

Business News: Warwickshire police commissioner Ron Ball's business crime pledge

By Sam Dimmer | [Mar 14 2013](#)



Ron Ball

POLICE in Warwickshire need to do more to halt business crime, according to the force's new commissioner.

Former commercial airline pilot Ron Ball was elected to the police and crime commissioner role with crime in the county at record low levels.

But after talks with business leaders he has become convinced that the force needs to do more to crack down on business crime.

Mr Ball told the Telegraph that he is keen to work with businesses and is urging them to do their bit to help fight crime too.

"I want to do business crime justice," he said. "It was one of those things that came up consistently during my campaign.

"On a number of occasions I spoke to businessmen who told me that they felt their crime perhaps wasn't correctly recorded and wasn't taken as seriously as it should be.

"It is something we need to do together though.

"They need to do their bit – there are a number of things businesses can do and it's something we can help with.

“They need to ensure they have good security systems. They also need to make things as difficult as possible for criminals.”

Mr Ball – an independent candidate – was elected to the post in November.

He admits that writing a manifesto was a challenge because crime in the county was falling.

One of the biggest decisions he has had to make since taking the role involved setting the amount of money Warwickshire Police gets in council tax contributions.

Unlike his West Midlands counterpart Bob Jones – who increased the police precept – Mr Ball opted to freeze the amount of cash the force receives.

“It wasn’t a snap decision,” he said. “We had lengthy discussions and went through all the ramifications.

“I spent Christmas wondering what I would say if I had to increase the precept.”

“But I’ve said all along that if I had to get egg on my face at some point then that’s what will happen.”

Away from the high-pressure decisions one of the things Mr Ball has had to get his head around is Twitter.

During his election campaign Mr Ball shared just three tweets with his followers while his opponents – who were both backed by major political parties – regularly tweeted about what they were up to.

“I think the last tweet I sent during the campaign was something along the lines of ‘if this election is going to be decided by self-congratulatory tweets I’m going to be in trouble’.

“That probably showed how frustrated I was getting with it.

“But that’s all changed now, it’s something I’m really working to improve.”

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