Bedfordshire Police & Crime Commissioner

04 September 2024

Dear Colleagues

Yesterday evening I attended the Wixams Residents Association meeting, alongside well in excess of 50 residents. Having previously had various correspondence from the association, residents and the parish council I was aware of local concerns, but I was still struck by the extent of the issues causing significant aggravation for local residents. Whilst many issues relate to policing and crime, many such as addressing the causes antisocial behaviour and the lack of provision for young people in Wixams, must not be left solely to the police to tackle.

These issues are serious, and the concern of those living in Wixams are not likely to die down as the town continues to grow at a fast pace, unless significant strategic action is taken. In my view and the view of those at the meeting yesterday evening, these problems cannot be solved by the police alone. Therefore, it requires a multi-agency approach as well as the involvement of local residents to find both short and long-term solutions.

Following the meeting, I have come to the view that I need to use my convening powers as Police and Crime Commissioner to bring together the two local authorities, Wixams Parish Council, the residents association, Wixams Academy, Bedfordshire Police, and Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service to consider the presenting problems and their underlying causes, and how we can begin to address them.

I would expect that at this meeting or very soon after, to agree an action plan with all parties committed to make their contribution to implementing solutions. We are currently hoping to meet in the week commencing 7th October in Wixams.

If you would be available to attend this meeting, please let my office know at the earliest convenience.

Best wishes,

John Tizard

Police and Crime Commissioner

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