

**Meet the Police Crime Commissioner Candidates**  
**29<sup>th</sup> October 2012**

Viv welcomed everyone to the hustings and mentioned the BCVS photographer. The names of the candidates were put into a hat to determine the presentation order. Rachel Rogers (Labour) was drawn first, Nick King (Conservative) was second and Martyn Underhill (Independent) was third. Andy Canning (Liberal Democrat) sent his apologies.



**Martyn Underhill's Presentation**

Martyn opened his presentation by giving a brief rundown of the charities he is involved with.

Circles UK – They work with high risk sex offenders  
Missing People – They try to locate missing people  
Bourne Free – They organise Bournemouth Pride and he is a Trustee  
Parkstone Rotary Club – He is Vice President  
TYBUK – A charity which raises knife awareness  
LV= Streetwise  
Hope Housing

He made the four following points:

1. If elected he will make no changes in funding streams until September 2013.
2. He wants to involve VCS with solutions to both strands of the position as this will provide more value for money. He also wants to enhance victim support so they have one contact from start to finish eg from after the crime all the way through to it going to court.
3. Through his own extensive involvement with charities he recognises the VCS as being equals and wants it treated as such with places on strategic boards.
4. He sees the position as an opportunity to remove area boundaries and help the whole of the county.

He wants to tackle the cycle of prolific offenders and break the pattern by using mentoring services from Footprints, BCHA and any other organisation set up with this objective.

**Martyn Underhill - Group Work**

**Group 1**

- Homewatch and neighbourhood watch- 2 different schemes which is confusing. Martyn is a big fan of the neighbourhood watch schemes and has himself set up 3 neighbourhood watch schemes in London. He believes there should be one scheme. He would let the members input into this and choose the name.
- He wants to bring 2 coordinators for the scheme into the Police HQ and get ringmaster working again pan Dorset
- He is not scared of confronting issues and has recently been to Downing Street to get funding back (rural grant removed 2010)
- He disagrees with the stag and hen culture in Bournemouth and believes some hotels encourage it by letting too many big parties in cheaply. He wants to work with the Council to reduce the amount of licences over time. He wants to reduce binge drinking as he

believes the binge drinkers become the victims of crime/offenders. He would like to have a pack handed to every stag and hen party with information about being aware of drinks being spiked, how to stay safe, taxi numbers and a condom in it.

- He wants to create PCC forums where which public and voluntary sector sit on to tell the PCC about the issues they are dealing with

## **Group 2**

If elected he would not make any changes to current spending on the voluntary sector until September 2013 next year. He would work with his commissioning manager over the first year to consult and engage and decide on what to commission. Commissioning would be outcomes based. He would be looking for best value for money and VCS more likely to deliver that than the statutory agencies.

He is determined that the Victims journey should be easier & quicker. He would work with the Probation Trust, and the VCS – including Footprints to ensure offenders are supported. He sees the need to lower crime through breaking the cycle and feels the VCS has a crucial role to play in that.

Martyn is concerned that the number of special constables is lower than it was in the 1980s. He would like to see double the amount of specials which would be split into 'Village bobbies' and 'Marine bobbies'. He would like to see specials rewarded by a rebate on their council tax. The Safer Neighbourhood Teams play an essential role but too often they are taken off their substantive role to deal with other issues. He would like to see their role 'ring fenced'. PCSOs should have more powers – at least the equivalent of specials and should supplement the police – not policing.

Prevention – while very important should not be at the expense of regular policing. There have already been cuts of 20% cuts with 187 Police Officers losing their jobs. Money could be saved in other ways however. Police Authority currently rent a lifeboat from the RNLI. It would be much cheaper to buy one outright instead and use the funding for development of services. Dorset has a number of challenges including significant under-reporting of rural crime and also underfunding due to the way Government make their calculations e.g. £2.5 million is lost per year because we have no motorway in the county. He would like to see a challenge made to central government about this.

## **Group 3**

***“When trying to work with different authorities and bodies communications have always been difficult. Will you have the power to make them talk to each other?”***

I will not have the statutory power but I do understand what the issue is. Everyone wants communities to get better and I know that if elected I will face inter-agency politics but I also know that maintaining good communications is key.

***“Who does the Police Crime Commissioner answer to?”***

The Police Crime Commissioner (PCC) works next to the Chief Constable. There is a Police and Crime Panel (PCP) that sanctions the actions of the PCC. Whoever is elected will have to appoint a new Chief Constable and the PCP will have to sanction that.

***“What if the Panel doesn't sanction something? What happens then?”***

They can only intervene within certain areas. They are only really there to provide scrutiny for the actions of the PCC. For example if they didn't approve of my choice of Chief Constable, I could

appoint them anyway regardless of what the PCP said. Personally, I want the PCP to have more power but for them to be elected rather than appointed.

***“How will you ensure effective community engagements?”***

High public satisfaction. I want crime to come down and I want the elderly more involved in the community. Nationwide the election has been very much based online and this has made it difficult for people to find out information. An advert was recently published for a media manager to work for the PCC and if elected I would use them to go through existing networks to reach people who wouldn't necessarily have easy access to the internet such as the elderly.

***“You have a great CV, not just in terms of charity works. How would being elected impact on this?”***

If elected I will resign from various statutory boards and I will cease to conduct my own consultancy work. However, I will not be leaving charity work. I may have to step down from Circles UK due to the nature of my new position but other than that all my other charitable positions would remain.

***“Do you have a Commissioning Model?”***

I don't have a model yet due to the role being new. However, I am not in favour of privatisation. At the moment the Home Secretary wants to privatise low and medium risk probation services, I am not in favour of this.

***“How will the role develop across borders?”***

I am in favour of collaborations and amalgamation of police forces. I would support the whole of the South West being one police force.

***“Do you have any closing comments?”***

I have been campaigning for this position for the past 6 months. I am the only candidate to have done this and release a manifesto. The other candidates will be doing this only after they are elected.



**Nick King's Presentation**

Nick started by saying that his view of the role is to go out and ask people what *they* want and to represent their voice.

The Community Safety strand of the position is the section that will most coincide with the VCS. He was a member of the Police Authority for several years and knows that the police tend to look at themselves for a solution whereas he wants to make them aware of the VCS network that will be able to help.

Nick said that the VCS was set to pick up the strain from the cuts as more people seek help. He thinks that money spent in the VCS goes further than money in the public sector. At present, all the community funding allocations are spent in the public sector and he wants to broaden that to the VCS.

He sees the position as an opportunity to commission services that run across the whole of Dorset rather than having boundaries set by streets or areas. He gave an example of an advocate called Paul

who is unable to offer his invaluable advocacy services to somebody living on the other side of the road because of invisible boundaries that are put in place.

Nick wants to enable Neighbourhood Watch to expand their services and aid with crime prevention.

### **Nick King's Group Work**

#### **Group 1**

- Public awareness very low
- Nick explained it's a local election so no national mailing. He does have 500,000 leaflets that have been produced which are going to get circulated. This is the 205<sup>th</sup> group of people that Nick has talked to in his campaign. They are doing their best to get the information out there. The Daily Echo has done quite a few articles in the lead up. He pointed out that If they had been given more resources to do a big campaign, it would have been from tax payer's money!
- Talked about the police budget
- Is this a political vote? Nick said the job was not about deciding what to do, therefore politics aren't that involved. The job is about communicating what the public want so even though he is Conservative the job will not be political
- What is your background?  
Born in Cambridge, grew up in Bristol, he has lived in Dorset for 16 years. He is an Agricultural Surveyor and has always worked for himself. He started Rubyz cabaret in Bournemouth and has now sold his share. He is now going for this job.
- Would you be able to allocate more money to community safety and less to police?  
Nick can do this and said he would do this.

#### **Group 2**

Nick was brought up in Cambridge and has lived in North Bournemouth for 16 years. He trained in agriculture but gave that up to set up his own business which involved re-locating businesses and people when he was 24 years old. He also had a share in restaurant business called Ruby's in Bournemouth. He sold his business assets in 2003 for £65 million. He currently spends his time looking after his two children a 6 year old boy and a 2 year old girl.

He has been nominated by the Conservative Party to campaign in this election and has resigned as a Conservative Councillor with Bournemouth Borough Council to do so. He embraces centre right values and ethos – e.g. a commitment to transparency and individual freedom before the State - and this would influence his views on services to be commissioned. He would however place great value upon consultation and engagement and would see the role as ensuring that public views were represented to the police.

He believes as a business man that you have a duty to give back to the community that gives you profit. He was very involved with Over the Rainbow and instrumental in establishing it in 2002. This was a centre in Bournemouth which offered support to LGBT people across Dorset. He was involved through this in supporting victims of hate crime and was a trustee for some years. He helped the centre financially for two years and helped in drawing up an agreement to ensure the services had a sustainable future.

He prefers to use persuasion to bring about change and would have a number of challenges for Dorset. He would like to see more equity of service provision across Bournemouth, Dorset and

Poole. He would like to see partnerships developed and merged to join up services and prevent duplication. He would see the Voluntary and Community sector as excellent at service delivery and also very good value for money.

If elected, he would take an early opportunity to talk to government and try to make the case for additional expenditure for Dorset to meet some of the challenges and enable radical improvements.

### **Group 3**

***“There is a saying in Dorset that you can only access services and support if you live in Bournemouth and Poole – what would you do about this?”***

There are so many artificial boundaries created in areas. For the first time we will have a county-wide elected person. I want to be able to break down the boundaries and join up the services.

***“You were a successful councillor for a long time, what has made you go for PCC?”***

Because I can be good at it and bring new thinking. I have already been on the Police Authority and it has given me an idea of what does and doesn't work well.

***“At the moment there is very little support available to mentoring services such as Footprints – how can you change that?”***

I want to manage repeat offenders by identifying ways of helping them eg through Footprints or Clean Sheet. There have always been issues with accommodation and mentoring and we need to find a way of creating a pathway of getting offenders into accommodation that has access to the already existing services.

***“A lot of services discriminate against people because of where they live eg some shelters can only take people from Bournemouth but not the wider area such as Dorchester or even further afield like Manchester – how can you help this?”***

I would suggest speaking to service providers in other counties to build bridges and connect services. For example if we had somebody in Manchester who wanted to access services here, perhaps we could look into sending somebody there. In regards to the local issues of area discrimination, it can't be fixed overnight. At the moment there is nobody you can go to express your concerns and highlight these issues but from 15<sup>th</sup> November you will be able to speak to whoever you elect as PCC.

***“What work do you do in the voluntary and community sector?”***

I feel I am better at facilitating rather than working on the frontline. For example back in 2002 Over the Rainbow were going to close because of lack of funding. My business partner and I took them under our wing. We gave them offices, funded their staff and helped with their business plan. They are now self-sustainable. When I was a councillor I was a trustee for the Mayor's Charitable Fund, I also help with fundraising for Cancer Research and the Poppy Appeal. I provided events such as pantomimes for children from Sure Start Centres and this has now become a charity of its own called Kitty's Wish.

***“How will you tackle the issues in Boscombe?”***

The PCC is not a magic wand but the first step is to make the police and council work together. I recently escorted Lord Wasserman, advisor to David Cameron, around Boscombe to highlight the issues surrounding the area as it is the most deprived ward in the whole of the South West. I want the police to stop faffing and to give more power to PCOS, put a police presence in the precinct and have a zero tolerance to low level anti-social behaviour in the area.



### **Rachel Roger's Presentation**

Rachel started by that there were two strands of the job – Community Safety and Policing. She was very concerned that people should be made aware of the two strands because the tv campaign focusses solely on the policing side.

If elected she would not be in charge of the police but would be the peoples' voice when it comes to allocating funds. She had three main objectives.

1st. She wants to consult with the people, not just the ones who come to groups but also in the wider community by utilising existing networks such as Sure Start.

2nd. Conducting consultations with people and using the results to set priorities that are within national targets.

3rd. Using the set priorities to commission evidence based services.

With regard to the Community Safety strand of the position Rachel is keen to keep police in neighbourhoods and allow them to build relationships. Preventing crime is a main objective and preventing people from falling into crime. By preventing crime happening in the first place you stop people becoming victims.

She wants the money we do have to work as best as it can by making the services available benefit and suit the service user rather than the service provider.

#### **Group 1**

- She talked about the structure, who is accountable to who etc.
- She said there was money in the budget for a deputy PCC but she would not want one, she would prefer the money to be spent on making the panel more representative of the community so have minority people on the panel
- She talked about no being able to speak to the police, so they don't know what is going on.

#### **Group 2**

Rachel currently works with young people. She has been employed in the prison system, worked as a researcher for a political party and is also an elected councillor on Weymouth and Portland Council

Rachel agreed that there had been a lack of info about the election process and too much dependence on IT and sending information via websites. She stressed however this was not something she was responsible for.

She is a member of the Labour Party and this is reflected in the views and values which she holds. She is nominated by the party for this position and will follow their policies. However the party cannot control what happens in Dorset and it will be for the public to advise the Commissioner on what is needed.

If elected, she would begin by carrying out consultation to identify gaps and bridge divides. A Police and Crime Plan will need to be agreed on March 31<sup>st</sup> 2013 so the status quo is likely to prevail in the first instance. Rachel would co-opt additional members onto the Police and Crime Panel to represent the following: victims, young people, service user forums. She does not feel it is representative at the moment.

She is not simply in favour of more 'Bobbies on beat' but sees a huge role for preventative services. She is particularly concerned about youth crime and would want to see joined up services for all age groups and joined up funding. She sees the Safer Schools Team as a crucial support to families. She also sees the Safer Neighbourhood teams as playing an important role.

### **Group 3**

Rachel began by introducing herself properly after forgetting to do this in her presentation.

***"What is your plan for supporting victims?"***

I want people to tell me what to do and how they want me to help. I don't want to take any money out of community safety. I think the best support for victims is to stop them being victims in the first place by preventing crime. However it will never be possible to prevent all crime being committed and I want to offer more support for victims.

***"Since preventing crime happening in the first place is a priority for you, how do you intend on finding money to put into preventing re-offending?"***

I haven't said that preventing re-offending was a priority. So far I have had very little contact with the police and I do not have budget information.

***"The needs of the county are so diverse, how will you bring it all together?"***

Consultations have been done by the police but I haven't had access to them yet. If I am elected I will be able to have a look at the consultations that have already been done as I know I don't wish to spend money on new ones.

***"You make it sound as though you are starting with nothing but this isn't the case. The administration team are already in place and have worked for the police force for many years. You must have some idea about your plans?"***

I know I want to frame the plan and improve communications. There are funds for a deputy PCC but personally I would rather spend the funds on a community ambassador.

***"Do you see this as an opportunity to link the PCC with the Health and Wellbeing agencies?"***

Not directly but crossing the boundaries would be useful.

***"There are so many different bodies such as the Clinical Commission and Chief Executives of the various local authorities – how will you make it work?"***

I hope so but there is nothing in the remit. The PCC will have an enormous remit and will be the highest ranked publicly elected official in Dorset so hopefully the media would pay more attention to the things that the PCC says. I'm not promising but I would try to break down barriers through relationship building especially with the Chief Constable.

***"How will you assimilate all the area information?"***

That is a very difficult question to answer. Prioritisation will be difficult because of the diversity of the county. We have the conurbation as well as rural areas. I think mapping will be the start.

***"Do you plan on making any changes to the budget?"***

Funding in the VCS will roll on and will not be changed.