



## **POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER**

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Ref: PCC/CC/LS

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Dear Partner

### **Re: Update on Rural Crime Initiatives in Nottinghamshire**

We wanted to write to you with some up-to-date information about the action taken with regards to Rural Crime and the impact on people living in our communities.

You will be aware that as part of the Police and Crime Plan 2015 – 2018, Rural Crime is a key priority, having been defined by local residents as, “any crime or incident of antisocial behaviour that takes place anywhere, which Nottinghamshire County Council defines as a rural location.”

Crimes related to farming, agriculture or wildlife are also addressed through the dedicated teams we have in place, as set out below.

Since August, a dedicated Rural Special Constables team, based at Ollerton, has been introduced to work proactively with our local communities and the neighbourhood policing teams. They are trained to specialise in dealing with these issues specifically, focusing on offences which impact upon forestry, conservation areas, and agricultural land, while preventing and investigating crimes including those committed against wildlife such as poaching, cruelty and animal baiting. They will also be looking to help people protect their property by target hardening homes and businesses.

With training delivered by national bodies, including the National Farmers’ Union, Historic England and the force’s Wildlife Crime Unit, the team are also targeting criminals who cause harm and suffering in some of our most isolated areas of the county, with tackling the theft of livestock and criminal damage as just some of their responsibilities.

We know that criminals often travel into our rural communities from surrounding counties or other parts of Nottinghamshire. For this reason, following a successful pilot in Ashfield, funding has been secured for a ring of 24-hour Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras, which can monitor the

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number plates of passing vehicles, to be implemented in Bassetlaw. This will be supported by policing operations and mobile ANPR vans.

Working closely with Trading Standards, we will use our ANPR data to target rogue traders and those who target the elderly and vulnerable through distraction offences.

We have already received positive feedback from anglers along the River Trent, who are pleased to see Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire police and environment enforcement officers checking rod licences. The officers are encouraged by the low number of licence offences, but they will continue to look at different areas of the river and other sites to ensure a regular presence.

The Community Road Safety Programme remains popular, with a willingness from local people to get involved in keeping the county's roads safe. The first tranche of training has been completed by residents from Bassetlaw, Rushcliffe and Gedling and overall feedback has been extremely positive. We are considering more areas to be included and regular reviews will be conducted.

There are a number of new crime prevention guides, which have been developed specifically for people living in rural areas. These can be found on the force website via the following link: <http://www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/advice/ruralcrime>.

Members of the public can also sign up for local email updates via [www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/alert](http://www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/alert) which gives access to current offence details and local information specific to individual neighbourhoods.

We want everyone in Nottinghamshire to feel safe, and we value feedback from the community, which can help to improve our service delivery. It is important that you are kept informed as to what action is being taken to address rural crime to enable you to engage with local people about this issue. We also have two accounts on social media using twitter, which gives updates about our on-going work. These can be found via [@WildlifeCops](https://twitter.com/WildlifeCops) and [@NottsRuralCops](https://twitter.com/NottsRuralCops).

We would be grateful if these updates could be passed on to your colleagues who live, work and visit these areas in order to provide reassurance in relation to what is being done.

Yours sincerely



**Paddy Tipping**  
**Nottinghamshire Police and**  
**Crime Commissioner**



**Chris Eyre QPM**  
**Chief Constable**

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