



North Warwickshire Rural Crime PROJECT



closing the gate on rural crime



The North Warwickshire Rural Crime Project has been set up to support rural communities in the fight against crime.

The project team work with local communities, including villages, farmers and small businesses to address local issues and concerns.

This newsletter has been produced to tell you about the scheme and what is being done in your local area to tackle rural crime.



Why Rural Watch was set up



At the end of 2013, Councillors met to review the work of the Community Safety partnership which includes a number of organisations who work to keep our communities safe; including the police, fire service, officers of the council and outside agencies.

One of the areas identified for improvement was 'Rural Crime'. Rural crime is defined as any crime that takes place in a rural location including hamlets, isolated dwellings and villages. North Warwickshire Borough is classed as 74% rural with 28 distinct areas.

A rural project team was set up to address the issues around rural crime and work with communities to address the many issues.

Funding

The project has been funded by a grant from Ron Ball, Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire. Mr Ball made Rural Crime a priority along with Business and Cyber Crime to Warwickshire Police and said:

"I was delighted that I was in a position to fund the Warwickshire rural crime projects which address residents concerns of rural crime and include the provision of rural co-ordinators to cover the county, the development of the impressive Warwickshire Rural Watch website and the development of innovative local projects."



Ron Ball, Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire

The Rural Watch Website



A Rural Watch website was launched in September 2014 developed as the focal point of the whole project. It is designed to provide valuable information to those people who live, work and visit the rural areas of Warwickshire.

- Crime prevention advice sheets
- Useful links
- Incident log
- Short crime prevention information films
- Our latest news and events
- Help on key issues

www.warwickshireruralwatch.co.uk

Working with Communities

As soon as the project started in June 2014, it was identified that more could be done to help prevent residents in villages becoming victims of crime.

Carol Cotterill, Rural Crime Coordinator for North Warwickshire has been working with village members and the local policing team to hold 'Property Marking Days', where residents could have any type of property security marked for FREE. The team have marked everything from bicycles to gardening equipment, power tools to IT equipment, horse tack to musical instruments, plus lots more.

www.warwickshireruralwatch.co.uk

In total 25 property marking events have been held so far in North Warwickshire villages, with lots more planned by the rural team for 2016. If your village has not had a property marking event and you would like to arrange one or would like to find out more details, please contact Carol by email at carolcoterill@warwickshire.gov.uk or calling her on **07787151848**.

As well as marking property and giving specific crime prevention advice, the rural team provide signage to warn criminals that property is marked and therefore easily identifiable. A5 signs are given free to people who bring items to be marked, for them to display on their sheds and gates. In addition farmers and small businesses are provided with A4 signs with the same message. All the signs given out are reflective so they are especially effective in the dark.

Supported Villages Scheme



Following on from the Property Marking Days, the rural team have been working with village organisations, such as the local school, church, clubs, allotments, etc and offer to mark their equipment for free also.

Key village contacts are established and Neighbourhood Watch schemes encouraged to maintain the service of property being effectively marked in the village. A kit box is provided to a nominated member of the community with all the different methods of marking used by the police plus signs and stickers. This enables residents to have items marked whenever they wish as there is someone in the village they can go to.

Once a Property Marking Day has been held and key organisations visited, the village is offered the opportunity to become a member of the 'Supported Village Scheme', where signs are placed at the village gateways stating 'You are entering a village where property is security marked'.

Community Contact

Community contact days are also provided by the local policing team and the Rural Crime Coordinator. On prearranged dates and times the rural team visit a number of villages to chat to residents, provide advice, discuss local issues and provide assistance wherever needed.

Barn Meeting for Farmers & Small Businesses

Important members of the rural community are our farmers and small businesses. It was felt crucial to provide them with a forum where specific issues and concerns that affected them and their livelihood could be discussed and addressed.

In June, we held our first barn meeting at Grendon. As well as discussing important issues, we also wanted to show the latest crime prevention equipment fitted around the barn for people to see it working in a similar environment to their own farm or business. As well as beam alarms, CCTV and PIR systems, other rural crime issues were addressed including vehicle crime, livestock theft and tool marking. In the barn was a tractor, quad bike and power tools all marked and kitted out with the latest devices, we even had a small flock of sheep in the corner!



We were pleased to invite the Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire, Ron Ball and Superintendent Martin Samuel, District Commander for North Warwickshire, as key speakers at the meeting. It was felt important to ask the people who control the budget for the police and make strategic decisions to the meeting to hear the views of our farmers and small businesses and answer their questions.

Also in attendance were the local policing team, representatives from the borough council including those responsible for fly tipping and the fire and rescue service.

It was a really good meeting with farmers and small business owners coming from all over the area. Lots of topics were discussed and a follow up to actions taken following the meeting produced.

The team are looking forward to 2016 and continuing their work on addressing rural crime.

The Rural Crime Project Team



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Local Safer
Neighbourhood
Policing Team

dean.reid@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk



Carol Cotterill
Rural Crime
Co-ordinator

carolcotterill@warwickshire.gov.uk

Your local Police Officers

SGT 1648 Mitch OAKLEY
Safer Neighbourhoods - North Warwickshire

North Warwickshire NORTH

**Polesworth, Dordon, Baddesley Ensor,
Warton, Austrey, Grendon, Shuttington,
Newton Regis, Alvecote, Seckington,
Birchmoor, Freasley, No Mans Heath.**

PC 1664 Kim STAFFORD
PCSO 6154 Mick HARLE
PCSO 6098 Simeon HODSON
PCSO 6278 Lauren HUGHES
nwn.snt@warwickshire.police.uk
01827 718092

North Warwickshire EAST

**Atherstone, Mancetter, Hartshill,
Caldecote, Ridge Lane.**

PC 887 Louise BAXTER
PC 1852 Chris BELL
PCSO 6262 Sarah FRETTER
PCSO 6278 Lauren HUGHES
PCSO 6280 Mohsin YAQUB
nwe.snt@warwickshire.police.uk
01827 718092

North Warwickshire WEST

**Kingsbury, Cliff, Hurley, Nether Whitacre,
Whitacre Heath, Wood End, Water Orton,
Curdworth, Wishaw, Middleton.**

PC 1087 Scot RAMSELL
PCSO 6117 Jane OWEN
PCSO 6067 Pete BEALE
nww.snt@warwickshire.police.uk
02476 483554

North Warwickshire SOUTH

**Ansley, Arley, Coleshill, Fillongley,
Packington, Maxstoke, Over Whitacre,
Shustoke, Astley, Corley, Birchley Heath.**

PC 0086 Ellen BEATY
PCSO 6239 Craig MARSHALL
PCSO 6271 Muhammad ALI
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To report an incident call 101, if an emergency or crime is in progress ALWAYS dial 999

www.warwickshireruralwatch.co.uk