



30 November 2018

Dear Parish Clerks,

The number of unauthorised encampments in Northamptonshire has increased this year and some of you have been in touch with comments and questions about the way Northamptonshire Police deals with such camps when they set up.

When camps set up, we know they can cause community concerns. We have listened to the issues you have raised and looked again at our approach, particularly when camps are set up on important public spaces such as parks.

Working within the legal framework available to us and alongside our partners, we will aim to ensure that encampments in those primary areas are moved on as soon as possible. This won't always be straight away but we will ensure we listen to any issues that are raised. If it is clear that any criminal offence has been committed and a suspect identified, then we will respond appropriately.

We are committed to working in partnership to address the issues caused by unauthorised encampments and will continue to develop an appropriate response to each and every encampment. What we are absolutely clear on, is the response from police will be robust and swift where required, yet lawful and proportionate in its approach.

A new policy for dealing with unauthorised encampments has been developed and introduced across the force. This new policy ensures consistency in our approach, and will provide reassurance to those communities who are affected by such encampments and any peripheral criminality which takes place.

We have produced a leaflet to help you in explaining the powers available to both the police and the local authority, a copy of which is enclosed for you now. We hope this will be useful in your work with your local community and we are happy to supply you with stocks of this leaflet in hard copy or digitally for you to distribute as you wish.

Finally, be assured that we have heard the concern that has been expressed over this issue and we are attempting to respond in a way that respects the rights of all the communities involved.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Adderley', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nick Adderley
Chief Constable

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Mold', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stephen Mold
Police and Crime Commissioner