

## Candidate Update

### Monthly Newsletter for February 2021.

This is the first monthly newsletter to inform people about my campaign to be your Police and Crime Commissioner.

### Candidates briefing day and other candidates.

A virtual briefing was held for all candidates on the 12<sup>th</sup> January. Also present were Donna Jones, (Tory), Richard Murphy, (Liberal), and people from the Justice and Anti-Corruption Party. This included Don Jerrard who stood in 2012 and 2016 and has stood in elections for UKIP. Donna Jones is an investment banker and opposition lead on Portsmouth City Council as well as a magistrate. She lost to Stephen Morgan in Portsmouth South at the General Election. Richard Murphy is an Actuary. I do not believe he has stood for election before but is married to a Liberal Councillor. The current PCC is not standing again. I appear to be the only candidate to have any extensive relevant professional experience or knowledge.



The event was excellent. The morning was organised around presentations from all the senior staff of the Office of the PCC with similar in the afternoon from the Chief Constable and her Deputy. All managed and chaired by the CEO of the OPCC. There was ample opportunity to ask questions via the chat facility. Huge amounts of information were presented and will need to be assimilated. The whole event was recorded and is now available to all online on the HIIOW PCC website.

### The underfunding of our Police Service.

One particular set of facts really stood out for me. Our Police Service is the worst funded in the country! Despite having above average levels of reported crime. This deficit is put at £43.5m a year and amounts to some 1600 staff! This is just in comparison to similar forces. It takes no account of the savage (20%) cuts inflicted on all forces - and other public services. Yes, there is a promise of more police officers, but these do not come fully funded and this year's financial settlement has no uplift in it at all. Not even for inflation! This means more cuts to services. All this despite 17 out of our 19 MP's being Tory, most of our Councils being Tory controlled, nine years of Tory Police and Crime Commissioner's and the Tory Police Minister living in Hampshire! One outcome has been a maximum rise in the local 'Police Precept' element in Council Tax. This shunts the cost of policing onto local council taxpayers already facing above inflation rises due to central government underfunding of council services.

### Policies.

I am busy developing my police and crime plan priorities. This must include not only how best to employ new officers, but also, how to manage the other budget pressures resulting in the effective cut brought about by a zero-budget uplift in the context of

increased demand and expectations. I want to hear from you the people, what you think these priorities should be. My current view, based on my research, and talking to people to date, is that we need fairer, more responsive policing, and particularly, to

be more effective in tackling organised crime associated with drugs, (including county lines and knife crime), and a better and more responsive approach to violence, including sexual violence, against women. To do this we need to be open to new approaches and be willing to learn from other countries. Particularly with more of a 'public health type approach' to tackling drugs and violence.

**The Election.**

These postponed elections are still currently set for the 6<sup>th</sup> May. Although postponement was understandable last year, the government has had a year to prepare so has little excuse for being unprepared to now hold them in a safe way. However, safety is the most important consideration and I would support a short delay. If this happens, then an announcement needs to be made as soon as possible, and with clarity about how and when they are to be held. Any delay should include an extension of the PCC term as a minimum amount of time is needed to prepare and put into action a new Police and Crime Plans.

PLEASE do sign up for a postal vote. It is the safe and responsible thing to do. This can be done online via your council website. PLEASE remember – that as these elections involve a second preference vote, your vote is much more likely to count. Please help to get this message out there. Winning really is possible this time. Labour came second last time and the conditions are much more favourable in 2021. There are certainly enough Labour voters out there to elect a Labour PCC – so long as they vote!

**Campaigning.**

There are rightly significant limits on campaigning at present but we are working very hard via social media. Please see my website for my social media details. Please follow me and get involved. Comment, share, and repost etc. And recommend me to your friends.

I am also working hard to increase or refresh my knowledge in key policy areas and to build on the good contacts and networks I already have. I have had a lot of virtual meetings with people and organisations. I have been particularly keen to talk to Unions and Staff Associations - particularly those that represent police staff or who are affected by police, crime, and disorder issues. Also, to CLP's and Co-operative Societies. I have also spoken to a number of specialist groups, particularly those representing victims, marginalised people, and those who are affected by policing and crime. These have included women's groups and those supporting and representing the BAME community. I am very keen to continue to do this, so please do refer people to me if they can contribute to this process. With about 2m people in the electoral area I cannot speak to everyone. But I can try to have contact with all the key groups in some way or other and, once allowed, I want to visit and speak to people and their leaders in all parts of the two counties.

I want to blend my message with local candidates in the various local elections happening on the same day and we are working on 'literature' to support this. We feel my message supports a local campaign as the Tory record on police and crime is so

appalling. If you are a local candidate, do please get in touch if we can support you in this. We want to work with you.

**The media.**

I am pursuing opportunities to get our message into the media and have had letters published and also had a radio interview. They particularly cover funding, the dismissal of officers for racism, and the election. See web site for details. Do keep an eye out for these and comment where you can.

**How can you help?**

People have asked how they can help. Please see my website - [tonybunday.co.uk](http://tonybunday.co.uk) - for details.

Best wishes.

Tony Bunday

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