

Rural Crime News

25 – 31 July

Welcome to our first edition of Rural Crime News! In this briefing we aim to provide you with a weekly summary of our efforts to police rural communities. We hope to inform you of significant incidents, court results, the latest statistics relating to rural crime, investments in better technology, insight from our rural officers and current demands facing Lincolnshire Police.

We launch this weeks edition with exciting news for those living in rural communities – our very own Superintendent Phil Vickers picks up the reigns for the force's rural portfolio and for those of you that haven't yet met Phil, he is keen to share information with you better than we have done so previously, giving you the very same information that he and his team will be living and breathing. We hope you find this briefing useful and please share this within your communities.



New Lincolnshire rural crime head meets NFU

Hare coursing, fly tipping and farm thefts were the key issues for discussion when Superintendent Phil Vickers met NFU members and group secretaries at Boston West Golf Club on Wednesday 11 July.

Superintendent Vickers has taken over responsibility for rural crime from Chief Superintendent Mark Housley and the recently retired Chief Inspector Jim Tyner. Mr Vickers stressed his commitment to work hard for the farming and rural community and to build a longer term and stable relationship with NFU and our members. He further reiterated the force's promise to improve communications with the farming community.

Reporting on the number of hare coursing incidents in the last season, Superintendent Vickers said that 76 dogs had been seized, which, he commented, was an effective tactic in dissuading coursers from coming to Lincolnshire. The total number of incidents reported had fallen from 1,965 in 2016/17 to 1,365 in 2017/18, a reduction of 30%. 45 separate individuals had been arrested or reported for summons and 58 dispersal notices were issued.

Superintendent Vickers said: "I am aware that there are still areas of policing in the rural communities that we can improve upon, but I would stress that the role farmers and their families play in gathering intelligence and reporting crimes to us is vital. Every piece of information however insignificant you might think it is, could be a piece in a complex crime jigsaw for our analysts.

"Our crime fighting strategy has to be based on crime prevention and not just enforcement, always recognising that public safety has to be our number one priority."



Superintendent Phil Vickers



New Lincolnshire rural crime head meets NFU

NFU Holland (Lincs) county adviser, Danny O'Shea commented after the meeting: "I'm grateful to Phil Vickers for spending time with our members. He has undertaken to listen to their concerns and to keep up the pressure on offenders coming to Lincolnshire to carry out crimes. The discussion this morning centred on hare coursing, but we are just as concerned about the numbers of fly tipping incidents and the level of farm thefts in the county.

"NFU has rural crime firmly as the top of its policy agenda, not just in Lincolnshire, but nationally too," continued Danny O'Shea. "With NFU officeholders regularly meeting senior police officers, government and civil servants, the issues farmers, their families and the whole of the rural community face are of the utmost importance. Our policy asks include increasing penalties for hare coursing and ensuring that the CPS and magistrates understand the tremendous pressure and strain that this crime places on farming families.

"We will ensure that there is an improved flow of information from Lincolnshire Police to our members as the hare coursing "season" progresses. Two further liaison meetings are planned for November and February, to ensure that farmers' views are taken into account when Lincolnshire Police formulates its Operation Galileo strategy and for the police to provide feedback on their activities."



Danny O'Shea – NFU Holland
county adviser (Lincs)



Harecoursing last season in Lincs

Did you know it was a record breaking season last year?

Deputy Chief Constable Craig Naylor said:

“We have had to raise our game to tackle what had been an increasing problem in Lincolnshire and these figures show our commitment to tackling rural crime. Criminals no longer see Lincolnshire as an easy target as they know we will seize their dogs which are worth thousands of pounds to them. We’ve had some fantastic results, particularly in the last few months. Catching coursers in the act with the police drone, permanently rehoming dogs, getting Criminal Behaviour Orders served on offenders which prevent them from coming back to the county with dogs and we’ve seen harsher fines.

“I’m pleased with this progress and we are already planning to build on this for next season. We encourage our farming community to continue working with us and thank all of them for their ongoing support, sharing of information and interest in reducing this vile crime.”

Full story here including the views of the NFU and PCC here:

<https://www.lincs.police.uk/news-campaigns/news/2018/record-breaking-season-for-operation-galileo/?hootPostID=4f0af2e5383f212943c921078a901dd1>



First National Policing Strategies launched to tackle Wildlife and Rural Crime across the UK

These Strategies have been developed through consultation with police and partners and have now been agreed by all Chief Constables as the way forward. This is a significant step forward to safeguarding our wildlife and strengthening safe and prosperous rural communities.

No one should underestimate the challenge of keeping rural communities safe, but through close working with Partners Lincolnshire Police has had a positive impact on Rural Crime in the past 12 months through Operation Galileo.

Operation Galileo for 2018/19 will launch on 7th August and we will continue with the tactics that worked well last year, whilst adding more to take the fight against Rural Crime to the homes of the offenders who would come to our County to commit crime.

The Rural Affairs Strategy can be accessed here;

<http://www.npcc.police.uk/documents/crime/2018/NPCC%20Rural%20affairs%20Strategy%20018%202021.pdf>

The Wildlife Crime Policing Strategy is here;

<http://www.npcc.police.uk/documents/crime/2018/NPCC%20Wildlife%20Crime%20Policing%20Strategy%20018%20%202021.pdf>



What else is Lincolnshire Police dealing with?



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Cannabis Grow Uncovered

Last week our officers executed a drugs warrant in Lincoln and uncovered a large cannabis grow. **187 mature plants**, which would have a **street value in excess of £150k**, were found at the property in Euston Close. Two people were arrested in connection with this.



SUMMER DRINK DRIVING CAMPAIGN REACHES 100 ARRESTS

However you are enjoying this summer, if it is in the scorching sun or in front of the World Cup, please enjoy it sensibly – **NEVER** drink and drive.

102 people in the county have made the decision to drive under the influence of drink or drugs this summer, putting lives at risk on our roads

Are we 'droning on'?

Our police drones have helped us support victims and bring offenders to justice in a wide range of incidents – we have used drones to help find missing people, catch and deter harecourers and to give us 'eyes in the sky' in large scale emergencies such as fires.

Most recently our drone pilots are celebrating their first successful prosecution after a man was handed a custodial sentence for producing cannabis. Officers carried out this scouting mission last October, and as a result of evidence captured by the drone, found what was described as a professional cannabis growing operation which could produce more than £50,000 worth of the drug.

Full story including drone footage and interview with its pilot here:

<https://www.lincs.police.uk/news-campaigns/news/2018/our-drone-pilots-land-their-first-successful-prosecution/>



Rural crime? ... Report it every time

We rely on information from our rural community. Every call counts and adds to our intelligence picture. Please continue to report hare coursing or any other rural crime. We are genuinely grateful for every call.

We appreciate that some people will wish to report anonymously, and that's fine too ...

Crimestoppers

The NFU has partnered with the charity Crimestoppers to launch the Rural Crime Reporting Line. People can call 0800 783 0137 or visit www.ruralcrimereportingline.uk to give information anonymously about large-scale, industrial fly-tipping; hare coursing; livestock theft; or machinery theft.

The service was unveiled to MPs at a launch event in Westminster, where they were urged to encourage constituents to use the service and give information about these crimes in their area.



Do you find Rural Crime News useful or how could we make it better for you? We would be pleased to hear your feedback. Please email: simon.cotton@lincs.pnn.police.uk

