

**CHOOSE
MY PCC**

Candidates for the Thames Valley Police Force Area

On 6th May, you will be able to vote for
your police and crime commissioner.

Find out who your local candidates are
and how to vote



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About Police and Crime Commissioners

On 6th May, you will be able to vote for your Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). The role of the PCC is to be the voice of the people and hold the police to account. Elections will be taking place in England and Wales. In London, Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire, there will be elections at the same time for Mayors who exercise PCC functions.

PCCs are responsible for the totality of policing in their force area and aim to cut crime and deliver an effective and efficient police service.

39 PCCs will be elected across England and Wales, of which 4 are also responsible for overseeing the fire and rescue authority for their area and are called Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners (PFCC) – these PFCCs are found in Essex, Staffordshire, North Yorkshire and Northamptonshire). There will also be 3 Mayors with PCC functions elected in London, Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire.

PCCs are elected by you and aim to cut crime and hold the force to account on behalf of the public. PCCs bring a public voice to policing, and they do this by:

- engaging with the public and victims of crime to help set the policing priorities for the area and consulting on their Police and Crime plans;
- ensuring the police force budget is spent where it matters most; and
- appointing the Chief Constable, holding them to account for delivery of their objectives and if necessary, dismissing them.

Work with others

PCCs, PFCCs and Mayors who exercise PCC functions also work with your council and other organisations to promote and enable joined up working on community safety and criminal justice.

The PCC, PFCC or Mayor who exercises PCC functions does not 'run' the police force or fire service. Chief Constables and Chief Fire Officers are operationally independent, and they are responsible for the day to day operations of the police, but they are accountable to the public via the Police and Crime Commissioner.

PCCs, PFCCs and Mayors who exercise PCC functions are single, directly elected individuals ensuring the public are protected, providing greater opportunities for collaboration and more effective scrutiny of public services.

They ensure that there is an effective policing contribution to national partnership arrangements to protect the public from other national and cross-boundary threats.

Represent the entire community

PCCs, PFCCs and Combined Authority Mayors who exercise PCC functions are required to swear an oath of impartiality when they are elected to office.

The oath is designed so that they can publicly set out their commitment to: serve all of the people in their police force area; act with integrity and diligence; give a voice to the public; act with transparency so that they may be effectively held to account; and not interfere with the operational independence of police officers.

Find your candidate

This booklet contains information on the candidates standing for election in the Thames Valley police force area. You can also order a copy of this booklet in the following formats: large print, braille and audio.

To place your order visit **www.choosemypcc.org.uk** or call **0808 196 2170**.

About your vote

You need to be registered to be able to vote.

If you are not registered visit **www.gov.uk/register-to-vote** or contact your local council.

If you are registered, and eligible to vote you can either vote in person at a polling station, by post, or by proxy (allowing someone you trust to vote on your behalf).

In this election you can vote for a first and second preference of who you want to win.

For more information about your vote and other elections taking place on 6th May visit **www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter**

Matthew Barber

The Conservative Party Candidate



Election statement:

I am asking for your support on Thursday 6th May to make Thames Valley an even safer place to live.

Having listened to residents from across Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes and Oxfordshire, I have developed a clear plan to be tough on crime ensuring safer communities.

- **Strong local policing**

More police officers, strengthening neighbourhood policing and focussing on the crimes that matter most to residents

- **Fighting serious organised crime**

Cracking down on the threat from “county-lines” drugs gangs to protect children from abuse and exploitation

- **Dealing with cyber crime and fraud**

Investing in the technology and resources the police need to protect you and your families online

- **Improving criminal justice**

Supporting victims of crime, bringing more criminals to justice and reducing reoffending

- **Tackling illegal encampments**

Ensuring a fair but firm response to illegal encampments and reducing the effect on communities

I am committed to continuing the excellent work of the Violence Reduction Unit that is not just tackling violence and knife crime through tough enforcement, but works closely with schools, councils and the NHS to prevent crime.

As part of my plan, I will agree a new local policing strategy with the police, looking at everything from where officers are based and the resources available to neighbourhood teams, to how local officers work to tackle long term issues and prevent crime rather than just responding when things go wrong.

We need to ensure the police are able to manage issues such as robbery, vehicle crime, domestic abuse and antisocial behaviour that can make people feel unsafe in their own communities and damage confidence in policing.

By lending me your support on Thursday 6th May, together we can be tough on crime for safer communities.

Promoted by Nathan Boyd on behalf of Matthew Barber both of 8 Gorwell, Watlington, OX49 5QE

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Laetisia Carter

Labour and Co-operative Party



Election statement:

Your Labour and Cooperative candidate for Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner: Councillor Laetisia Carter

Laetisia Carter is the strong, new voice that our communities need in the PCC role – she brings Labour and Co-operative values of justice, community and localism, and the experience, energy and authority required. As your representative, Laetisia will stand up for victims of crime, regularly engage with the public, police and agencies, ensure accountability, and work to reverse damaging police cuts affecting numbers of PCSOs, police, and station counter closures.

Laetisia Carter pledges to cut crime by prioritising action on:

- Violence against women and girls
- Fraud and cyber crime
- Support for young people
- Local, visible, accessible policing
- Listening to the community and putting victims central to policy.

Your vote counts

At the last PCC election in 2016, Laetisia came a strong second, gaining only 8% less than the current PCC, and winning majorities in many areas. Despite the result having a huge impact on our lives and our communities, only 25% of people voted in the PCC election. Please vote on May 6th.

About Laetisia Carter

Born and raised in Oxfordshire, Laetisia is an elected councillor in West Oxfordshire, a mother of two, and a professional with extensive experience relevant to this role. Laetisia has worked in strategic roles, across the Thames Valley area for the Police, the Criminal Justice Board, and Her Majesty's Court Service (HMCS), and currently focuses on improving the mental health of young people. Laetisia has written national policy, delivered nationally recognised programmes and worked closely with the Home Office and Ministry of Justice.

On Thursday 6th May 2021, vote for Change, vote Laetisia Carter

This form has been prepared by the election agent for Laetisia Carter: Judith Wardle of 21 Common Road, North Leigh, Witney OX29 6RD.

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www.facebook.com/laetisiacarter

John Howson

Liberal Democrats



Election statement:

John Howson Liberal Democrat candidate

A Police Service not a Police Force. That simple phrase tells you how I view the role of PCC. It is time to do things differently.

For too long, Thames Valley have not solved enough crimes. If elected, I will ensure that they have the resources to improve this, including protecting the number of frontline police officers. We deserve safer, more secure streets and better value for money.

Local policing and swift justice are vital. Cases take too long to come to court, and justice delayed is justice denied. I promise to work with other agencies to ensure cases are progressed to court as quickly as possible.

I will consult the public and elected representatives about local policing priorities. The police must work for everyone in the community. I will make sure your voice is heard.

My key tasks as Police & Crime Commissioner:

- Reduce crime and the fear of crime.
- Improve police accountability, visibility, and work to raise public confidence in the police.
- Target resources on detecting crime and cutting offending rates.

My background

- 22 years a Magistrate in Oxfordshire.
- Financial experience in the public, voluntary and private sectors, including running my own company.
- National experience of the criminal justice system. Led demands to stop police using out of court disposals that prevented cases coming to court and, as a result, victims not receiving compensation.
- Expert on licensing law, and effects of the night time economy.
- Been a victim of crime, including a stabbing and several burglaries.

Prepared by Richard Buckley, C5 Grange Court Business Park, Barton Lane, Abingdon, OX14 3NB

Contact details

www.oxonlibdems.uk/john_howson_for_police_and_crime_commissioner

Alan Robinson

Independent

Election statement:

Policemore: How Policing Will
Reclaim Its Soul



- As an independent candidate I will be free from party political interference:
- Free to get the Bobby visible again and Back on the Beat.
- Free to use our policing skills to protect our public.
- Free to gain better community engagement,
- And free to increase police morale and hence its effectiveness.

The police service needs to reclaim its identity. We need to get the Bobby Back on The Beat to reassure and protect the public with their visible presence. We will return to being the friendly familiar face in our communities, not just a voice in a call centre. They will focus on real crimes that affect you the most – burglary, theft, criminal damage, actual violent and sexual crimes, fraud, organised crime and gangs.

You deserve a far more visible and engaged police service, with officers serving you and not politicians and their never-ending quest for statistics. By targeting neighbourhood problems, officers will be able to use their Policing skills and local knowledge to resolve these issues. They will be encouraged to use their own initiative and creativity to enforce the law and resolve local problems either by themselves or working with other interested parties.

I served as a frontline officer for 25 years and saw how political interference resulted in a demoralised, disengaged and less efficient Police Service.

With a targeted local approach, we will be able to increase police morale by increasing a sense of achievement, involvement and community belonging. This will increase their effectivity and productivity for the community.

I am offering you a fresh alternative, you deserve it! Let us make it happen together. Let us get the Bobby Back on The Beat.

Prepared by Alan Robinson, 24 Claydon Close, Banbury, OX16 2DB

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Statement by the Police Area Returning Officer for Thames Valley

This booklet contains more information about those candidates (where provided) and other information useful to voters. The information provided by a candidate is their responsibility, and may not reflect the opinions of myself or my council.

As Police Area Returning Officer I am responsible for coordinating the election and announcing the result in Thames Valley.

Police and Crime Commissioner Elections will be held in Thames Valley on 6th May 2021; the candidates standing in that election, alphabetically by surname (as they will appear on the ballot paper), are:

- BARBER, Matthew – The Conservative Party Candidate
- CARTER, Laetisia – Labour and Co-operative Party
- HOWSON, John – Liberal Democrats
- ROBINSON, Alan – Independent

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