



Kent Police

Rural Policing Update 13th May 2017

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, I am PS Darren WALSHAW and I am the new Sergeant responsible for the Rural Liaison Team.

I have been a serving police officer for nearly 17 years and my background is from a farming community having been employed on farms myself performing various roles.

My father although now retired still owns a farm.

I am hoping that my farming background will be a good asset to this already established and pro-active unit. I have been mainly based in the Swale area so I have a good local knowledge of the rural areas as I also worked on the Faversham Rural Team.

I am looking forward to working with you all at some point and wish to continue with the good work being carried out by the Rural Task Force.

The below is a precis of the work carried out by the Rural Liaison Team over the last 10 days:

The Team were been deployed to Isle of Sheppey trying to locate a male wanted for two burglaries who was believed to be staying in a caravan in Leysdown. Enquiries made at local Holiday Park, provided further information into the location of the male. Male was subsequently arrested in Chatham.

A Suspicious Vehicle was stopped in Barham and occupants were searched. A 17 year old male reported for possession on cannabis.

Officers responded to a theft in progress in Leysdown where there had been a theft of a cement mixer and building tools and equipment, the vehicle was stopped by local officers, the stolen property was recovered, the vehicle was seized and two males were arrested.

Officers deployed to the rural area of Denton, near Dover to assist in the search for an offender involved in a burglary offence. Area search conducted for the offender without trace. CCTV of the offender was recovered and the suspect was later identified by local officers. The team deployed to the Hawkinge area next day to search for the identified male. The male was subsequently arrested the next day as a result of the teams enquiries.

Officers received a report from the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons that a person in the Ashford area was falsely conducting veterinary work under a genuine vet's details. Research is being conducted in relation to this report.

Information received from a farmer in the Thanet Area who is being repeatedly targeted by unknown persons who are driving all over farm land causing damage to crops. Victim sadly can only describe vehicle as a blue 4x4 no index obtained.

Call received from a farm in Faversham in relation to two suspicious vehicles parked in the entrance to the Farm with occupants sat in both vehicles. The vehicles were located parked with no occupants. A Search was made for occupants around the area of the

fishing lakes without trace. No offences disclosed and on return to the location the vehicles had gone.

Officers spotted 2 males on a moped in the Edenbridge area and the moped drove away from the police patrol. The motorcycle was recovered and seized for no insurance.

The team were involved in Operation Yen. This operation was part of a day of action working with Trading standards, and looking into offences of Rouge Trading / Fraud. Two males were arrested at different locations. These offences are linked to teams of travelling criminals who are committing high value frauds against elderly repeat victims. One of the offenders was wanted for a £150,000 fraud and the second was for a £40,000 fraud with other offences added on during the investigation stage.

Ongoing investigations with RSPCA into Wildlife offences which may result in a search warrant application.

A Case file is being prepared by one of the team regarding Bat Habitat destruction in partnership with the National Wildlife Crime Unit.

Officers from the west have been preparing a stand for their deployment to Maidstone Crown Court Open Day on 13/05/2017.

Preparations are underway for the Force Open Day, with the team again planning and arranging material for a display. The Open Day is a great opportunity for the public to come and meet the team on Sunday 2nd July 2017, and we hope to see many of you there.

As previously mentioned by PC Marc Pennicott, we continue to see a trend of caravans and plant machinery/trailers been stolen. Please encourage owners to ensure they have recorded all of their serial numbers and unique identifying features. The team has received additional training from Vehicle Crime Intelligence Police Services (NaVCIS) to help them in identifying plant machinery, vehicles and caravans. Work is ongoing and a joint operation with this unit is being planned in the near future to target those responsible for these thefts.

Finally the team have all received Twitter training and welcome you all to follow us on Twitter @ **Kent Police Rural**

Kind regards
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