



Kent Police

Weekly Rural Policing Update

Hare Coursing. Members of the NFU are starting to use 999 to report these incidents and it is beginning to work. It is now firmly on the radar at tasking meetings as a problem that needs dealing with urgently. Senior management within Kent Police are aware that this is an issue and it is being addressed. It is important that members of the NFU report suspicious activity as quite often there are other crimes being committed such as theft and criminal damage.

Follow up enquiries have taken place from information given to the police. Some enquiries have shown that some vehicles have been registered to a false address. These vehicles are now on the police national computer and will be stopped when they hit our Automatic Number Plate Recognition system (ANPR) We have many camera locations in Kent . Some are not fixed and are moved on a random basis.

Heating oil thefts continue to lower. From the year 2015 to 2016 the numbers have gone down from 80 to 72. It is still evident from these numbers that home owners should be taking more steps to protect their fuel. Such steps could be CCTV, alarms and level indicators. Where there have been thefts the Rural Liaison Team (RLT) conduct follow up enquiries and offer crime prevention advice. It is always good advice to have your neighbours aware of this issue and they should look out for each other reporting suspicious events.

A stolen horse box has been returned to its rightful owner after being seized by the Rural Liaison Team. The owner again was much impressed with getting the horse box back and appreciated the work done by the team. A letter of thanks was received by the Chief constable from the owner.

We are often asked to advise on wildlife issues. This week a badger set was reported to have been destroyed in the Gillingham area. The RLT are fully trained in wildlife crime and are experienced in assessing if a crime has been committed or not. On this occasion the set was deemed not to be an active set and no offences had been committed.

A meeting was held at Hampshire Police training establishment Netley this week. As a member of the South East Rural Crime Group the RLT attended. It is important we have regular meetings as this identifies problems that affect cross border crime and other issues and trends. This week the NFU representative advised that theft of agri equipment and vehicles is likely to increase at this time of year. This is a trend from previous crime data.

Operation Farm. This operation includes road checks in the rural environment to determine rural intelligence: drivers, drink, insurance and other information such as vehicle ownership. Included in this Op we will deal with offences such as mobile phones, seatbelts and other moving traffic offences. On Friday 7th October we soon had a result when a car was stopped and the occupants were checked and one was found to be wanted by the police. The car was searched and items were found in the car consistent with going equipped to steal things such as trailer's, caravans or horse boxes. Both men were arrested for going equipped. Over 500 vehicles were checked using the mobile ANPR vehicle. The prisoners are being booked in as this report is being typed. More to come next week.