

# Police chief bids to stop officer cuts



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**Paddock Wood Courier**  
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KENT police and crime commissioner Ann Barnes has vowed to limit the impact of police cuts on small towns such as Paddock Wood.

In a visit to the town last week, she announced her campaign "No more cuts to Kent Police funds".

In a visit to the new athletic track last

Friday, she told police officers that she is "in complete support" of their work and will strive to keep police numbers up.

Mrs Barnes said: "We have to do something now or the impact will be devastating.

"This year they have cut 500 police officers and 1,000 staff across Kent - but demand has not gone down and we still have the same needs.

"It's becoming a service of last resort. If there are any more cuts to policing there will be visible cuts to community policing."

Mrs Barnes is concerned that without visible community policing on the streets of small towns and villages, relationships between officers and trouble groups will break down.

Paddock Wood town councillor Sarah Hamilton said: "Antisocial behaviour is kept at a minimum because of officers keeping up relationships with young people.

"This relationship will not be as strong if officers are stretched."



Read more: <http://www.thisiskent.co.uk/Police-chief-bids-stop-officer-cuts/story-19215823-detail/story.html#ixzz2Vo5Nqm7g>

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