



Lee Barron MP
Member of Parliament for Corby
and East Northamptonshire
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Dear Mr Tucker

September 9th, 2024

I would like to acknowledge receipt of the letter sent on behalf of Raunds Town Council raising the issues about crime. Disappointingly, this was sent to my Parliament email address late on Friday afternoon and more than two hours after the council shared the contents on social media.

While we can all acknowledge that the questions and issues raised in the letter do need to be answered, it would have been constructive if the council could have contacted me before making the letter public.

This would have given the council opportunity to recognise that I had already taken steps earlier in the day once I was made aware of the recent spate in burglaries. Residents had shared their concerns, and a meeting is now planned with Chief Constable Ivan Balhatchet and senior police officers. I will, of course, be liaising with the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Danielle Stone in the coming days.

I hope town councillors will welcome this initiative and at a future meeting explore ways of working with myself and the PFCC. I would appreciate gaining a better understanding of what work the town council has already done with the previous MP, PFCC and Unitary councillors as I can see no mention of this in the letter.

It must be said that, for the record, after my election I did reach out to the council and met the Mayor Cllr Paul Byrne and town council clerk, Steve Tucker. I believe I made it clear at the meeting that it was important to build partnerships and was keen to represent all residents whatever their political leanings.

I fear the contents of the open letter have created a worrying narrative which ignores the shameful legacy of the Conservative government. While there has been ongoing recruitment of police officers it is a fact that between 2010 and 2019 there was a loss of 20,000 police officers and thousands of neighbourhood police officers.

I believe it is time for change and I hope and believe we can work together to support the community of Raunds.

Yours sincerely,

Lee Barron MP
Corby and East Northamptonshire