



May 2016

Dear Community Member

Coventry Local Policing Unit and Coventry City Council have been made aware that the English Defence League (EDL) wish to hold a static demonstration in Coventry city centre on Saturday 21 May. We have also been made aware of a planned counter-demonstration and are now working with both groups to understand more about the proposed demonstrations.

As part of that work we will be speaking to local shopkeepers, residents and others to listen to their views on the proposed events. This will then help shape our policing of the event.

As most people will know by now, neither the police nor council have any powers to ban a peaceful assembly or static peaceful protest. Peaceful protest is the sign of a healthy democracy and West Midlands Police has an active duty to facilitate that right.

EDL protesters are due to meet at the Litten Tree Pub in Warwick Road, Coventry at 12pm. At 1.30pm protesters will walk to Speakers Corner, outside the council house where they will hold a static demonstration between 2-3pm. Protesters

demonstrating against the EDL's presence in the city will hold their simultaneous event in Broadgate.

Coventry Police and the Council will be working hard to ensure any event held on the day is safe and secure for all involved. The number of protesters has not been finalised but our well-rehearsed plans are flexible and we have the necessary available resources to manage any size turn-out. People with concerns or questions about the operation should call police on 101 or a dedicated 24 hotline on 07824 820 937. Alternatively, you can contact Inspector Hasson Shigdar who is leading on the policing of the event locally by emailing him at [h.shigdar@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk](mailto:h.shigdar@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk)

For up to date information on the day of the protests follow [@Coventry\\_Police](https://twitter.com/Coventry_Police) on Twitter or visit <http://www.west-midlands.police.uk/>

Coventry Council can be contacted on 024 7683 2222, via email at [customer.services@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@coventry.gov.uk) and by following them [@coventrycc](https://twitter.com/coventrycc)

Kind regards,



C/Supt Danny Long  
Local Police Commander  
West Midlands Police



Cllr. Abdul Khan  
Deputy Leader  
Coventry City Council