



Kent Police

Weekly Rural Policing Update 18th November 2016

An activation on the live ANPR system identified a vehicle that had interest for police. The vehicle was found by a member of the Rural Liaison Team (RLT) and followed to a petrol station near Lenham. The driver was found to be disqualified from driving and had no insurance. Following a search of this person items were found indication him in the theft of other vehicles and caravans. He was arrested.

An early start from 4am resulted in a search warrant being executed by the Rural Task Force at two premises in the Thanet area. A large amount of Amphetamine as well as mobile phones/stun gun and various other items were found. Due to the complexity and having to secure all the exhibits meant a very long working day. 20hrs in total. A well-deserved day off sounds like a good idea.

Members of the RLT made a visit to a gentleman who had been intimidated by two young males. Whilst out walking in the area of Worth he was accompanied by two young men who had four lurcher type dogs and was verbally accused of being a sex offender. He managed to get away but was very distressed by the incident. The RLT went to his home and gave some reassurance for which he appreciated.

A report was made by a repeat victim that his premises had been targeted and chain saws had been stolen. The RLT carried out a review of the crime report and managed to identify two offenders. Using the ANPR system a pattern was identified where a vehicle that was involved in the burglary passed a certain point at a given time every day. The RLT went to that location and stopped the vehicle and both persons were arrested. One person admitted the offence of burglary and motoring offences are also being dealt with. The other person was bailed to return to the police station.

The RLT took many phone calls direct from the public reporting a car in Faversham that was driving dangerously and off road. The team quickly carried out an area search and identified the offending vehicle. It was found that the driver did not have any insurance. He was reported for motoring offences and the vehicle was seized.

A report of gangs taking mushrooms from an estate near Westerham is being investigated. Although it is not an offence to pick the mushrooms for personal use it is an offence if they are sold on without the land owner's permission. Encounters with the pickers has resulted in a public order report of racial abuse taking place. The investigation is ongoing.

A report of a Badger sett and Bat roosts being disturbed has been investigated. The RLT are specialists in investigating wildlife crime and have much knowledge on this subject. It was quickly determined that no offences have been committed and advice was given to the informants.

The third Operation Farm was carried out this week. This operation targets back roads through rural areas where criminals are known to use and avoid ANPR. Unfortunately there was no direct result from the operation apart from police hi visibility. Many vehicles were stopped and the drivers and passengers spoken to. All those stopped understood why they were stopped and were happy to answer the questions put to them.