



## DR DAN POULTER MP

Member of Parliament for Central Suffolk and North Ipswich

### Worlingworth Newsletter - 08 July 2018

Suffolk is a wonderful place to live, work and visit, with low rates of crime, but recently our County Town has seen an alarming increase in knife crimes, together with other violent crimes, over the course of the last few years. While many towns and cities further afield have experienced increasing knife crime, there are growing concerns specifically about knife-related violence in Ipswich. Sadly, in recent weeks, Tavis Spencer-Aitkens – aged just 17, was tragically killed in a knife attack in the town in broad daylight.

Over the 13 months to March 31<sup>st</sup> this year, some 404 separate incidents, involving weapons such as knives and other blades, were recorded in Suffolk - a third more than in the previous year. Given the serious nature of knife crime and this recent escalation, action needs to be taken to tackle this now. That's why I have called on the Government's Policing Minister, the Rt. Hon. Nick Hurd, MP to visit Ipswich urgently and meet with local Leaders and Suffolk Police to tackle the issue of rising knife crime in our county town and to see for himself the challenges faced by the Ipswich communities.

Ipswich remains a wonderful town – it is a great place to live and do business, and a safe and vibrant place to visit, but we do need, urgently, to work together to tackle the growing concerns about violent crime in the town. There are deep-seated problems behind this recent growth in violent crime and I know that there are a great many dedicated people working tirelessly in our public services and in our communities to help discourage our young people from a life of violence and crime. But they can't do this alone. Our Police, Councils and communities in Suffolk share a collective responsibility to stop this dreadful violence and that's why I have asked the Government to fulfil its share of this collective responsibility, and to help us to tackle the scourge of knife crime head on.

In recognising that Suffolk is a predominantly rural county, I am delighted to learn that the National Farmers' Union has recently launched its Rural Crime Reporting line, in association with Crimestoppers. The cost of rural crime is rising significantly, causing anxiety for farmers and people living in the countryside. This brand new service, with call handlers specifically trained in rural crime, allows farmers, rural businesses and the public to anonymously report rural crimes and help to rid our countryside of this serious issue. To report an issue, please either call 0800 783 0137, or visit [www.ruralcrimereportingline.uk](http://www.ruralcrimereportingline.uk) to anonymously give information about four rural crimes – fly-tipping, hare coursing, livestock or machinery theft.

It is vital to ensure that Suffolk remains a safe place to live, work and visit, for all of us to feel safe in our day to day lives.

---

Dr Dan Poulter MP  
Central Suffolk and North Ipswich  
Tel: 020 7219 7038  
Email: [daniel.poulter.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:daniel.poulter.mp@parliament.uk)