



David Goodall's Manifesto

Police & Crime Commissioner Election's 2012



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Liberal Democrat Candidate Police & Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight

Introduction

Like many in public life I wear several hats these include Eastleigh Borough Councillor, West End Parish Councillor and Secondary School Governor. Professionally I am a Chartered Engineer and Project Manager currently working against cyber crime. In this election, I have my very first hat on that of a Policeman's son.

Growing up in a Police household, I have always had an interest in Police matters, particularly as nearly 30 years ago, my younger brother joined up too. Therefore, when this role came up I thought it was time I did my part to serve the Police and Criminal Justice Service in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

General consideration is that the Hampshire and the Isle of Wight area is a low crime area, particularly when compared to some of the larger metropolitan areas like London, Birmingham or Manchester and public satisfaction with Hampshire Constabulary at over 70% is far higher than any satisfaction rate with political parties or politicians. In addition, Hampshire is the 6th lowest costing force in England and Wales, as well as having falling crime figures for last year.

The issue is that no matter how relatively 'safe' we are, the impact on those people who are the victims of crime is the same - perhaps worse since they feel more isolated as few others have had an experience of crime as they have.

Since my selection as the Liberal Democrat's candidate for Police & Crime Commissioner in August, I have attended the September Police Authority meeting and met with:-

- Zoe Billingham, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's (HMIC) Inspector
- Mike Franklin, Independent Police Complaints Commission's (IPCC) Commissioner
- Jeremy Browne MP, the Minister of State for Crime Prevention
- Tom Brake MP, Co-Chair Liberal Democrat Home Affairs, Justice and Equalities Committee
- Sir Hugh Orde, President of the Association of Chief Police Officers
- Barrie Crook, Chief Executive of the Hampshire Probation Trust
- Jenni Douglas-Todd, Chief Executive Hampshire Police Authority
- John Apter, Chairman Hampshire Police Federation
- Alex Marshall, Chief Constable of Hampshire Constabulary

And of course many members of the public too.

Each of these meetings has added new ideas of how to improve the Police and Criminal Justice Service. The danger in a relatively low crime area is one of complacency, by candidates for the post of Police & Crime Commissioner, towards the new opportunities that exist, to shape and further improve the policing and criminal justice service for the people of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

In the remainder of this manifesto, I will seek to explain how I believe the Police and Criminal Justice Service should be run for the benefit of the people of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Goodall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Police and Crime Commissioner Candidate
for Hampshire and Isle of Wight

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Top Three Priorities

Obviously, the main priority of any Police and Crime Commissioner is to protect the public and to reduce all levels of criminal behaviour. The difference between candidates is how they propose to achieve this. If elected, my top three priorities as Commissioner to achieve this will be:

1. Neighbourhood Policing - keeping Officers on the frontline and building stronger links with the community, it's the best way to tackle all crime.

The performance in the past couple of years in creating neighbourhood-policing teams has been instrumental in reducing crime and tackling anti-social behaviour. In Eastleigh, I have seen it work particularly well, when the Parish and Town Council paid to recruit extra Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) that would stay in their area. Moreover, when all the neighbourhood groups, the public and the neighbourhood-policing teams come together into a neighbourhood Community Safety Partnership, the effect in reducing crime is greatly improved.

This is why as Commissioner I will strongly support Neighbourhood Policing and communities that wish to have more Neighbourhood Policing.

2. Better & smarter technology - as a chartered engineer I know being smarter with technology is essential. It will get Officers out working in the community and deployed in the right areas to tackle crime.

In the past 16 years, my professional life has been in the communication and internet technology area. This means I have seen at first hand the improvements in mobile and network technology, it also means I have some idea of the technology that is coming in the years ahead. The next big thing on the way is LTE mobile, more commonly known as 4G, with its higher bandwidth. This will enable the greater use of head cameras and live video streaming. Moreover, head cameras, according to a home office report on the pilot studies, have resulted in reducing violent crime by 10%, reducing complaints against police by 40%, reducing woundings by 18% and reducing officer time spent on paperwork by 30%.

This is why as Commissioner I will strongly support the introduction of new technology.

3. Greater cooperation - Police tackle law enforcement, but team working with the community and other agencies is essential. It's everyone's task to prevent crime, to ensure justice for victims and to rehabilitate offenders to stop further crime.

In government circles, there is frequent talk about having joined-up thinking; otherwise, things fall between the gaps, and that causes a loss of effectiveness. In the world of Police and Criminal Justice, this can mean people suffer real harm whilst criminals escape justice.

This is why as Commissioner I will strongly support better integration of Police and other agencies to tackle the menace that is crime in our society.

Engaging with the public and communities

As Commissioner, I would plan to engage with the public and communities in three principle ways these are:-

- Police Scrutiny Panels
- Community Safety Partnerships
- Police & Crime Advisory Panels

Police Scrutiny Panels

The Police Scrutiny Panels, would continue to perform the task that the existing Police Authority does and the new Police & Crime Commissioner Office still has to perform, which is to analyse the performance of the Police. There would be four panels, which I would chair as Commissioner, these would be:-

- Finance
- Personnel & Professional Standards
- Performance
- Community Engagement

In addition, an independent person would chair a Governance & Standards panel that would scrutinise the operation of the Police & Crime Commissioner's Office and examine any code of conduct issues.

Each of these panels would consist of between 3 and 6 members of the public, whom I as Commissioner would appoint. Any member of the public could apply and they would be volunteers, preferably with a background in the subject of the panel.

In appointing panel members, I would seek to balance the mix of people across the panels in accordance with the General Equality Duty under the Equality Act. I would also seek to balance the political mix on the panels, so that party political interests are not a consideration, in accordance with the oath of impartiality that all Commissioners will take when they are elected to Office.

Community Safety Partnerships

These Partnerships already exist across the area; however, the performance of each varies greatly. They take a partnership approach to reduce crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour, drugs and alcohol misuse and anti-social behaviour that has an adverse impact upon the community. They consist of meetings between the residents groups, residents, Councillors, Police, fire and other agencies for a particular area. In addition, the name varies across the Constabulary area, too.

It is important that they happen not only at a district and county level, but also at a neighbourhood level. It is very important that the neighbourhood level ones are open to the public to both attend and bring any important issue to.

As Police and Crime Commissioner, I would seek to encourage the neighbourhood level to be fully open to the public and that best practice is spread between the different Community Safety groups across the Hampshire and the Isle of Wight area.

Police & Crime Advisory Panels

The Police & Crime Advisory Panels would have the task of feeding back to the Police and Crime Commissioners Office how the Police and Crime plan is performing from their viewpoint. Initially there would be 5 panels:-

- **Offender Management Panel** – consisting of representatives from organisations like the Probation trust, Prison Service, Social Services, Howard League, Victim Support and Charities involved in this area.
- **Special Interest Panel** – consisting of representatives from organisations like the NSPCC, Childline, Barnardo's, Pensioner Forums, Help the Aged, Mind, Stonewall and other such groups.
- **Community Panel** – a panel of broader based groups such as faith organisations, humanist based groups, Countryside Alliance, Women's Institute, Rotary, Neighbourhood Watch, Sporting Organisations etc
- **Police Panel** – a panel of rank and file Officers from across the force area, plus representatives from Police union groups.
- **Local Government Panel** – consisting of one representative from each County, Unitary, District and Borough Council in the force area.

The idea is simple: No service works well unless it gets feedback on performance from the people who experience it and these panels will be both broad and specialist enough to provide this feedback. These panels will also ensure that the public's priorities are taken seriously, that there is proper consultation with victims and that the views of the most vulnerable individuals are taken into consideration, too.

The first four panels will consist of up to 12 members and again I will seek to balance the panel so that no single special interest dominates the panel, for example, this may mean the pension forums selecting one representative or the children groups selecting one representative.

At the annual Police & Crime Plan review, the feedback provided would enable the Plan to adapt to better suit the community it serves.

Public Participation

Normal practice at all these meetings is that members press and public may attend and just observe the meeting. However, all meeting could have to go into confidential session, due to the nature of the subject matter i.e. operational plans, personnel issues, confidential issues on individual cases etc.

At the Police Scrutiny Panels, the public would also have the right to make a statement or ask a question prior to each agenda item. At the other meetings, the public would have the right to ask questions at the chair's discretion.

Setting the strategic direction

The strategic direction will be set in a five year Police and Crime Plan. This plan will ensure the Police work effectively with partners to prevent and tackle crime and re-offending by:

- making the Police respond effectively to public concerns and threats to public safety
- promoting and enabling joined up working on community safety and criminal justice
- demonstrating to the public how crime is cut and policing delivered

The plan will also show how the force will contribute Police resource to regional and national threats, which was a point highlighted by Sir Hugh Orde, at a recent Police and Crime Commissioners Association meeting. Hampshire Constabulary must ensure an effective policing contribution alongside other partners to national arrangements to protect the public from other cross-boundary threats. For example, last year this involved Officers from Hampshire and the Isle of Wight going to the cities outside Hampshire to tackle the riots.

Updates to this plan will happen on an annual basis, to make the standard rolling 5-year that most businesses have. The update will be because of input from Police Scrutiny Panels, Police & Crime Advisory Panels, Community Safety Partnerships, Police, Partner agencies and Police & Crime Commissioner Office. The final decision of what is in the plan will be mine as the Commissioner.

Elements that I will add into the plan during the first year will obviously include my three top priorities mentioned before, plus the following:-

- Community Justice Panels
- Local Police & Crime Plans
- Focus on outcomes
- Police Apprentice scheme
- Vulnerable Persons
- Complaints Handling
- Joint front desk services with Councils
- Targeted campaigns
- Professional Police Standards
- Enforcement
- A long-term vision

Community Justice Panels

It has been discovered that better use of restorative justice programmes where offenders and their victims come together reduces reoffending. These programmes also have the additional benefits:-

- to victims by bringing improved closure and restitution and
- to offenders by raising their awareness of the damage their crimes cause. It is this increased awareness that reduces the likelihood that they will commit further offences

As Police & Crime Commissioner, I will work with the Police, Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), magistrates, Victim Support, Probation, Councils and Youth Services to ensure that restorative justice programmes such as Community Justice Panels are used whenever appropriate to improve the outcome of both convictions and cautions.

The system introduced will be based on the one pioneered by the Lib Dem Council in Somerset.

Local Police & Crime Plans

Local Police & Crime Plans will be developed for each Borough, District and Unitary area. These will be sections within the overall Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Police & Crime Plan. The development of these local plans will be in consultation with the local Community Safety Partnership. The local plan will identify the crime issues for the local communities and provide priorities for tackling them.

It is particularly important that the plan meets the needs of each community. The needs of the Isle of Wight are greatly different from the needs of Southampton and the plan must recognise this. Therefore, a force-wide focus on rural crime, as my Conservative opponent proposes, does not make a great deal of sense for the cities of Southampton and Portsmouth. Likewise, a force-wide focus on late night inner-city drink would make little sense for the leafy parts of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

To fulfil the needs of whole force area the Police & Crime Plan must have a local focus.

Focus on outcomes

The focus should be on quality policing to deliver the most effective solutions to crime and the fear of crime. The striving to meet a mass of targets and performance indicators will not achieve this. Policing, crime and justice are complex and inter-active systems that do not lend themselves to the simplistic approach of target measurement, however appealing or convenient that may sound.

Just as building a dual carriageway in a location where there are always traffic jams just moves the traffic jams, so trying to solve complex policing, crime and justice problems with detailed targets just changes the nature and location of crime and criminal activity. The requirement is for a more sophisticated approach through holistic management of policing and criminal justice to reduce overall crime.

Consequently, the focus will be on effective handling of every incident and quality of the outcome for the victims. This simple focus should affect the overall performance indicators in a positive manner, which will be good as there will still be comparison made on these performance indicators across the country.

Police Apprenticeship Scheme

The introduction of a Police Apprenticeship scheme will improve opportunities to recruit and train both new Police staff and Officers. The use of Government's Youth Training and Contract schemes will reduce the cost of introducing this scheme and future recruitment costs should reduce as a result.

Real life experience is essential preparation for Police recruits to be able to appreciate the problems and concerns of the people they work with and help in the community. Having recruits from all sections of the community and with a wide range of backgrounds will help remove the barriers between Police and other members of the community they serve. An apprenticeship scheme will greatly encourage and facilitate this, encouraging recruits from less advantaged backgrounds and those whose first choice career may not have been policing to join.

Apprentices could assist Officers in some of the low-level tasks that currently keep patrol Officers off the streets, such as fingerprinting and transcribing interviews. Working together with Police

support staff, this will help get warranted Officers back on the beat faster following an arrest, and encourage them to make more arrests for offences such as anti-social behaviour.

Apprentices will also be of great assistance in engaging the Police with younger people and in particularly with School & College liaison work.

Vulnerable Persons

In Hampshire and the Isle of Wight the Constabulary's Public Protection Department is responsible for investigating incidents of child abuse, vulnerable adult abuse, safeguarding vulnerable people and working with other agencies to manage the supervision of offenders in our community using Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA).

There are three teams based in the West, East and North of the county. In addition, there is a Central Referral Unit based at Southern Support and Training Headquarters at Netley, near Southampton. A Detective Chief Inspector leads each of these teams.

In addition, Hampshire Constabulary's teams have the following specialist groups within them:

- The child abuse investigation team (CAIT) contains specially trained Officers who work closely with other agencies such as social services to investigate allegations of child abuse.
- The vulnerable adult investigation team (VAIT) work with partner agencies in the prevention, identification, investigation, risk management and detection of criminal offences against vulnerable adults.
- Officers from the Public Protection Department receive specialist training on how to interview children, young people and vulnerable adults, balancing the gathering of evidence with a concern for their welfare during the interview process.
- The safeguarding teams work to ensure the safety and protection of the most vulnerable people in our communities, working with partner agencies to target offenders and support victims.

This is part of the most important public protection work that the force performs.

Therefore, as Police & Crime Commissioner, I would work with all Councils and other agencies in the area to establish the best possible service the Constabulary can offer.

Complaints Handling

To improve the Police service for the people in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight it is crucial that the Constabulary learns lessons when things do go wrong.

In a meeting with Commissioner Mike Franklin of the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC), I learnt that, under the same Act that created the Police & Crime Commissioners, the complaint handling process was also changing. The main change was that Chief Constable instead of the IPCC would now handle certain appeals. The IPCC's concern was that this gives an obvious conflict of interest given that the complaint would be against the Chief Constable's own force.

Therefore as Commissioner, I will work with the Chief Constable and IPCC to establish a new complaints handling procedure for the Hampshire Constabulary. The aim shall be that this new

procedure must both handle the complaint fairly for all parties involved and that it shall be seen to be fair by the public.

Joint front desk services with Councils

The rise of internet and mobile communication has meant that a number of Police Stations have closed their front desk operations, because in these times of financial constraint keeping the desk open and manning that desk could not be justified, if there were only 2 or 3 people per day using it.

However, not everyone is a keen internet user and there is still a requirement to meet the needs of non-internet members of the community, who are quite often some of the most vulnerable members of our society.

Therefore, as Police & Crime Commissioner, I would work with all Councils in the area to establish joint front desk operations, which would aim to deliver the same service but at a greatly reduced cost.

Targeted campaigns

In Policing situations, the need often arises to have a targeted campaign to crack down on a particular criminal element in society. For example there is currently:-

- **a local Operation "Fortress"**, which is rightly cracking down on drug traffickers and helping drug users to beat their addiction. It is only by this twin approach of tackling the drug traffickers with the full force of law and get medical assistance for the users that the drug problem can really be addressed.
- **a national Operation "Kraken"**, which delivers enhanced level of vigilance against crime within the marine environment. In the Solent and other harbours and estuaries of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight area, key organisations such as harbourmasters, coastguard and marina managers, together with people who live or work in, or adjacent to, the marine environment, or who spend their leisure time on or near our waters, are encouraged to report any suspicious activity.

The Hampshire & Isle of Wight Police and Crime plan must have capacity built into it to have such operations. Therefore as Commissioner, I will ensure that it does.

Professional Police Standards

To support and promote improvement in the quality of the Police service it is vital that the constabulary has the highest professional standards. This is why I fully support the creation of the new the national Police professional body the College of Policing.

The College of Policing will have a mandate to enable the service to implement the standards it sets for training, development, skills and qualifications. The college will raise the professional status of Police Officers and Police staff, allowing them to gain greater recognition and reward for accredited levels of expertise and allowing them to contribute to the development of policy in the various areas of specialism.

Speaking to Sir Hugh Orde, the President of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) at a recent meeting of the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC), he was convinced

that this new College of Policing was a good step to improve policing standards throughout the country.

Therefore as Commissioner, I will task the Constabulary to ensure the highest levels of professionalism are maintained at all times and to work with the College of Policing to achieve this high standard.

Enforcement

The approach to enforcement in the Police & Crime Plan will reflect the priorities given to me by the public to dealing with more serious and most unacceptable crimes such as violence, sexual abuse and drug dealing, and to those which cause residents the most concern such as anti-social behaviour, burglary and vehicle speeding.

However, in the real world where resources are limited, a blanket 100% enforcement of all laws all the time, in every location, is not practical. Therefore, operational enforcement of rules such as alcohol control areas, under-aged alcohol sales and speed limits will be managed in cooperation with local Councillors and the Community Safety Partnerships in each Borough and District. This will result in the community and its Councillors having significant influence in determining the allocation of limited resources to deliver what it sees as the relative priorities in its area.

This will not detract from the duty of the Police to enforce the law and take such enforcement action on an operational front as the Chief Constable determines is necessary, but will influence their prioritisation. For example of enforcement prioritisation of speed limits between different locations with higher and lower risks to road safety or of alcohol sale and use between areas with higher and lower alcohol-related public order issues.

Therefore as Commissioner, I will task the Constabulary to balance enforcement between the higher priority needs of the community and their lower priority needs. However, I must stress that lower priority does not mean no priority and no action. The Constabulary must either make time or find partner agencies to deal with even the lowest priority task.

A long-term vision

The London 2012 Olympic torch relay was an excellent example of how police and public relations can improve. In the beginning, there was a respectful distance between the public and the Police, but by the end, there were high-fives and cheers for the Police.

However, in general I believe there is too much distance in the relationship between the public and the Police. This is not a good basis on which to build a safer community. The Police exist to act as the public's best friend and protect them from dangers that exist in society. For this to be the case the public must see the police as friends and treat them as such. Likewise, the Police must treat the public as their best friend, obviously apart from the criminal element who should be treated with the full force of the law.

Therefore as Commissioner, I would wish to develop a relationship between the public and the Police that has both mutual respect and friendship.

Holding the Chief Constable to account for Police Performance

This will be achieved mainly through Police Scrutiny Panels with the assistance of the Police & Crime Advisory Panels. The Police Scrutiny panels shall meet once a quarter and shall have the following purpose:-

- **Finance Panel** - To scrutinise Hampshire Constabulary on all financial matters and ICT strategy and resources, in order to secure value for money, whilst providing an excellent Police service. To receive reports and make recommendations on - the medium term and long-term financial plans; budget options; savings reviews; revenue budgets; capital programme; levels of reserves; Council tax; budget consultation; value for money; ICT Strategy; pension scheme; treasury management; prudential borrowing; efficiency strategy; insurance; procurement and estates management.
- **Personnel & Professional Standards Panel** - To scrutinise Hampshire Constabulary on all personnel and professional standards matters.
- **Performance Panel** – The aim of this panel is to scrutinise performance of Hampshire Constabulary against the targets in the Police & Crime Plan for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.
- **Community Engagement Panel**- To scrutinise the community engagement work of the Constabulary and ensure that community feedback, including the appropriate implementation and prioritisation of the community concerns.

In addition, the twice-yearly meetings of the **Governance & Standards panel** will:

- provide assurance on the adequacy of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office corporate governance and risk management frameworks and the associated control environment
- provide scrutiny of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office financial and non-financial performance insofar as it is reported upon by both the external and internal audit process
- promote high standards in relation to the code of conduct

The responsibility to decide if the Chief Constable and Constabulary are fulfilling the aims of the Police & Crime Plan for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight will always remain the sole responsibility of Police and Crime Commissioner.

Setting the force budget

The most important issue facing the new Police and Crime Commissioner will be how to provide a good Police service across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight given the current state of public finances. Essential to achieving this will be the input from the three groups outlined earlier in the manifesto i.e. the Police Scrutiny Panels, the Police & Crime Advisory Panels and the Community Safety Partnerships.

The first duty of the Police and Crime Commissioner is to set a budget level that will keep the public safe. The second duty is to set budget level that is affordable for the public. This is why as Commissioner I will keep council tax rises to no more than the level of inflation.

The aim will be to ensure value for all the money raised through the Council tax precept and the money received from central government via the policing grant.

Summary

All of the candidates in this election will talk about wishing to reduce all crime and in particular violent crime, alcohol and drug related crime and sexual assaults. All of us will agree that offenders need to be caught and punished for the criminal acts they have done. The difference between the candidates will come on:-

- how best to catch offenders?
- how best to punish offenders?
- how best the offender is re-integrated back into society once the punishment is complete?

I am a design engineer at heart. I study problems, work on answers and come to practical solutions. Therefore, my approach is simple, look at the evidence of what works elsewhere, see if that can work here too and just do it.

Bottom line:- Crime is not new. Punishments are not new. A Politician prepared to say lets do what works to reduce crime and reduce reoffending; that is new.

Appendix – Frequently Asked Questions

What is your vision for policing in Hampshire?

Policing in this country is policing by consent. This is only possible if there are good links between the Police and community they serve.

My vision is one that involves strengthening those links. I would aim to increase public involvement with the Police and Criminal Justice system by having a number of advisory panels that would be consulted about policing policy issues and that could raise issues that concern them.

We need Police and Crime Prevention measures that are based on practical solutions that work, not sound bites that don't, like "tough on crime and the cause of crime" or "prisons work".

Therefore my vision is one that involves practical solutions, like Lib Dems in Cardiff who used anonymised data from accident and emergency departments to map violent incidents, so the Police could target crime hotspots, or Somerset Lib Dems who introduced Community Justice Panels and effectively reduce crime and increased victim satisfaction through this restorative justice measure.

It was reported this May that last year 90% of the offenders sentenced for serious crimes had offended before. And that the proportion of all offenders with 15 or more convictions has increased from 29% in 2001, to 38% in 2006 to 44% last year.

My vision is one where Hampshire and the Isle of Wight lead the rest of the country in a rehabilitation revolution. As a society, we must take effective measures to cut reoffending. In Hampshire, a start has been made with the integrated offender management centres, but I believe we can and must go further, not because it helps the offender, although it does; not because it costs less, although it does; but because it reduces the number of crime victims.

Therefore, my final vision must be to give more help to help victims more.

What inspired you to stand as a Police & Crime Commissioner?

Simply my father and my brother. My father served for 30 years as a Police Officer in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and my brother will complete his 30 years Police service next year.

Growing up with stories about Police work made me realise what a difficult job it is.

Now with this chance to help the policing of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight I wish to play my part, too.

Why should people in Hampshire vote for you?

Firstly, I know the area well having lived in Southampton, Portsmouth, Eastleigh, Winchester and the Isle of Wight. In fact life is almost equally split between Island and mainland living.

Secondly, as chartered engineer I am always interested in the practical solutions to problems. The political world on law and order is too full of tough talk, hard-hitting soundbites and not enough looking at what actually works. If there were a solution to a crime issue affecting Hampshire or the Island then I would consider introducing it, particularly if it has worked elsewhere. The determining factor will be does it work, not does it sound tough or soft on crime.

Thirdly, as a Councillor I know the importance of communities and agencies working together to achieve a common goal. This is particularly necessary in the fight against crime, the Police need effective information and the public need to be able to trust the Police. If either part of this relation is not working well then the quality of our society suffers too.

Finally, the management skills I have gained in over 30 years of working in industry with a variety of people from around the UK and the world, in different situations and circumstances mean that I am well able to cope with the changes in the years ahead.

In short – I'm a local chap.

I'm an engineer looking for practice solutions.

I'm an electronics designer able to understand how technology can help policing.

I'm a project manager used to budgets, plans, goal setting.

I'm a Councillor interested in engaging with the public.

I'm a school governor for over 10 years interested in our young peoples future.

I'm a Policeman's son and brother interested in improving policing.

I'm a father who just wants a safer place for his children to live in.

Why are you qualified to be the Police & Crime Commissioner?

The Commissioner job is to:-

1. Hold the Chief Constable to account for policing – I have experience of chairing several Council scrutiny panels.
2. Set and update the policing plan – my project management experience is invaluable.
3. Set the Police budget and precept – just as I have for 10 years on the Council.
4. Engage with the public and communities – just as I have as a Councillor to be elected five times.
5. Appoint and if necessary dismiss the chief constable – as a manager I have made decisions on both recruitment and redundancy.

What would you like to change about local policing if you were elected?

Firstly, I would talk to the Police Officers on the ground and ask them. There are too many top down initiatives and I would like to see ideas coming from the bottom up.

Secondly, I would wish, over time, to change the mix between full-time and part-time Officers, so that Policing can be achieved without the Police Officers losing their holiday, as they have done for the past two years.

Finally, I wish to improve public and Police relations. Better policing must start with the public seeing the Police as their friends with whom they can just simply have a chat.

What is your most memorable personal experience of policing in Hampshire?

It's all very well politicians saying they know what is best to help the Police do their job. The only real way is to talk to Police Officers and to go on the streets with them. Therefore, in 2005 I joined Bitterne's Green shift for their 4pm to 2am shift as an observer. The things I observed were simple; the shift did not finish until 3am due to work pressure and that most of the Friday evening incidents involved alcohol. Conclusion is the thin blue line is very thin and needs all the help it can get.

How do you view your role in the criminal justice system beyond policing?

There is a great role for the Commissioner to take in reforming offender handling. The aim should be the first time they go through the crime justice system should also be the last.

There needs to be greater joining up of services, for example a prisoner should always leave prison with future benefits, housing, training and health treatment (mainly drug and mental health) requirements sorted out. Because to leave an ex-con, penniless, homeless person on the street with poor education, drug and mental problems a recipe for disaster.

The key thing to note is rehabilitation reduces crime victim numbers.

Will you have a Deputy Commissioner?

No. I am standing for election to do the job of Commissioner myself and not hand the bulk of the work to a second in command. If the new duties of the Police & Crime Commissioner Office require extra staff, these would be recruited as normal civil servants and not party political sidekicks.

Why are you standing when the Liberal Democrats are against having the Police Commissioners role?

True, the Liberal Democrats wanted to fill the democratic deficit of a Police Authority that could set taxes and policy, yet be not accountable to anyone, by directly electing the Police Authority using a single transferable vote (STV) system. This would have reduced the affect of party politics in the main make up of the authority, whilst at the same time filling the democratic deficit. However, that argument did not win the day within the coalition, so we are now contesting Police and Crime Commissioners elections.

