conduct and the immediate response was that it was institutional failure rather than individual misconduct. The OPFCC is going to do an independent review to show what Northamptonshire Police have done to satisfy identifying what went wrong and how to make sure it won't happen again. The report will be available at the end of summer.
When trying to get cameras replaced and updated, the process is very laborious and would be great if there was a joined-up approach with the Police, OPFCC and North Northamptonshire Council.	Ivan Balhatchet: We have the Road Safety Alliance Team and are trying to build this further. We need to do as much as we can and work in a partnership – enforcement, technology, road types, road speeds. Community Speed Watch volunteers are increasing all the time. Danielle Stone: Partnerships to focus on what can be done and not what can't be done.
How many Community Speed Watch schemes are now up and running?	There are currently 47 active community speed watch schemes in operation with a further 6 due to come online soon. Full details on how the schemes operate and how to apply to set one up can be found here www.northants.police.uk/CSW
Do you have any spare Crime Prevention in a Box boxes? If so, it would be great to get two more.	We have already written to all Parishes with the offer of additional boxes. Please request these from tiffany.buchanan@northantspfcc.gov.uk

Are there plans to expand Beat Bus visits and community surgery engagement in smaller or more rural areas?	The Neighbourhood Policing Teams(NPT's) hold regular Beat Bus Surgeries across their areas throughout the year. We have two beat bus vehicles in total with one based on the north side of the county and one based on the west. Usage of the vehicles is shared between the 4 NPT's areas who advertise where they'll be holding surgeries with the vehicle on both our social media and communication pages. The NPT's are looking to hold surgeries across the whole area they cover to ensure every community has the opportunity to contact their local policing teams. The more rural areas of the county are a focus for the Beat Bus Surgeries because they can be used where other facilities don't exist. If you'd like to request a visit from one of the Beat Buses please make contact with your NPT contact to arrange a date.
What are the current trends in rural crime across Northamptonshire, and how are these shaping policing priorities?	Organised acquisitive crime - We're continuing to see organised criminality targeting farms and rural properties for vehicles and items of farming equipment. The Rural Crime Team continue to work with colleagues from across the region to proactively disrupt these groups through the recovery of stolen property and warrant activity to recover evidence. The team have recently recovered hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of stolen property which has been returned to the rightful owners. Organised acquisitive crime sits within the the Northamptonshire Police Control Strategy as a key priority for the force so resources and focus will continue to be dedicated to tackling this offending. Full details on the control strategy can be found on the Northamptonshire Police website. From a wildlife crime perspective we're also seeing a rise in illegal fishing related crime. Northamptonshire Police manages this offending under OP Traverse which is a national operation. Due to positive links with sites and individuals, numerous suspects have been identified, and will be subject to formal process. It would be remiss to comment any further currently as this is sub-justice – however, we are operating a proactive approach as opposed to simply

	responsive as part of our prevent and deter strategy, keeping our communities safe from harm.
How can parish councils better support rural crime reporting and prevention, and how is that intelligence used operationally?	The Rural Crime Team are looking for invites to Parish Council meetings where they can discuss the crime themes being seen in the locality and provide advice and support with crime prevention and target hardening along with how information and intelligence can be shared with Northamptonshire Police. Intelligence is a valued tool in policing. We will respond to this based around the threat harm and risk posed – it is worth noting, that due to GDPR rules, we may not be able to directly feedback, but rest assured we take all intelligence reports seriously
Are there plans to expand rural crime prevention initiatives or dedicated rural policing resources?	To expand this will revolve around positive stakeholder engagement, the dedicated resources know their respective areas well, however I would actively encourage new or existing members of the community to get in touch. The team are visible and contactable and I wholeheartedly support a two way feed in this respect – all details are available on the Northamptonshire Police website – and we can also be contacted by way of Northamptonshire Talking – or indeed pick up the phone, we are more than happy to visit, have a chat, and work out what the best thing we can do to assist with preventing crime, with specific assistance, and relevant signposting, as again, it would be remiss of me to suggest this is a “one cap fits all” approach, and we will always look to tailor this to the individual requirements of the person or people, and communities at large.
What role do parish and town councils play in long-term crime prevention strategies, particularly in rural areas?	Laura Jones: 1. Continue to understand and share crime prevention advice, there is an array of information on the Force website on steps to prevent crime, with regular information shared through Northamptonshire Talking. 2. Share what you see and hear, as eyes and ears of local neighbourhoods being capable guardians to prevent crime by

	contacting the policing and sharing information and intelligence is important. 3. Build cohesive, inclusive neighbourhoods with opportunities for parishioners to come together in positive activity– creating a sense of pride and ownership of local spaces where people live. 4. Maintain and take ownership of places and spaces that the councils are responsible for to ensure legitimate use and to deter crime and ASB. 5. Consider getting involved in volunteer opportunities such as those led by the police citizens in policing team, including volunteers on horseback, street watch, and speed watch. 6. Consider getting involved or starting local Neighbourhood Watch schemes 7. Make use of the Crime Prevention in a box initiative 8. Be part of problem solving where crime and ASB issues arise.
What types of community-led projects are eligible under the Immediate Justice scheme, and how can rural councils and PLRs help identify suitable initiatives?	The Immediate Justice scheme has tackled hundreds of projects, right across the county. Manager Aidan Gibson said in his breakout room that the team will come out to the location to consider any work proposal that a parish makes. You can email the team at: ImmediateJusticeTeam@northants.police.uk You can see more about some of the work that has been taking place on the Commissioner's website or social media channels Northantspfcc.org.uk
What impact has the ASB Action Plan had so far, and how can councils escalate persistent ASB issues more effectively?	Laura Jones The ASB action plan was launch in April 2026 and is a long-term strategy to focus on ASB across Northamptonshire. It has identified 8 key objectives which are very much live and active. The recent ASB awareness week provided opportunity for partner agencies to work together to focus on ASB, publicise the plan and how to report ASB. Governance of delivery sits with an established ASB oversight board and public communications of work to date is anticipated in October 2026.
How are you ensuring that residents in higher-density communities see visible outcomes from	Laura Jones

ASB enforcement (e.g. closures, notices, patrols)?	Neighbourhood Policing teams have plans which identify where ASB is more prevalent, including hotspot patrols, with a focus on town centre areas. Operation Workforce is an example of such activity in Northampton town centre which runs for 9-weeks during the summer months. Northamptonshire Police use the full range of ASB powers available, with dedicated ASB and Civil Powers Officers now in post to both lead on ASB enforcement and provide advice and guidance to Neighbourhood Policing Teams. Some recent examples of orders obtained can be found at the following links: Kettering woman issued with Criminal Behaviour Order following persistent anti-social behaviour Northamptonshire Police Man, 73, issued two-year Criminal Behaviour Order Northamptonshire Police Closure order secured for flat in St Stephens House in Spring Boroughs Northamptonshire Police
How are partnerships with councils, housing providers, and other agencies evolving under the Clear Hold Build approach in urban areas?	The Clear, Hold Build approach is so effective due to the strong partnerships we maintain with councils, housing providers and other agencies. When starting a new project, the team will asset map which agencies and partners are already working within an area. This will include understanding which housing providers have properties within the mapped CHB site. All partners are invited to a working group which is formed at the beginning of the project. Whilst CHB is split into distinct phases, it is important to form governance and structure at the beginning of a project specifically for the build phase, as many of the changes required take significant time to implement. An environmental visual audit will usually take place and this working group will assign owners to individual actions for progression. A GAP analysis is also required to understand what provision is available to the community and what the community are lacking, as well bespoke problem-solving solutions depending on concerns and issues identified. Again, partners will be called upon to assist where they have

	ownership of an issue/gap that is highlighted. As an example, when completing the CHB project in the Bouverie estate, our EVA highlighted that several metal railings were being utilised by individuals who used the location to cause ASB. We were able to identify that NPH owned these barriers and through the working group were able to request their removal. Equally, if the working group highlight a particular concern- fly tipping, or graffiti etc, the relevant partner can be invited to assist.
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The questions and answers will be collated into a report to be shared with the PLR – this can then be used to identify ongoing areas for improvement.

Danny Moody thanked the Commissioner and Chief Constable for their time and support at the Conference.

The attendees were then allocated to breakout rooms based on their preferences submitted at booking time. The breakout rooms were:

- **Rural Crime** – Overview of the current trends/themes of rural offending, activities the team are undertaking to support rural communities, and what opportunities are there for communities to support rural crime prevention activity (*Facilitator – PC Chloe Gillies, Northants Police*)
- **Anti-Social Behaviour Plan** – Overview of the ASB action plan and what communities can expect to see on the ground from the Neighbourhood Policing Teams in their area (*Facilitator – Laura Jones, Prevention Manager, Northants Police*)
- **Immediate Justice** – Overview of how the immediate justice initiative works, the successes achieved to date, and how Parish and Town Councils can flag areas of their communities that could benefit from immediate justice activity (*Facilitator – Aidan Gibson, Immediate Justice Manager, Northants Police*)

In the plenary session following the breakout rooms each of the facilitators gave a short summary of the topics that were discussed, the questions that had been asked, and the action points that had been identified:

Rural Crime

The rural crime session highlighted the increasingly complex nature of offences affecting rural areas, including machinery theft, hare coursing, and organised criminal activity operating across county borders. The rural crime team demonstrated strong partnership working with other agencies such as the RSPCA and neighbouring police forces, alongside the use of specialist equipment including drones and night vision technology. Prevention measures such as SmartWater continue to be promoted, with support of funding from the OPFCC to equip all officers with UB lights.

Anti-Social Behaviour Plan

This session focused on a newly published ASB Action Plan for 2026, built around eight key priorities including a victim-first approach, improved use of data, and stronger community engagement. Although ASB levels remain below pre-pandemic figures, there has been a recent increase, particularly in environmental ASB. Discussion covered emerging issues such as the use of e-bikes and e-scooters, which can constitute both nuisance behaviour and tools for criminal activity – they are an anti-social activity, but can be used as a tactic for crime (such as drug dealing). There is a recognised need to improve public understanding of the legal framework surrounding these issues, alongside continued enforcement and early intervention work.

Immediate Justice

The Immediate Justice breakout session was particularly well received, with strong feedback from attendees on its visible and practical impact. The scheme, originally introduced as a national pilot in 2023 and now retained locally, focuses on low-level offending and requires individuals to undertake reparative work in their communities. Since its inception, the programme has delivered thousands of hours of community benefit work, supported over 50 parish councils, and achieved a satisfaction rate of around 90%. Evidence suggests that participants who engage with the scheme are significantly less likely to reoffend, demonstrating its effectiveness as an intervention tool. The scheme was widely praised not only for its outcomes but also for its ability to visibly demonstrate consequences for offending and rebuild community trust.

A second Q&A session was undertaken, focusing on questions relating to the breakout room topics and the PLR Scheme in general:

Question and Answers	
With crimes changing over time, are the rural crime team finding that theft of robot lawn mowers is being reported?	Dave Wakeman: The team are not aware of reported thefts of robot lawn mowers – it may be that the reports are going to NPTs and not to the rural team (who focus more on ride-on lawn mowers). A PLR highlighted that some robotic lawn mowers have a setting where it goes completely inactive if robot lawn mower goes more than 500 metres beyond their house.
Allotment thefts – all three of their sites have been targeted (everything has been reported to the police), but would this come under rural crime or NPTs?	Chloe Gillies: Likely initially with NPTs, but when there has been a series of offences (and offences are ongoing) it can move from NPT to rural crime team. Chloe will look the situation for this specific parish.
How often are things pushed back by the Unitary Authorities and Highways Teams? Such as with road traffic/safety features, tired of being told what can't be done, rather than what can.	Danny Moody: We need everyone to come to the party to do their bit – the Unitary Authorities have resource constraints which makes it difficult. Traffic calming for instance needs to be multi-agency but could do it without funding from the Unitary Authority.
MP Sarah Ball has a petition to get Towcester Police Station reopened. Where does this fit in with what the police are thinking about?	Dave Wakeman: The situation in Towcester is currently under review and the Commissioner has asked for a different building to be proposed as the station. Important to note the difference between having stationed NPTs at the premise and a

	front office. A survey was completed last year to look at what a front office may look like – the overwhelming majority said to turn up when we call and answer when we ring. A police station is being formed in Kettering that will have a front office and this may be used as a template for other stations.
Can parish councils put in traffic calming measures on their own? As the Highways Team do not seem interested and have been told their role is to keep traffic moving and not to slow it down.	Danny Moody: Councils still need permission from highways, but not funding to implement measures. If councils are willing to pay for measures, it's important to discuss this with the Highways Team.
Highlighting the lack of speed cameras, as a parish council who and how can we lobby to get speed cameras back in place?	Dave Wakeman: The Chief and Commissioner are looking at options and cameras are a part of that. Unsure of the instant options, as it has to be a partnership approach that looks to drive it forward. Raise this with local ward councillors to make sure it's on their agenda.
The planning officer at the Highways Team submitted incorrect data in relation to a junction that showed it as dangerous. The relationship with the Highways Team and traffic calming measures is difficult.	Danny Moody: Northants CALC hold briefings on the Local Plan with West Northamptonshire Council – we can easily look at doing one focused on highway regulations and planning.

A number of clear actions were agreed following the conference. These include further investigation into specific local concerns such as road safety issues and allotment thefts, continued review of speed enforcement options, improved promotion and support for grant funding opportunities, and the publication of all conference materials through the NCALC platform. There is also a commitment from organisers to ensure that all queries raised are addressed and that communication continues beyond the annual conference setting.

In closing, the 2026 PLR Annual Conference reinforced the strength and value of the partnership between Northamptonshire Police and parish councils. While challenges remain—particularly around road safety and multi-agency coordination—the event demonstrated a shared commitment to collaboration, transparency, and continuous improvement. The PLR scheme continues to place Northamptonshire in a uniquely strong position nationally, enabling effective communication between local communities and policing and supporting a more responsive and community-focused service.

Danny Moody wrapped up proceedings and thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 2100.

Present:

Ivan Balhatchet, Chief Constable, Northamptonshire Police
Danielle Stone, Police Fire and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire
Chief Inspector Dave Wakeman, Northamptonshire Police
PC Chloe Gillies, Northamptonshire Police
Laura Jones, Prevention Manager, Northamptonshire Police
Aidan Gibson, Immediate Justice Manager, Northamptonshire Police
Sgt Ollie Quinlan, Kettering and Corby Neighbour Policing Team, Northamptonshire Police
Abi Butler, Northamptonshire Talking and PLR Central Co-ordinator, Northamptonshire Police

Danny Moody, Chief Executive, Northants CALC
Sophie Harding, Business Support Manager, Northants CALC
PLRs from across Northamptonshire

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