

LINCOLNSHIRE POLICE

RURAL COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY

2017-2020



policing with PRIDE



8360 NEW HOLLAND
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FOREWORD

There are many benefits to living, visiting and working in our beautiful countryside. We are justifiably proud of the rural areas of Lincolnshire and as one of the largest counties in England with many attractions, events and heritage sites; we host a large number of visitors throughout the year and particularly in the summer months. Farming is at the heart of our rural communities and provides jobs for many workers and contributes significantly to the health of our economy.

Unfortunately, the actions of a few can spoil all of this for the many. I am glad that Lincolnshire is one of the safest counties in the UK, but I recognise that we continue to face difficult challenges. There are still too many serious incidents on our road network; we need to work closer with our rural communities to tackle issues such as farm theft and hare coursing; we need to try and prevent attacks on our isolated churches and other heritage sites; and we need to work harder to protect the most vulnerable from those who seek to cause them harm.

This strategy sets out how Lincolnshire Police intend to tackle these issues of rural community safety. The strategy identifies how we will seek to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour in partnership with local people and respond more effectively to incidents and problems. In developing this strategy I recognise some of the unique challenges faced by our rural community and the fact that many may feel isolated and vulnerable.

I feel we have made some good early progress. We have reinvigorated our Operation Galileo approach that has enabled us to develop our rural community policing model, creating a team of specialists who lead and co-ordinate our response. We have recruited and



developed a Special Constabulary rural policing team and we will be putting in place a Rural Advisory Group.

This year, I will continue to develop our Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) network and other technologies to enhance our intelligence gathering. Lincs Alert and Crimestoppers are great examples of how I can mobilise communities to create an environment which is a hostile deterrent to criminals coming into Lincolnshire.

I am committed to improving our engagement by ensuring the needs of our rural communities are captured and the expectations on the police and other agencies are properly set. Clearly communicating what we have done and why is a crucial step in building confidence.

While the detail of this strategy will change as it develops, the principles will remain – making our rural communities safer, more connected and more confident.

Bill Skelly
Chief Constable



THE CONTEXT

Lincolnshire is a county of some 2,500 square miles and a population of 730,000 people. Nearly 45% of the county is deemed rural with a number of medium size towns across the county including the Boston, Skegness, Grantham, Sleaford all supported by the city of Lincoln.

Lincolnshire is one of the safest counties in the UK; North Kesteven for the last three years being recorded as the safest place to live in the UK (National Crime Statistics).

Lincolnshire is also a county of destination for many tourists, in the summer for the East coast holiday resorts and throughout the year for our rich history, beautiful countryside, and major events and attractions ranging from the Battle of Britain Flight to Cadwell Park race track, Market Rasen race course, Belton International Horse Trials and the Lincolnshire Show to name just a few.

We recognise as a force that a key part of our role is ensuring our rural communities are protected and feel safe.

Our Neighbourhood Policing Teams are at the forefront of local policing, supported by our partners, ensuring we meet the needs of our community and are able to respond to emerging issues and challenges. Key to our success is ensuring residents have access to their police service and are able to influence what we do.

Our Neighbourhood Teams and Response Officers are fully supported by our specialist officers, including Wildlife Crime Officers, Rural Crime Officers, Criminal Investigation Officers, Roads Policing and Specialist harm prevention officers.

This strategy recognises that rural communities in Lincolnshire face unique issues, which is why we have enhanced our service by creating Operation Galileo, a small team of specialist officers tasked with co-ordinating intelligence led interventions in respect of rural crime; engaging with the wider community to ensure we respond to their needs and working across partners to maximise every opportunity of success. We have also created a team of 12 special constables trained and equipped to tackle issues of crime and disorder within rural communities.



The main challenges we face are:

Farm and Agricultural Crime

Opportunists and acquisitive crime presents a significant threat and challenge to our farmers, having a negative impact on livelihoods and the wider rural economy;

Business Crime

As with farm crime, a threat compounded by the rural and vulnerable nature of some businesses and their property, again impacting directly on people's livelihoods;

Road Safety

A challenge for Police, the people of Lincolnshire and its visitors. We have an extensive and demanding road network that we endeavour to keep safe for all;

Wildlife and Heritage Crime

The illegal taking, disturbance, possession, trade and movement of animals or birds, coupled with damage to and theft from our vast heritage sites across the county; and

Serious and Organised Crime

Ranging from hare coursing, that impacts on the safety of our rural community, through to rogue traders and scammers who prey on those most vulnerable in remote locations across the county.

Our aim is to:

- 1** Reduce Crime and Anti-social Behaviour in our rural communities
- 2** Make our rural community feel safer
- 3** Respond to the needs of our community by building effective partnership arrangements through a Rural Community Advisory Group



Rural crime is core business in Lincolnshire; this means that our mainstream resources are responsible for addressing rural issues.

THE STRATEGY

Prevention

In partnership with stakeholders we will look to prevent incidents that cause threat risk and harm taking place, being creative and innovative in order to stop people becoming the victims of crime.

We will:

- Maintain a visible presence, be accessible and provide an effective response to rural communities.
- Recruit and develop our community to self-help, working with key partners such as National Farmers Union and Countryside Land Owners.
- Provide advice and guidance to residents, businesses and visitors on staying safe and protecting themselves and their property from opportunist criminals.
- Continue to develop the specialist rural skills and knowledge of our staff.
- Increase the number of Special Constables and volunteers working in our rural communities.
- Identify those most vulnerable within our rural community, particularly repeat victims of crime and anti-social behaviour and ensure we respond to their needs.
- Educate road users about road safety on rural roads, and take positive action to prevent collisions through initiatives such as Community Speed Watch and the targeted use of camera safety vans.
- Develop bespoke rural crime prevention advice.

Intelligence

It is important that we listen to what people tell us and act upon it. We will provide relevant information to rural communities to help people take preventative action themselves. We need to encourage more people living in rural communities to report crime, anti-social behaviour and intelligence to inform our policing response.

We will:

- Identify those individuals and groups who cause most harm to our rural communities.
- Improve our understanding of cross-border criminality by sharing information with other agencies.
- Improve our understanding of victims and locations targeted by criminals, enabling us to better prevent and protect.
- Continue to develop our Automatic Number Plate Recognition infrastructure in order to disrupt travelling criminals.
- Improve the way we provide information to our rural communities about policing issues.
- Ensure we have the processes and resources to gather information and react appropriately to incidents when they occur.
- Encourage people to report crimes and incidents to the police.
- Communicate back to people who have provided intelligence or information.



Enforcement

We will enforce the law and target those areas of crime and those offenders who cause the most harm.

We will:

- Ensure that we employ an intelligence led approach to crime and anti-social issues, improving our opportunity for positive outcomes.
- We will continually work to employ early intervention, not waiting until things have got so bad, but recognising the emerging issue and reducing victims of crime.
- Ensure an effective police response to reports of rural crime and anti-social behaviour, and that we talk to every victim of crime or anti-social behaviour.
- Work with the communities, partners and neighbouring forces to run joint operations.
- Develop stronger relationships with neighbouring police forces to combat and deter cross-border criminality.
- Continue to implement Lincolnshire Police's rural crime initiative Operation Galileo.
- Work with legal partners in both civil and criminal courts to effect the best outcome for our community.
- To be creative and innovative in respect of the legislation we employ to both protect our community and hold those who offend to account.

Reassurance

We want to work with communities to ensure that people living in our rural areas feel safe and can be safe. Effective two-way communication, local engagement and reassurance all have a role to play in giving communities in Lincolnshire confidence in policing.

We will:

- Make sure we understand the impact of crime and anti-social behaviour on rural communities and provide an excellent service at the first point of contact.
- Improve the way we communicate with our rural communities.
- Keep communities updated on current trends, activity and performance.
- Make the police more visible and accessible in rural communities.
- Conduct partnership meetings to listen to and act upon the concerns of rural communities.
- Seek feedback from people living in Lincolnshire's rural communities on the way we are working together to deliver this strategy.





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