

REDUCING CRIME

Crime is falling in the county both in rural and urban areas. Police Authority figures show that overall crime has reduced by 9.5% this year following on from the 7.7% reduction last year. The independent British Crime Survey shows an overall reduction of 10% since 1997.

Northamptonshire people will be seeing more and more police officers on the beat over the coming months due to the extra resources to recruit 90 additional officers over the next three years. Fifty officers are already in post undertaking their initial training.



4. Home Secretary Jack Straw at the Highfield Road community office, Kettering

The Highfield Road area will soon have the benefit of a £56,400 investment in CCTV cameras and bids have been submitted to extend the system to Rothwell, Burton Latimer and Desborough.

Northamptonshire Police have been allocated an additional £700,000 for rural policing and intend to spend an additional £1.8 million in rural areas in the coming year.

TRANSPORT

Work is due to start on the £11 million Desborough/Rothwell bypass in March 2002 and this much needed road will reduce pollution and improve road safety in both communities.

Removing heavy traffic from the A43 in Geddington is a high priority and I will continue to work with local councils and local people who are pressing for a new road to take traffic out of the village.

I am aware of the problem of speeding traffic in rural areas and I have been working with the Police and the Highways Authority to improve road safety in Moulton, Cold Ashby, Maidwell, Creaton and other rural communities.

I am very conscious of the need to improve public transport, particularly in rural areas and extra money received by the County Council is helping to fund a number of rural transport initiatives in the constituency.

NOTE: - All statistical information in this report is sourced from publicly available/government data

SUPPORTING RURAL COMMUNITIES



5. Opening new classrooms at Maidwell School

I represent a large rural area and I have regular contact with Parish Councils, the NFU, and schools in addition to regular advice surgeries in villages across the constituency

As a result of these contacts I have taken up issues including the siting of telephone masts, rural Post Offices, planning guidance, VAT charges for church repairs, the Newton Field Centre, Policing, affordable housing, conservation, and issues which affect the farming community.

Many issues which concern constituents in rural areas are the same as in the urban areas but I recognise that there are particular issues in the countryside which I will continue to pursue on your behalf.

A summary of the recently published Rural White Paper is available from my Kettering office.

How to Contact Phil Sawford MP

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Kettering office hours:

Open 10 - 12 and 2 - 4 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday (Closed all day Wednesday)

Surgeries:

Surgeries are normally held on the first and third Friday of each month at the Kettering office. (Please ring 01536 411900 for an appointment)

Drop in surgeries are held most Saturdays across the constituency. Ring 01536 411900 for details.

Visits:

Please ring 01536 411900 to arrange visits to home, school, business, community groups etc