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***Royston Rural Watch, October 2019***

PC Mark Ellwood 371 & PCSO 6531 Penny Tomsett, PCSO Chris Brabrook 6522

Sgt Lee Jessup 560

***Our Non - Emergency Number 101***

**Rural Crime Week round-up**

•Operations were carried out at rural locations across the county.

•Officers worked with neighbouring forces and partnership agencies.

•Training was also provided to officers and staff to help raise awareness of rural issues.

Hundreds of miles were patrolled, members of the public were spoken to and several vehicles were seized as Hertfordshire Constabulary marked Rural Crime Week 2019 (October 6-13).

Working in conjunction with neighbouring police forces and partner agencies, including local councils and the National Farmers’ Union (NFU), officers conducted targeted patrols and operations across vulnerable rural areas, to tackle crimes such as hare coursing and fly-tipping.

They also met with members of the rural community to talk to them about any issues they may be experiencing and give crime prevention advice.

Superintendent Richard Liversidge said: “This year saw one of our most successful Rural Crime Weeks to date, but it is something the Constabulary takes seriously all year round. We fully understand that, when a crime occurs in a rural area, it has the potential to have a significant impact not only on the victim themselves but, in many cases, their livelihood and the community as a whole.

“We want to reassure our rural communities that we understand the issues they face and work with them to help prevent them from becoming victims of crime. Our engagement events and operations over the past week have helped us to forge stronger links with members of the public and have reinforced the benefits of partnership working.”

Throughout the week there was a heavy focus on promoting **What 3 Words**, an app which allows people to pinpoint their location to within a three metre squared, something which could prove crucial during an emergency in a remote location.

Officers from the Constabulary’s Rural Operational Support Team (ROST) spent time within the Force Control Room to advise and educate staff on rural crime matters, while representatives from the NFU spoke to new recruits about issues faced by the farming community.

Local farmers also visited police headquarters to learn all about the Constabulary’s new public feedback service, echo.

Rosalind David, from the NFU, said: “Rural crime and its impact is one of our members’ primary concerns in Hertfordshire. Meeting regularly with their local police neighbourhood teams via events such as NFU branch meetings, barn meets and priority setting forums, has meant our members can be more proactive in protecting their properties and businesses, as well as passing on intelligence and reporting crime directly via new channels such as online and webchat.

“We very much value our continued close working relationship with Hertfordshire Constabulary and Rural Crime Week has further highlighted that partnership working is can be incredibly effective when it comes to preventing and tackling rural crime.”

You can report information online at herts.police.uk/report, speak to an operator in our Force Communications Room via our online web chat or call the non-emergency number 101. If a crime is in progress or someone’s life is in danger, call 999 immediately.

Alternatively, you can stay 100% anonymous by contacting the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or via their online form.

**Here’s a round-up of what our local team got up to throughout the week:**

•Patrols in Royston and along the South Cambridgeshire border, in partnership with North Herts District Council. During the day, officers attended reports of hare coursing and used What 3 Words to locate a number of fly-tips reported to NHDC.

• Night time patrols of rural areas and farm land.

• Neighbourhood Inspector James Lant and members of the Hitchin rural Safer Neighbourhood Team attended the Kimpton Ploughing Match in Lilley.

Officers from Bedfordshire were also present, along with representatives from the National Famers’ Union and the local farming community.

• Vehicles abandoned on farmland in Weston were seized as suspected to be used in hare coursing.

• Hitchin rural officers joined colleagues from Bedfordshire for a day of action along the Herts/Beds border.

School children promote speed awareness

25 Sep 2019

•School children help make their villages safer.

**Local PCSO sets speeding poster competition in Barley and Barkway.**

•Winning entries displays around the village to help educate motorists.

School children in two North Herts villages have been trying to make their roads safer by educating motorists about speed.

The children who attend the Barley and Barkway First Schools, took part in a competition following a visit from local neighbourhood officer PCSO Chris Brabrook.

Chris spoke to the children about the importance of safe driving and how the police monitor speed and why speed enforcement is so important. He then tasked the children to design a poster that could be placed around the villages to encourage motorists to drive safely.

Around 50 different posters designs were submitted and these were judged by the Royston Safer Neighbourhood Team and Barkway and Barley Parish Councils, who helped to fund the initiative.

There were two winning posters, designed by 7 year-old Phoebe Wild and 8 year-old Elsie Lake. The posters will be displayed on nine entry points into the two villages.

PCSO Chris Brabrook said: “I had a great response from the children who were all very keen to get involved with helping to make their village roads safer. The standard of the artwork was very high and judges had a tough job making their decision.

“I hope motorists will take heed of the advice. Too many fail to make any adjustment to their speed as they pass through small rural villages, putting local residents and other road users at risk.

“We carry out regular speed patrols in the villages and will continue to do so.”

Federation Headteacher, Sharon Brown said: “We are so pleased that these posters will be visible in our villages. The pupils at our schools and their parents care very much about road safety.”

**Autumn/Winter crime prevention**

The number of burglaries often increase during the autumn and winter, because homes are left unlit when the afternoons grow darker. Burglars will always target empty homes so make sure your home has a lived in look.

• Use timer switches on a lamp, radio or tv set so that they turn on as it gets dark in the afternoons.

• Make a habit of checking that ground floor windows and doors are closed and locked when you leave the house or go to bed. Upstairs windows should be locked when the house is unoccupied.

• PVCu doors must be locked by lifting the handle and turning the key to ensure all the security features are in place.

• Car and house keys should be kept out of sight in a safe place. Don’t leave them on display on window sills, in porches, hallways or kitchens.

• Secure your rear garden by shutting and locking any gates. Burglars can use garden tools, like ladders to break in, so make sure you securely lock away any tools after use.

**Local Crime Information**

**G4E - Ashwell, Hinxworth, Bygrave, Newnham and Caldecote**

**Burglary, Ashwell, Woodforde Close** - During the day on 18th September a house in Woodforde Close was targeted. The offender has gone to the rear of the property and smashed a pane of glass on a set of double doors. Once inside the home the offender removed cash and made off. 41/84939/19 Refers

**G4D – Barley, Barkway, Reed, Therfield, Kelshall and Nuthampstead**

**No Reported Crime**

**G3C - Sandon, Wallington, Rushden, Clothall and Weston**

**Theft, Sandon, Roe Green** – Overnight on 3rd September to the 4th September metal ornaments were stolen from a front garden in Roe Green, Sandon. 41/90188/19 Refers

***Your local Neighbourhood Police Teams website***

<http://snt.herts.police.uk/Teams.aspx?TeamID=G01>

Useful Links

<http://www.herts.police.uk/>

<http://www.doglost.co.uk/>

<http://www.stolenhorseregister.com/>

**Royston Rural Neighbourhood Team Tel – 01438 757935**