



Leicestershire
Police
Protecting our communities

Leicestershire Rural Policing Team Newsletter.

November 2021

We move into the autumn months now with a noticeable difference in the weather and the nights drawing in. This brings to the fore seasonal issues for this time of year. Hare Coursing and a perceived lack of visibility of the police because of the darker nights. We are still very much aware of the issues affecting the rural community and with the help of colleagues, call takers, NFU and the OPCC we are certainly moving in the right direction.

The text messages we send about rural crime continue to be well received. If you want to receive geographically relevant messages – please contact us with your name, number & area. leicsruralcrime@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk

News

- Through consultation with other force areas and the wider rural public, we have really focused on two key areas. The first is communication. We have increased our communication on text, social media and via this newsletter. As ever – we are always open to feedback that helps us improve and develop what we do.
- The second focussed area is training. We have completed our first input to call takers specifically around rural crime and the impact, types of rural crime and how to manage victims expectations more effectively when speaking to them. The training around rural crime will be rolled out to new officers, response officers and local teams so they have an increased awareness of the issues that matter to those in rural communities.
- The first week in October was the week of 'rural action'. From engagement events to enforcement, across to proactively working with the beat teams to disrupt criminals using the road networks to commit rural crime. We also supported colleagues on the NW side of the county with their interactive event where they invited farmers from across the county to meet with neighbouring forces and crime prevention organisations, along with the NFU, FCN and other rural organisations. Rupert Matthews who is the Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland was also present and has got the bit firmly between his teeth around his approach to addressing rural policing.



- The emerging issues seem to be more reports of hare coursing – particularly in the Market Bosworth and Lowesby / Hungarton areas. We have been supporting officers and the local community in those areas meeting landowners, gamekeepers and farmers to try and reduce reports of offending. In early October, a suspect was arrested for driving and hare coursing offences. A number of vehicles were recovered also following reports of coursing.
- Mowsley and the surrounding villages saw a sharp increase in the theft of animal handling equipment. Sheep hurdles, races, scales and gates were stolen. We are working with Northamptonshire police to try and identify those responsible. It seems they have had similar issues.
- An initial appearance at Melton Market seemed positive for all. More people were added to the text list to receive crime alerts – as far as we are concerned – you are our eyes and ears. Without the support of the public we cannot be as effective as we need to be. It makes sense to not re-invent the wheel. If we can have a captive audience of hundreds rather than visiting individual farms or yards it's a better use of our time.
- We have spent time with local officers in Loughborough, Harborough, Rutland, Oakham and Market Bosworth supporting them to prevent and detect crime. Colleagues from our traffic unit have also been out with ANPR capability disrupting rural criminality.



Volunteering?

At a recent meeting with a village experiencing increased rural crime, the topic of volunteering was discussed. If you have any free time and think that you can offer support to our rural team – then we would really like to hear from you. It could be identifying emerging crime types and patterns right through to sending rural text alerts and helping to deliver training to officers. The role would be suited to someone with a passion for addressing rural crime. It would be great for a CV or for someone retired with a little time on their hands. We'd love to hear from you – our contact email is below.