



## SPECIAL EDITION



### TACKLING RURAL CRIME HELP US DEVELOP OUR RURAL CRIME STRATEGY 2022-2024



Essex Rural Partnership together with Essex Police and the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner are asking for your views on tackling rural crime in Essex.

The current Rural Crime Strategy was developed in 2017 and contributed directly to the Essex Rural Partnership Strategy. Since the strategy was developed in 2017, there has been a significant increased focus on rural crime, with Essex Police now boasting

one of the largest rural engagement teams in the country.

Countywide anti-social behaviour, theft and burglary have all fallen since 2017 as has the number of people killed or serious injured on our roads. Working with councils and partners across Essex we have also seen a significant reduction in the number of unauthorised encampments which has reduced steadily from 229 in 2018 to 158 in 2021. Similar reductions are also happening in relation to Hare coursing and the theft of large machinery. However, there is still far too much crime in our rural areas, and we want to do more together to tackle this.

Working with communities in rural Essex we have also developed a much better sense of the isolation and fear that comes with living in remote parts of the county. National research has also pointed to higher level of domestic abuse in rural areas and we hear from public meetings and discussions in our communities about the continued blight of drug use and dangerous driving.

We want to ensure that our approach to tackling crime in rural areas considers the specific nature of our rural communities and harnesses the strong community spirit we see and works with communities to prevent crime from happening, protects the vulnerable and supports victims of crime.



To have your say we are encouraging all members of our rural communities to come along to one of four workshops being organised around the county where you'll get to meet members of the Essex Police Rural Engagement Team and have your say. To register please use the links below.

## WORKSHOP DATES:

1. Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022 @ 11:30 – 13:30 Essex Young Farmers, Whitbreads Farm Lane, Little Waltham, CM3 3LQ. You can book your place on the following link: [Rural Crime Workshop 2](#)
2. Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022 @ 09:30 – 11:30 Cherry Orchard Farm, Conways Road, Orsett, RM16 3EL (What3Words hush.boil.remark) You can book your place on the following link: [Rural Crime Workshop 3](#)
3. Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022 @ 19:00 to 20:00 – Facebook Live: <https://www.essex.pfcc.police.uk>

**All participants are encouraged to take a Lateral Flow Test before attending the event, consider wearing a mask and keep socially distanced.**

## RURAL ENGAGEMENT TEAM UPDATE

The Rural Engagement Team have continued to develop and is currently formed of two Sergeants, nine Constables and four Special Constables. The team is overseen by an Inspector and Chief Inspector who have wider additional responsibilities. A new Sergeant is joining the team shortly following the recent retirement of Sergeant Paul Downes.

Each officer within the team has a thematic responsibility and leads in their respective areas of expertise.



-  Agricultural Vehicle theft – PC Sam Smith
-  Rural Road Safety – A/Sergeant Neil Fenn
-  Large scale waste and fly tipping  
PC Nigel Wright
-  Poaching and Hare Coursing operations  
PC Matt Harkness
-  Hare Coursing investigations  
PC Clare Dawson
-  Dog theft – PC Martin Baumber

 Organised metal theft – PC John Davey and PC Callum Barber

 Wildlife & Heritage Crime – PC Jed Raven

Additionally, each officer has a geographical responsibility across the policing areas in Essex. Whilst the officers cover incidents across the entire county, the officers' priority patrol areas are their assigned districts. This is intended to ensure that officers understand the local communities they police and build local community links as a point of contact.

The team have had a significant number of successes in the past quarter. Some of the notable results are: 15 arrests, 20 dogs seized involved in hare coursing, 20 vehicles seized and 547 hours of pro-active rural patrols. The team have continued their 'dog engagement' events promoting crime prevention around dog theft as well as some complex and specialist investigations into animal cruelty and large scale, organised theft. The team have also undertaken a regional approach to tackling hare coursing across the seven forces in this region. This has provided a joined up and collaborative approach to tackling those offenders who we know offend across multiple forces.

With the Rural Crime Strategy currently in the process of being renewed, this provides a timely opportunity for the team to understand and adapt to tackling the current issues facing rural communities. We continue to encourage communities to report all Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour via 101 or the Essex Police Website. Whilst matters are proportionately assessed for investigative opportunities, the reporting of crime allows us to understand the analytical breakdown of incidents and prioritise where to direct resourcing. Finally, if you have any local concerns or issues, the team would like to hear from you at: [rural.engagement.team@essex.police.uk](mailto:rural.engagement.team@essex.police.uk)



**IS HARE COURSING HAPPENING IN YOUR AREA?**

**HARE COURSING IS ILLEGAL**

Please call 999 if you are witnessing criminal activity right now

If you have any information about hare coursing in your area, please let us know by:

- Reporting online ([www.essex.police.uk/doitonline](http://www.essex.police.uk/doitonline))
- Calling 101
- To remain anonymous call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

 **ESSEX POLICE**  
www.essex.police.uk

**#OperationGalileo** 

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