

RURAL TIMES



PROTECTING OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES

HAMPSHIRE AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT



CONTENTS

EDITOR

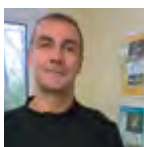


Phil Rogers
Corporate Communications
Hampshire Constabulary

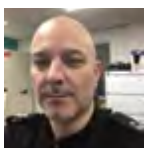
TEAM



Louise Hubble
Strategic Rural Policing
Inspector
Hampshire Constabulary



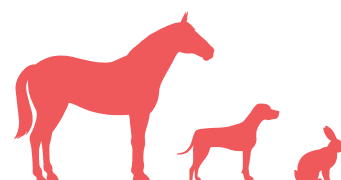
Andy Williams
County Watch Sergeant
Hampshire Constabulary



Ged Armitage
Neighbourhoods Sergeant
Isle of Wight
Hampshire Constabulary

WEBSITE

Hampshire Alert
www.hampshirecountrywatch.co.uk





*Deputy Chief Constable, Sara Glen
Hampshire Constabulary
Rural Policing Lead*

Since taking over the rural portfolio as Assistant Chief Constable for Local Policing in May 2015, I have worked hard to ensure we continue to provide good levels of service and commitment to rural communities. One of the areas that needed focus was an examination of repeat locations and ensuring target hardening and crime prevention opportunities – alongside how we could deploy technical assets into repeat locations as well as focusing on offenders who we know targeted rural communities.

When I was promoted to Deputy Chief Constable in July 2016 I retained ownership of the rural portfolio as I felt it was important to provide continuity and stability until we had a new Local Policing Assistant Chief Constable. I have really enjoyed delivering our Rural

COMMITMENT TO RURAL POLICING STAYS STRONG

Strategy and helping to shape our service delivery through the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Strategic Rural Partnership Board. I am always enthused by the passion and energy that the partners bring to the meetings. I am grateful to those who have assisted me in shaping my understanding and delivery of rural policing.

We have implemented a performance framework focused on rural policing which enables us to be open and transparent with partners and to present crime information in a meaningful, simple and informative manner. I regularly review victim satisfaction levels and am pleased that rural victims are consistently satisfied with the overall level of service received. We will continue to work hard to maintain these satisfaction levels and strive to replicate them in urban areas across our counties.

Operation Falcon continues to deliver enforcement activity across the force area, targeting seasonal rural crime trends.

Recent activity has focused on rogue traders, metal theft, non-dwelling burglaries, plant machinery theft and theft from motor vehicles in beauty spot car parks. Operation Falcon enables us to co-ordinate our activities and resources in partnership with our rural communities, to achieve maximum success.

We have now selected a new Assistant Chief Constable in Local Policing – Scott Chilton. Scott has served with Hampshire for 25 years in roles including CID, Specialist Operations and Local Policing. I am now starting the handover of rural policing to Scott, who is taking over the rural portfolio and has already started meeting with key people to ensure he is fully informed. I am sure you will all welcome him into the rural fold and will offer him the same level of support, challenge and education that you have given me. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time working with you all and will be keeping a very close eye on rural policing in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight under Scott's leadership.



*Michael Lane
Police and Crime Commissioner*

Engaging with the rural community

I've been privileged to meet many people at the series of rural conferences I held earlier this year.

I heard a wide range of views on crime and other matters that are important to you. You can read more about this on page 7.

It was encouraging to hear that many of you feel safe and think that the police do an excellent or good job. And also that the responsibility for making you, your families and your community safer is shared.

Over the coming months this feedback will be analysed and, along with further community engagement, will be developed into my rural strategy.

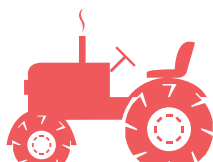
The insight that I gained during these conferences was invaluable, and the engagement with all of you continues to inform the decisions that I make to keep us all safer.

I look forward to meeting you again – and more of you – this summer as I visit shows around the policing area.

Please visit my website **www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/events** to find out when and where these will be.



Hugh Oliver-Bellasis is chair of the Strategic Independent Advisory Group (SIAG) and acts as a critical friend to the force.



*Free intel app
available -
Self Evident*



HUGH'S VIEWS

Rural Crime Partnership meetings are hosted quarterly by the police. They are well attended by the usual suspects: Country Land and Business Association, National Farmers' Union, Hampshire County Council, National Gamekeepers' Organisation, British Association for Shooting and Conservation, Firearms Licensing, Police and Crime Commissioner's Office, senior police officers, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, Crown Prosecution Service, a landowner, a Justice of the Peace, a head gamekeeper, Natural England, and usually Historic England and the Environment Agency.

The challenge of today remains the gathering of rural intelligence. A new free app is available called Self Evident. It is really good and very easy. The app report is submitted to the police's postmaster mailbox, which is monitored 24/7 in 'slow time'. Call handlers are happy to accept this as a way of reporting incidents, but not for emergencies.

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) held five rural conferences in February - attended by 180 people in

total. The attendance was adequate, but not exciting. Rural dwellers need to take every opportunity to put their case, because there is massive competition for police engagement. During each conference there was a session to determine views of police activity - 95 per cent said they felt very or fairly safe and 75 per cent felt the police do an excellent/good job.

Various themes emerged, including:

1. Road safety
2. Fly-tipping
3. Watch schemes in general
4. Police visibility and accessibility in rural posts
5. Rogue traders

The PCC's office will now work through the data and revise its rural strategy to mirror the comments from those conferences. Accessibility of officers remains a challenge and it is largely a funding issue.

The issue of funding is stark and seemingly very difficult to illustrate, so that everyone realises the challenge. Basically Hampshire is deprived of £48 million by a funding formula unfit for purpose which HM Government



RURAL CRIMES HAVE TO COMPETE WITH URBAN CRIMES



seems incapable of altering. Whether rural dwellers agree or not, rural crimes have to compete with urban issues in Portsmouth, Southampton and Basingstoke for police resources. Thus visibility is a non-issue.

One really bright light is our Special Constables team. The force is investigating using them more in the rural and hopefully recruiting further rural folk to be Special Constables. If the job specification of a rural Special was sufficiently flexible, then it would be a real bonus for landowners - farmers to have one on their team? Obviously peak time flexibility would be important. Deputy Chief Constable Sara Glen has asked that this area is investigated and a report is due back at the next meeting.

Fly-tipping is an issue much in the national news and not surprisingly it was high on the list of concerns at the PCC's conferences. What is not widely understood is that this is NOT a police matter, unless someone is caught in the act of fly-tipping. In addition, local authorities handle the matter in varying ways. Sensitise your county councillor to the scourge of fly-tipping.

Local authorities are responsible for clearing the fly-tipped material, costing them a lot of money. Some are reluctant to deploy technology. One has to smile that the law demands that camera surveillance of these fly-tipping hot spots must be advertised! In addition, the local authorities are fastidious when the site is on private land. It is the landowner's task to clear and that can be expensive.

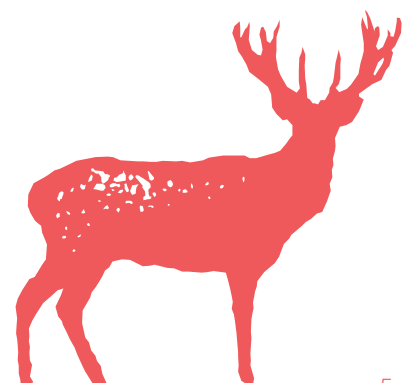
The force have an excellent Chief Inspector, Simon Tribe, helping the County Fly-tipping Working Group and it is hoped for a county wide strategy shortly.

There are a number of core rural operations in continuous use; these are tuned to the time of year and guided by historical criminality at those times. It must be noted that the price of copper and lead has increased 43 per cent in last few weeks, so it is expected to see an increase in metal theft on back of that. It is vital that as much target hardening happens and Sarah Cohen, the force's crime prevention expert, is there to help. BEWARE.

Mr Gammon, our rural Crown Prosecution Service lead, continues to be a tower of strength helping to convict rural criminals. He is helping to increase this expertise in other counties through his experience. The improvement in the timeliness in Firearms Licencing continues and it remains now to finish the legacy work (backlog) and maintain resilient efficacy.

As you have read there is a great deal happening. The commitment to rural is huge, with organised rural criminality featuring in the force's control strategy. However the funding issues are very challenging - tell your local politicians about this.

We are very fortunate that the force is so professional about rural policing.





WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

From left to right: Hampshire County Council Countryside Ranger Michael Hardy, Inspector Lou Hubble, Police and Crime Commissioner Michael Lane and Councillor Rob Humby, Hampshire County Council's Executive Member for Environment and Transport.

Hampshire County Council's Countryside Service will provide extra eyes and ears to support Hampshire Constabulary's Country Watch team as part of a new partnership to tackle rural crime.

Councillor Andrew Gibson, Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside, said: "Hampshire is a predominantly rural county, and supporting rural communities is a priority for the County Council. We wanted to work more closely with the Country Watch team on issues relating to rural crime, and there seemed an obvious partnership between Country Watch and our Countryside Service, whose staff are frequently out and about in the countryside.

"The Countryside Service manages more than 7,400 acres and 3,000 miles of rights of way across the county. Locally-based teams have good knowledge of the areas they look after, and are in a good position to notice any changes or suspicious activity when out performing their duties."

Around 75 per cent of Hampshire is classified as rural, and these areas are home to 300,000 people - 21 per cent of the county's total population.

As part of the partnership, Countryside Service staff will receive training from the Country Watch team on signs of rural crime to look out for, to help gather intelligence and report incidents. Around 20 Countryside Service vehicles will also be badged with the Country Watch logo to help give rural policing a more visible presence.

The newly branded Countryside vehicles were launched at the Police and Crime Commissioner's Rural Communities Matter Conference at Sparsholt College near Winchester on 10 February.

Country Watch Inspector Lou Hubble said: "We're really excited about this partnership, which will provide additional resources and support our efforts to tackle rural crime. We look forward to working together to protect our rural communities."

Michael Lane, Police and Crime Commissioner, said: "A key pillar of my Police and Crime Plan is partnership. I am delighted to support this partnership of Hampshire County Council and Country Watch as we work more effectively and efficiently to keep us all safer."

For more details about Hampshire Constabulary's Country Watch team visit www.hampshire.police.uk/about-us/who-we-are/specialist-teams/country-watch/.



From Michael Lane, Police and Crime Commissioner:

Results from Commissioner's Rural Communities Matter conferences to form new strategy to tackle rural issues and crime.

Following Michael Lane's Rural Communities Matter conferences, the Police and Crime Commissioner will be using the feedback and insight gained to create a new Rural Strategy for the Hampshire Constabulary area. His strategy will be launched during the summer.

A total of 180 delegates from a wide range of backgrounds attended and contributed to the conferences, the aim of which was to give those who live and work in rural communities the opportunity to give their views on crime and matters which are important to them. This will help set future rural priorities and inform a new and updated Rural Strategy.

Timed between the end of the shooting season and the

beginning of lambing, the Commissioner visited Sparsholt College, the New Forest, the Isle of Wight, Netley and Whitchurch in order to engage the rural communities that make up over 75 per cent of the geographical area he serves.

Delegates discussed a wide range of issues, such as road safety, fly-tipping, Country Watch and Community Speedwatch schemes. With such a wide range of participants, opinions and views varied during lively discussions.

Results

At the conferences, feedback was that the community feel safe and think that the police do a good job. Of the people attending, 95 per cent felt very or fairly safe and 75 per cent felt the police do an excellent or a good job.

Delegates acknowledged that members of rural communities also have to take responsibility for making their lives even better. Their suggestions for improvements included better information sharing between the community and police, and easier reporting mechanisms.



Next steps

Over the coming months more detailed analysis from the conferences will take place together with further stakeholder engagement, so that a revised rural strategy can be developed and published. During this process regular updates will be sent to the delegates who attended the conferences to ensure that they remain engaged and understand how their comments and observations at the conferences are being incorporated into the strategy.

The Commissioner is aiming to launch his Rural Strategy this summer.



FLY-TIPPING

STRONGER ACTION NEEDED TO COMBAT SCOURGE OF FLY-TIPPING, SAYS CLA

Farmers and landowners are calling for stronger enforcement of legal action to help prevent an increase in fly-tipping which is blighting the countryside.

Latest figures released by Defra show incidents of waste dumped illegally which have been reported to and cleared by local authorities in England have increased by 4 per cent to 936,000 but action taken against the culprits has fallen by 4 per cent. According to the statistics, local authorities in Hampshire dealt with more than 17,000 reported incidents in 2015/16, up from almost 15,000 the previous year.

The CLA (Country Land and Business Association), which represents landowners, farmers and rural businesses, says the figures do not reflect the true scale of the crime because increasing reports of fly-tipping on private rural land are not included.

Robin Edwards, CLA South East Regional Director, said: "These figures do not tell the full story of this disgraceful behaviour which blights our beautiful countryside. Local authorities tend not to get involved with clearing incidences of fly-tipped waste from private land leaving the landowner to clean up and foot the bill.

"Our members have reported a big increase in fly-tipping on their land. It's not just the odd bin bag but large household items from unwanted sofas to broken washing machines, building materials and even asbestos being dumped across our countryside.

"Farmers and landowners are forced to clear up somebody else's rubbish or they risk prosecution for illegal storage of waste. This is simply not right or fair.

"Only when people see evidence of local authorities taking stronger action to combat the scourge of fly-tipping can we hope to see a reversal in this worrying trend."

The CLA has called on local authorities and the Environment Agency to commit to stronger action against the increase of fly-tipping on private land by:

1. extending the local government zero tolerance approach to fly-tipping over the festive period into a year-round initiative,
2. ensuring powers to issue fixed penalty notices and/or seize vehicles are used,
3. imposing and enforcing stronger penalties to act as a deterrent,
4. investing time and resources tracking down the culprits, and
5. reducing council fees to legally dispose of waste.



David Pardoe, a CLA Hampshire member who manages a large rural estate on the edge of Portsmouth, with miles of country lanes, says that there is never a day that goes by without a new gate being blocked by waste or rubbish:

“Quite apart from the inconvenience and cost of having to remove and properly dispose of the material before the gate can be used for its intended purpose, there is the additional investment in having to securely gate and lock every opening in every hedge to try to prevent the problem being even worse than it is.”

The CLA says farmers and landowners can go some way to preventing fly-tipped waste on their land by ensuring gates to fields are locked, opening up concealed entrances so they are more visible to passers-by, using CCTV in black spots and reporting all instances.

- Read the latest statistics from Defra on the number of fly-tipping incidents and actions taken in England reported by local councils 2015-2016: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/env24-fly-tipping-incidents-and-actions-taken-in-england>
- The CLA has more than 30,000 members.
- CLA South East covers the counties of Berkshire,

Buckinghamshire, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Oxfordshire, Surrey, East & West Sussex

- As a membership organisation, the CLA supports landowners by advising them on how best to protect and maximise their asset: the land. They are dedicated to supporting landowners and their businesses. Their success is measured by how effectively they do that. They have a team of experts in London and a regional structure able to give local support.
- They have been looking after the interests of our members, as well as promoting the positive aspects of land ownership, land management and rural business activities for the past 100 years. CLA members own or manage approximately half the rural land in England and Wales, and the resulting expertise puts them in a unique position to formulate policies and lobby effectively.

For more information about the CLA, visit: www.cla.org.uk or follow them on **Twitter** @CLASouthEast

CLA



With summer just around the corner, the rogue traders will be out touting for business. Please help yourself and your family avoid being one of their victims by taking note of the following advice.

Rogue traders are individuals or groups of people who cold-call householders, often targeting vulnerable residents. They claim to be a bona fide business and purporting to offer services - most commonly buildings maintenance, jet washing, gutter cleaning and gardening or landscape services.

They will employ hard sales and pressure tactics, seeming friendly at first, but if you raise any issues or have a complaint they can turn nasty. Very often, if you do agree to have work carried out, the price will steadily increase and more work will be 'uncovered' leading them to charge more. Work that is carried out will usually be to a very poor standard. Following these simple tips will help prevent you or your family becoming a victim of doorstep crime.

- Do not agree to any work or sign anything on the spot. Tell them you will think about it and contact them if

you do decide to go ahead. You can even say you have a builder who you will talk to about it, or ask them to return when a family member will be present.

- Do not allow anyone to pressure you into agreeing to have work carried out. If you ask them to leave and they don't, call the police on 101, or 999 if you are feeling intimidated or threatened. It is absolutely your right to say 'NO', ask them to leave and then close your door.
- Do discuss any work you feel needs carrying out on your property with a relative or friend who can help find you a reputable trader. Talk to your local Trading Standards team who will have a list of reputable and vetted trades people – search for 'Buy With Confidence' on the Hampshire Trading Standards website.
- Never go to a bank or cash point with a trader; legitimate traders would never make you do this.
- Please tell us on 101 about anyone that has called on you – quite often the traders work across many different counties and it makes it hard for police forces to keep track of them. By knowing where they are, it helps us protect you.

KEEPING YOUR CAR SAFE AT RURAL BEAUTY SPOTS



Our officers have been out and about at rural beauty spots to remind visitors not to leave anything of value in their vehicles.

We have been providing crime prevention advice and leaflets, as well as notices telling would-be thieves that your car is empty.

Walkers in the New Forest can be seen wearing drawstring bags given out to reinforce these messages.

Funded by the New Forest Community Safety Partnership, the colourful bags can be used to take your valuables with you on your walk.

We used social media to promote our attendance at various New Forest car parks and received a positive response.

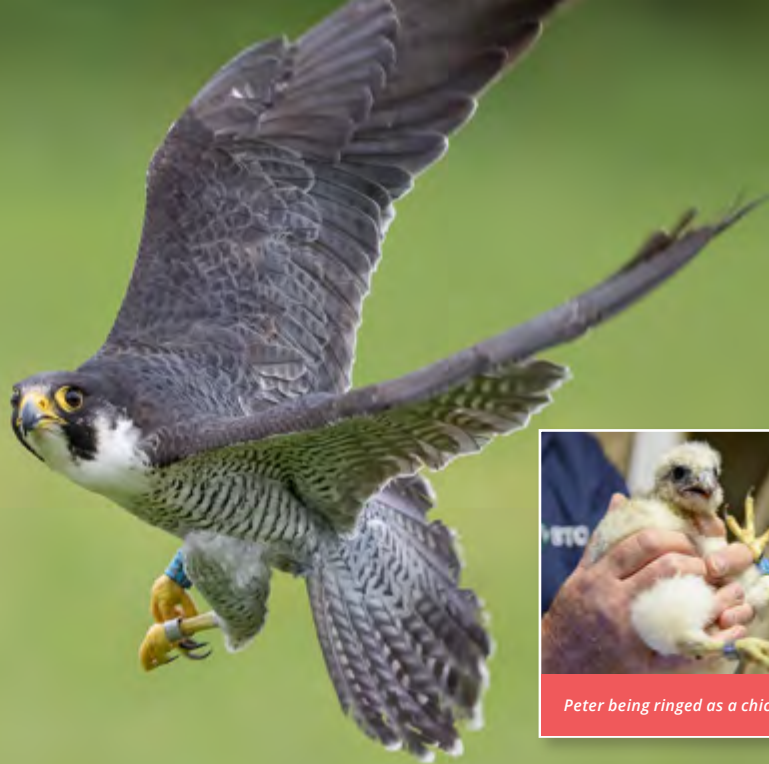
This work is part of Operation Falcon, launched in 2015 to tackle rural crime and criminality.

Help keep your car safe by following these simple tips:

- Never leave valuable possessions such as handbags, laptops, phones or sat navs on show inside your car. Even items of little value, such as shopping bags and clothing, may tempt a thief.
- Don't hide your valuables in the boot. Someone may be watching.
- Always lock your car, wind up the windows and close the sunroof, even if you're only leaving it for a few minutes.
- Double check it's locked. It only takes a few seconds for your valuables to be stolen from an unlocked car.

For further crime prevention advice, go to:
www.hampshire.police.uk/advice/protecting-your-home-and-belongings/vehicle-crime/

FALCON RELEASED BACK INTO THE WILD



A peregrine falcon found shot on farmland near Stockbridge in March has been released back into the wild having made a full recovery (main picture above).

The injured bird was found by a member of the public on a farm at King's Somborne. It was taken to the Hawk Conservancy Trust in Ampport, where it underwent treatment for a fractured wing. The incident was reported to the RSPB.

A ring on the bird's leg showed that it was originally ringed at Salisbury Cathedral in June 2014 when three weeks old and is known as 'Peter'.

A peregrine falcon is a Schedule 1 protected bird and killing or injuring it is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

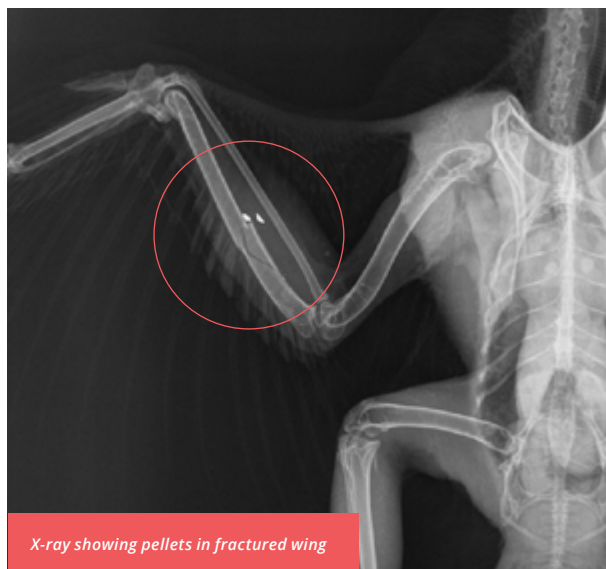
Country Watch officer PC Steve Rogerson said: "It is rare for a bird of prey to be shot in Hampshire. The circumstances behind its injuries are unknown, but we would remind people that raptor persecution is a UK wildlife crime priority and is treated seriously by the Country Watch team."

"It is exciting to see the bird healthy and released back into the wild, thanks to the great work of the Hawk Conservancy Trust. The team there are fully committed to the conservation of birds of prey and do so much to keep them alive and well."

Cedric Robert, Head of the National Bird of Prey Hospital™ at the Hawk Conservancy Trust, said: "This is a magnificent bird and I have been delighted to see his progress with us. Peregrine falcons are amazing creatures and I always feel very privileged to see one in the wild. I really hope he will do well once back in the wild."

Andy Hinton, Curator at the Hawk Conservancy Trust, said: "We condemn the persecution of birds of prey, birds that we strive so hard to conserve. We are pleased to have rehabilitated this bird and are thrilled that it can now be successfully returned to the wild, undoing the damage caused by this criminal act."

For more information on the Trust's work, go to www.hawk-conservancy.org/.



ANIMAL INCIDENTS ON NEW FOREST ROADS — BBC WEEK OF AWARENESS



BBC retains copyright of images

The Country Watch team participated in a week of BBC Radio Solent activity in March to highlight the issue of animal incidents on New Forest roads.

We took reporter Hannah Bewley to a speed camera operation on Roger Penny Way to show her this aspect of our preventative work. Country Watch officer PC Scott Graham stopped a number of vehicles and issued either a penalty notice or advice on speeding.

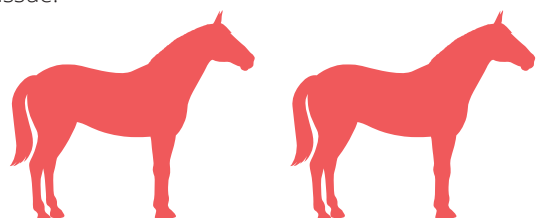
Inspector Louise Hubble took part in a live debate on the Julian Clegg breakfast show. Our strategic rural lead highlighted the well-established partnership with the Verderers to provide mobile speed camera resources on New Forest roads - set up to help reduce casualties and tackle poor driving.

Inspector Hubble also outlined our key role in the Animal Accident Reduction Group, which also includes the Verderers, Commoners Defence Association, New Forest National Park Authority, Highways Agency and other organisations. This group is the main forum for developing ways to protect New Forest animals.

BBC reporter Hannah Bewley said: "I'd like to say thank you to Hampshire Constabulary for being so accommodating in organising interviews with a very busy Inspector Hubble and the Country Watch team and providing information.

"I appreciate it is not always possible and can be a disruption, but going out on an operation with officers on Roger Penny Way was a good insight and I hope made an interesting piece for listeners.

"Radio Solent had a positive response from listeners through phone-ins and the Facebook video about a change in the speed limit, so we really got a debate going about the issue."



RURAL ROUND-UP



DOG OWNER COMPENSATES FARMERS AFTER SHEEP ATTACKS IN PETERSFIELD

A Waterlooville woman has paid two farmers a total of £1,440 after her dog attacked their sheep.

In December 2016 at Butser Hill in Petersfield, the labrador type crossbreed jumped into a field of sheep and started attacking them. This was witnessed by a couple out walking and the owner's vehicle details were taken. The man caught the dog and handed it back to the owner. The dog had killed one sheep by biting its throat and neck.

Also in December 2016, the same dog got into a sheep field at the Queen Elizabeth Country Park in Petersfield and attacked another animal. This sheep had to be put down as a result of its injuries.

PC Lynn Owen from Country Watch said: "The owner was interviewed and was very remorseful. She agreed to a Dog Behaviour Contract stating the dog would be muzzled and on a lead when out. She also booked it onto a residential dog behaviour course.

"This was dealt with by Community Resolution, meaning the farmers received compensation for the loss of sheep and the behaviour of the dog has been addressed, preventing any further attacks in the future."



Sheep attacked in Queen Elizabeth Country Park

ADVICE GIVEN AFTER FURTHER DOG ATTACKS ON SHEEP IN KINGSCLERE

Keep your dog on a lead when walking it past livestock – that was our message after sheep were killed in Kingsclere.

A sheep was found on a farm in March with injuries consistent with being attacked by a dog.

In February, three sheep were found dead at a farm. Two of them received extensive injuries while the third animal was believed to have died from shock.

Country Watch officer PC Vincent Lane said: "All dog walkers need to get the message that this senseless loss of life can be prevented by using a lead.

"Being in charge of a dog that worries or causes injury or death to livestock is a criminal offence. In such incidents, the owner/person in control of the dog can be prosecuted and the dog can be shot by the farmer to end an attack.

"Livestock can be seriously injured or killed as a result. It is also common for other animals witnessing this to die from shock."

Our advice to dog owners is:

- Keep your dog on a lead when in a field with livestock
- If there are no livestock in the field, keep the dog in sight at all times, be aware of what it is doing and be confident it will return to you promptly on command. If you cannot be confident of this, the dog should not be off the lead
- Ensure the dog does not stray off the path or area where you have right of access

APPEAL FOR WITNESSES AFTER LAMBS KILLED NEAR BASINGSTOKE

Country Watch officers are appealing for witnesses after 26 one-week-old lambs were killed in a field in Baughurst, near Basingstoke.

The animals were killed in a field off a bridleway from Violet Lane some time between 9am and 1pm on Sunday 14 May, and had wounds consistent with being attacked by a large breed of dog.

Police would like to hear from anyone who witnessed the incident, or who saw a dog, or dogs, wandering around this area without a lead.

PC Will Butcher from the Country Watch team said: "This incident took place in a popular location for dog walkers, both locally and further afield.

"It is likely that there would have been other dog walkers in the vicinity, and I would appeal to them to come forward if they have any information about this incident or those involved.

"This attack led to the deaths of a number of lambs and caused significant shock to other sheep and lambs present. The owner of these sheep, many of which were pedigree breeds, is understandably very upset."

Anyone with information is asked to contact PC Butcher on 101, quoting 44170181134, or call the charity Crimestoppers anonymously on [0800 555 111](tel:0800555111).



Officers from RSPCA, World Horse Welfare and Country Watch at Denmead

POLICE AND RSPCA RESCUE SIX HORSES IN DENMEAD

Country Watch and RSPCA officers rescued six horses in April after concerns for their health were raised. Officers obtained a warrant under the Animal Welfare Act and attended a site in Denmead on 27 April.

The six horses were seized and removed due to poor health. The animals are now in the care of the RSPCA.

A number of improvement notices were issued to the owner because of the condition of some remaining horses, as well as environmental issues for the land itself.

The owner has been interviewed by RSPCA officers, who are taking the lead for the ongoing investigation.

PC Lee Skinner from Hampshire Constabulary's Country Watch team said:

"This was a great example of police and RSPCA officers working together to safeguard the health of animals.

"Wildlife and rural crime is treated seriously by the Country Watch team and public support is vital to us. If you have any concerns for the safety of animals, please call 101."

Andy Robbins from the RSPCA said: "Last year the RSPCA received more than 19,500 complaints about the welfare of equines across the whole of England and Wales, showing how much of a major issue it has become.

"We are extremely pleased to have teamed up with Hampshire Constabulary on this matter to ensure the health and welfare of these particular horses."

The matter is now under active investigation by the RSPCA.

JOIN
TODAY

COUNTRY WATCH



Receive FREE crime and community
information about where you live

Register at
www.hampshirecountrywatch.co.uk

