



11 May 2017

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Police and Crime Commissioner

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Dear Chris

The Warwickshire Protocol 2017 – Dealing with Unauthorised Encampments in Warwickshire

I am very pleased to share with you the proposed protocol for adoption by your organisation. The protocol has been drafted by my staff following a comprehensive consultation process. I would now urge you to recommend it for adoption as soon as possible.

To recap, I think it would be fair to say that in recent times local authorities and the police in particular have come under a great deal of pressure and, at times, criticism in relation to unauthorised encampments by gypsies and travellers in Warwickshire. There is a strong public perception that the authorities have not been as efficient and effective as they might have been in responding to the challenges posed. I believe, on balance, that is a misconception. Arguably, some of the criticisms have not fully taken into account the complexities, nuances and legalities of the situation.

In realising there was probably a need to bring some added cohesion to the situation, I have held a number of meetings for strategists and tacticians to discuss the current problems and seek solutions. It became apparent that the November 2007 document 'The Warwickshire Protocol – Firm but Fair – Managing Unauthorised Encampments – the Warwickshire Way' had fallen out of use. From a contemporary perspective there was a strong consensus that the protocol concept still had merit. However, a refresh and modernisation of the protocol was required. Hence, the re-write and consultation process was instigated by me.

This has been a healthy and productive process and I thank you for the support your organisation has given my staff in order to complete the process.

With your co-operation I would now like to move the process on and reach a successful conclusion. With the General Election 2017 in mind and the restraints of purdah I would like to achieve final sign off and adoption by the end of August 2017. In the meantime I would be extremely grateful if you would nominate your single point of contact(s) for operational and tactical use of the protocol.

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I have asked my Chief Executive, Mr Neil Hewison, to convene a meeting of tacticians in June in order to examine the most efficient and effective ways of bringing the protocol to life and dynamic implementation.

Thank you once again for your support in these matters.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip Secombe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Philip Secombe TD
Police and Crime Commissioner

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