

IAN BEVAN

Councillor for Ramsbottom

438 Whalley Road, Ramsbottom, Bury, BLO OEG
07754 301814



To: Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Greater Manchester

Dear Mr Lloyd

Re: Policing in Bury North Division

I write further to your recent attendance at the full meeting of Bury Council on 7 July 2013 where I asked if you could reassure residents of Ramsbottom regarding policing in Ramsbottom and the future of Ramsbottom Police Station. You kindly offered to furnish me with some further information but unfortunately, to date, I have not received a response.

Furthermore, at the recent meeting of the Ramsbottom, Tottington and North Manor Township Forum, we welcomed Inspector Bryn Williams (Bury North) to discuss, update and answer questions from local residents on policing in our area and the recent re-structure of the Bury North division of GMP. (The Township Forum is a committee of Bury Council that comprises elected Councillors, local residents, business groups, tenants and residents associations and various representatives of the voluntary sector).

The concerns raised included the reduction of neighbourhood beat officers and PCSO's. In Ramsbottom, the number of officers has reduced to just one beat officer and a part-time PCSO. In North Manor Ward there is now no neighbourhood beat officer. Tottington also now has just one neighbourhood constable. However, our township area covers some 35,000 people.

A further concern was the removal of officers from the township at weekends, to assist in Bury Town centre, leaving us without officers on patrol. You will be aware of recent reported incidents of violent crime in Ramsbottom Town Centre, and it's impact on the confidence of residents to come to the town centre in the evening. Ramsbottom in particular is endeavouring to be a premier tourist destination, and the lack of officers to police the area at night is becoming most troublesome. Insp Williams also confirms that we are seeing an increase in anti-social behaviour.

Residents, traders and Councillors were also most concerned regarding the future of Ramsbottom Police Station amidst rumours that it is to be sold off—giving the Police no base in our township.

I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible as to what action you intend to take, so that I can report back to our Township Forum at its next meeting. Certainly, I would be happy to cordially invite you to one of our future meetings if your calendar allows.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Bevan

Councillor for Ramsbottom Ward, Bury MBC
Chair—Ramsbottom, Tottington and North Manor Township Forum