

## Cash boost for the fight against crime

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Community groups in the county have the chance to apply for a share of £250,000 in a bid to help the police reduce crime.

Rutland Police and Crime Commissioner Sir Clive Loader is offering two funding pots of £150,000 and £100,000 – and groups such as Neighbourhood Watch and Speed Watch can apply for grants.

The scheme has been launched by Sir Clive to help support projects which work to reduce crime.

The funds will become available between October and March next year.

Sir Clive said: “This is all about helping those who support the delivery of my police and crime plan and work so diligently to reduce crime. I will be delighted to help fund at least some of their very worthwhile projects.”

The Community Safety Partnership Fund will offer £150,000 and is aimed at schemes which reduce the risk of burglary, violence and vehicle theft; reduce the demand for policing the night-time economy; resolve anti-social behaviour issues; and visibly improve community safety.

Community Safety Partnerships are made up of representatives from the police, probation and health services, local authorities and fire and rescue authorities.

The police and crime commissioner’s grant will be offering £100,000 to schemes and projects that support the achievement of the priorities within Sir Clive’s plan.

These include identifying and helping children at risk of sexual exploitation and individuals and families at risk of domestic violence and supporting people affected by burglary, vehicle crime, hate crime, domestic abuse and serious sexual assault.

Ron Simpson, who is secretary of the Rutland Consortium, a group which works with the voluntary sector in the county, said the funding would be welcomed by grassroots community groups. He believes it will assist a number of initiatives such as the potential launch of a new community safety magazine and help Speed Watch groups buy more speed cameras.

He said: “I think schemes in the county will really welcome Sir Clive’s invitation.

“There is very little funding for Neighbourhood Watch groups so any grant that would assist them in their work would be very welcomed.

“I think Speed Watch groups could use the money to purchase some speed cameras of their own, and funds could be put towards producing a community safety magazine that would include messages and news from the police force and Sir Clive.

“The money could also be used to launch youth initiatives in villages and fund projects.”

The maximum amount from the police and crime commissioner’s grant awarded to a successful applicant will be £10,000. Although available to any organisation, Sir Clive is keen to support smaller organisations with a turnover of less than £10,000.

Funding will be allocated between successful applications received in July and November this year. The deadline for the first round is July 29.

The closing date to apply for the Community Safety Partnership Fund is August 2. Applicants are required to submit a business case to the office of the police and crime commissioner.

For more information and how to apply, visit [www.leics.pcc.police.uk/Planning-and-Money/Tenders-and-Funding/Tenders-and-Funding.aspx](http://www.leics.pcc.police.uk/Planning-and-Money/Tenders-and-Funding/Tenders-and-Funding.aspx)

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