

## ‘Ensure fair split for rural and urban’

Pete Levy is the Liberal Democrat candidate for the post.

He served with Wiltshire Constabulary as both police cadet and constable and later served six years with the Royal Military Police.

Mr Levy was a member of Avon and Somerset Police Authority since June 2010 until he stepped down to run in the election. Highlights include a £43 million saving over four years, improving year-on-year crime figures and led on a number of cross-force collaborations.

Mr Levy said: “I want to ensure a fair split over the whole region, both rural and urban. My top three issues include: antisocial behaviour from vulnerable, repeat victims to the lower end of scale and kids with nothing to do; violence against women and girls, including rape, domestic violence, honour crimes, hate crimes and would want to ensure first conviction for FGM (female genital mutilation); all drugs related crime ranging from cross force tackling of dealers to treatment for offenders.

“I want to continue to ensure restorative justice plays its part in reducing re-offending. The victims of crime will be at the front of all endeavours and we’ll have an effective communications strategy in place to ensure even the quietest voices are heard.”



Pete Levy



Ken Maddock

## ‘Intending to cut red tape and crime’

Ken Maddock is the Conservative candidate for the post.

He stood down from being leader of Somerset County Council to do so and cites tough challenges faced in the past three years in the role. He intends to remain a county councillor for Mendip South until the end of his term in May 2013.

Mr Maddock said: “I have three very clear ambitions which the residents of Cheddar, Shepton Mallet, Wells and surrounding communities can expect to see me prioritise if elected as commissioner: To reduce crime. The focus of the police’s budget and officers’ time will be on the frontline – keeping people safe. To be the champion of local people. Listening to their views and taking action.

“The people’s priorities must be the police’s priorities. To ensure that the police pound goes further.

“Working with local communities, councils, the government and charities to get the best deal for local people. Read more on my website, [www.kenmaddock.org.uk](http://www.kenmaddock.org.uk).”

Mr Maddock has said that if elected he intends to cut red tape by launching an audit into police bureaucracy, reduce crime, pursue a youth manifesto and champion victims.

## ‘Making sure service listens to the people’

Dr John Savage CBE is the Labour candidate for the role.

He is the chief executive of the Bristol Chamber of Commerce and Initiative and the Chairman of University Hospitals Bristol.

His priorities are to:

■ Forge closer relationship between the needs and desires of the public and the work of the police;

■ Oppose any further reductions of front-line policing;

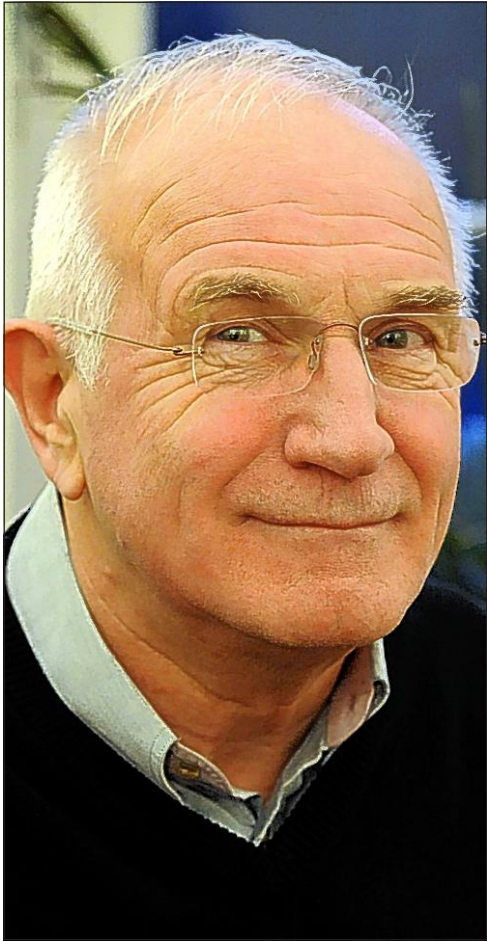
■ Build on neighbourhood policing and ensure victims of crime have a voice at the heart of policing;

■ Develop a long-term, strategic vision for policing in Avon and Somerset that meets the needs of the public throughout the forces area.

Dr Savage said: “As your police and crime commissioner my first priority would always be to ensure that you can live in safety and that your homes and possessions are protected.

“I have more than 40 years of business experience working in senior roles in the public and private sectors and have held responsibility for annual budgets in excess of £1 billion.

“These are difficult times. More is expected of our police while budgets are cut. There are no easy answers but I will ensure the police service prioritises neighbourhood policing over privatisation and that the service really listens to the public it serves.”



John Savage



Sue Mountstevens

## ‘Commissioner should be independent’

Sue Mountstevens is an independent candidate for the post.

She said: “The police are independent and impartial and so should the commissioner. I will protect the police and residents from being kicked about like a political football.”

Her aims are:

■ To reduce crime by targeting persistent offenders, supporting neighbourhood teams and improving technology;

■ To give police flexibility to work with local communities so that they deliver priorities. Mrs Mountstevens says readers have told her about antisocial behaviour, metal theft, fly tipping and speeding through villages;

■ To visit your communities, one day a week, where you can make your views known and she will be your voice;

■ To see victim focused policing become a reality;

■ To ensure there is a fair allocation of resources and that your money is spent efficiently and wisely.

Mrs Mountstevens said: “I live in North Somerset and I’m a director of Mountstevens Bakeries, with shops in Wells and Shepton Mallet. I’ve been a magistrate for 15 years and served as an independent member of the Avon & Somerset Police Authority. I know how to run and large and complex business and I understand the criminal justice system. Policing is just too important for party politics.”

## Residents have power to complain directly

### Who’s in charge of the commissioner?

You are. As the PCC is an elected position, the public has the power to complain directly to the person in the PCC chair. And if the public remains unhappy they can eject them from office at election time or pressure them to stand down.

But if the PCC monitors how well the chief

constable, and in turn the police, performs, who will monitor the performance of the PCC so the public knows he or she is doing a good job or not?

That duty will fall on Police and Crime Panels. These will be made up with an elected person from each council/local authority in the policing area and two independent co-optees.

# Electing public face of the police force

### What is a police and crime commissioner?

Despite sounding very American, the police and crime commissioners (PCCs) are to be the public faces of the police force.

The Home Office says: “Their job is to listen to the public and then respond to their needs, bringing more of a public voice to policing and giving the public a name and a face to complain to if they aren’t satisfied.”

A commissioner’s powers include:

- Holding the chief constable (in Avon and Somerset’s case that is Colin Port) to account for the delivery of the force;
- Setting and updating a police and crime plan;

### By Ian Mat

cheddarvalley@midsonnews.co.uk

01749 832337

Twitter: @cheddarvagazette

- Setting the force budget and precept in the council tax;
- Regularly engaging with the public and communities;
- Appointing, and where necessary dismissing, the chief constable.

A PCC will not be allowed to tell police officers and staff how to do their job. That responsibility lies with the chief constable.

All bar one of the candidates belongs to a political party: The Home Office has said “the operations of the police will not be politicised; who is arrested

and how investigations work will not become political decisions”.

To do this PCCs will have to swear an oath of impartiality when they are elected to office. The swearing of an oath is to underline PCCs are there to serve the people, not a political party or any one section of their electorate. PCCs take office on November 22.

The Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner will be paid £85,000 a year.

This is the second highest and most common pay grade. At the top is the £100,000 bracket used for the West Midlands, Manchester and Yorkshire.

The next PCC election will be held in May 2016.



On the 25th October 2007 Feels Like Home commenced business in the High Street, STREET, supplying made to measure curtains and blinds, along with many other products to compliment the home. Co-owner sisters Anne Brooks and Dawn Stott took over the business as a going concern from West Country Textiles. Following a lot of hard work and determination, they have built the business up into the lovely shop that it is today. They, like many other retailers have had some tough times during one of the worst recessions this country has seen, and have had to make many changes along the way to see them through.

**In order to celebrate their 5th anniversary and to thank the support from all of their customers, they are offering**

**20% off all gifts**

during the half term break from  
**Saturday 27th October to Saturday 3rd November 2012.**

**Balloons will also be handed out to children during that week.**

**Healthy, Happy Cats Are NEUTERED Cats**

**During September, October and November**

**Glastonbury & Wells Cats Protection are offering to neuter and microchip your cat for £15.00**

**Contact Annette on: 01934 712002 Or Kate on: 01749 841569**

Offer only valid for those on benefits or low incomes. Pedigree cats will not be eligible for the scheme. Offer only valid at participating veterinary practices.

**PENNY and TIA** are beautiful little lap kittens. They are 5 months old, full of fun and very playful.

**PENNY** is a seriously cute black/white girl whilst **TIA** is an elegant, slinky black panther.

**Phone Gill on 01749 850660 to offer one or both a loving home.**

## Authority was in charge of policing



Peter Heffer

### What does the Police and Crime Commissioner replace?

Until now the powers that are to be given to the PCC have been in the hands of police authorities.

In our case it has been Avon and Somerset Police Authority – nine councillors and eight independent members – that has overseen the chief constable until now.

But the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill become an Act in September last year, forcing the introduction of the new role.

At that time Avon and Somerset Police Authority carried out its own poll on whether the public wanted a PCC and almost three quarters of voters (72 per cent) said they were not comfortable with a politician overseeing policing.

Authority chairman, Dr Peter Heffer, has previously said he would be amazed if the police commissioner was not a political person due to the cost and time needed to wage an election campaign.

The elections were originally earmarked for May earlier on this year.

## Candidate list was finalised

The final list of candidates was released at the time of going to press yesterday.

Any newcomers or dropouts will be featured in a future edition in the interests of fairness.

vote by proxy must apply by 5pm on Wednesday, November 7.

Any queries, contact:

- Mendip District Council Electoral Registration Officer, Electoral Services Office, Cannards Grave Road, Shepton Mallet, Somerset, BA4 5BT, 01749 341236 / 341590, [elections@mendip.gov.uk](mailto:elections@mendip.gov.uk);
- Sedgemoor District Council

Electoral Registration Officer, Bridgwater House, King Square, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 3AR, 01278 435334, [electoral.services@sedgemoor.gov.uk](mailto:electoral.services@sedgemoor.gov.uk);

■ South Somerset District Council Electoral Registration Officer, Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil, BA20 2HT, 01935 462462, [elections@southsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:elections@southsomerset.gov.uk).

**Start your adventure**

**We have sibling groups of children waiting to be adopted now**

**To find out more phone 0800 587 9900**

**adoption** with somerset county council Join us on facebook and follow us on twitter. [www.adoptioninsomerset.org.uk](http://www.adoptioninsomerset.org.uk)

**0% FINANCE now available** to help you spread the costs

**love your smile**

**We believe everyone should be able to smile with confidence. We want to help you on your way to excellent oral health in a friendly and caring atmosphere**

Loose denture - an embarrassment? Discoloured or unsightly teeth? Missing teeth? All of this can easily be addressed by our experienced dentists using modern techniques including implants and natural-looking crowns and fillings.

Nervous? Our dentists are trained in sedation to make your visit stressfree.

Head or neck ache, aching jaw? Have you considered that your bite may be to blame? Bad breath or loose teeth? Our gentle hygienists are here to help.

Call now to book an appointment:  
**Family Dental Practice**  
Rowan House, 163 High Street, Street, Somerset, BA16 0ND  
Tel: (01458) 445115  
Email: [info@familydentalpractice.com](mailto:info@familydentalpractice.com)  
[www.familydentalpractice.com](http://www.familydentalpractice.com)