



Introduction



Happy New Year everyone, I hope this newsletter finds you well. I sit here writing this from a very different place to all previous ones: at home with my dog beside me. It's something I never thought I would be doing as a Police Officer. We all sadly find ourselves living through a third lockdown and we must all do our part. While I am a fully operational Police Officer and can be deployed to anything, my role comes with an amount of admin like writing newsletters, website developments, reviewing rural crimes amongst many other bits and pieces. I have a force laptop with the idea being I can go anywhere in the county in my role and still be able to do my job. I have no need to go to the office on admin days and therefore must like everyone else work from home if at all possible. I am sure one day things will start getting back to normal and I can then use my laptop for the reason I have it to get out and about.

But now is not the time to be worrying about that, our NHS needs us more than ever to follow the regulations. Having been deployed to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital during the first lockdown, seeing how hard everyone was working, I can only imagine how difficult it is for them again with so many more cases.

My thoughts and thanks are with them when I sit here rather than being in the office with colleagues having the normal office conversations. All that said 'admin days' are once or twice a week for me and whilst engagement visits are simply not possible under current restrictions, I am out and about patrolling particularly around hare coursing hotspots, working with colleagues on investigations and assisting my frontline colleagues wherever I can.

Whether on admin days or days out and about in the truck, I remain contactable as always via email or mobile phone at the bottom of this page.



NEED TO TALK TO US?

PC Chris Shelley | christopher.shelley@norfolk.pnn.police.uk | 07900 407106

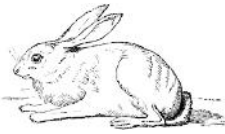


The 'Staying Local'

This has been something that has obviously concerned many people in the past week and has been covered extensively in the media.

Only a couple of days ago we saw the closure of Horsey Gap car park in a bid to deter visitors from the local area going to see the seals. This follows recent activity at that location whereby people were issued fixed penalty notices having travelled from out of county to visit the beauty spot. In Norfolk, we are blessed with many beauty spots, far too many to even start naming, but it's important to remember we shouldn't be visiting these beauty spots unless they are local to you.

Many of us have completely undiscovered areas of our local communities and now is the perfect time to explore them. All the other places will still be there to visit once we are back to more normal times. Keep it local!



Hare Coursing

Whilst we remain in the season I will continue to update you with what is currently happening.

Despite the lockdown, we continue to see hare coursing taking place with the west of the county being a particular hotspot currently. I continue to ask you to report any sighting of hare coursing on 999 and we will do everything we can to tackle such illegal activity.

Results in the last couple of weeks has seen 1 dog seized and 5 males reported for Trespass in Pursuit of Game. We are still yet to have any court results from the past year or so due to COVID delays within the magistrates' courts.

Wildlife Crime

This last month has seen a couple of reports of issues around Great Crested Newts, mainly around ponds having a clean up etc. Whilst Great Crested Newts are a protected species and can require a licence if they are on site, simple pond maintenance is unlikely to require a licence as long as the habitat around the pond is left undamaged. Often pond maintenance is required to improve the habitat for such wildlife. Ideally, if you are working on a pond where you know Great Crested Newts may be present, it is best to carry out this work during the colder winter months (it's recommended between November-January) when it is unlikely the newts are in the pond and therefore you're unlikely to harm them in anyway. Care needs to be taken around the surrounding area as this is likely to be where they are hibernating. As for other things that have come to light, I am currently looking into two bat issues and again it is important to remember if you know you have bats roosting in any of your buildings or trees it is illegal to destroy or disturb them. This is a common problem for many of our native bat species whose numbers are in decline.



WhatsApp Group

The Operation Randall WhatsApp group is expanding. At present the group mainly consists of partner agencies, key landowners and administrators of other social media rural groups. I am currently looking at increasing the size of this group so if you meet one or more of the above criteria – work for a partner agency, key landowner or you administer another rural group on social media - or if you think you would benefit or be able to contribute in any way, I want to hear from you. You can contact me on email at christopher.shelley@norfolk.pnn.police.uk

Making The Right Call

When visiting farms and rural communities I am often asked who people should contact, what's the best way of getting through to the police about such and such a matter, and so on. This is just a little insight into a few of the things that have come up recently and who is best to help.

999 Calls/Emergencies

When we talk about emergencies in policing terms, we are generally talking about crimes currently in progress so things like hare coursing, domestic incidents that are going on now, dangerous highway obstructions, road traffic collisions with injuries or blocking the highway, burglaries and damage being caused by offenders who are on scene. Any crime in progress or life at risk or serious harm should always be reported to us on 999.

101/Non Emergencies

Switchboard operators can help point you in the right direction if it isn't necessary to put you through to the control room itself. That said at times we have to prioritise emergency calls and, as you would expect, this can cause some delays.

Don't forget you can also report crimes and incidents much quicker and easier online at our website. This doesn't necessarily mean you won't be able to speak to someone as an officer or call taker is likely call you back and take further details when they can.

If your request is for a specific unit within the force, your enquiry or report can be forwarded on to the appropriate officer or member of staff.

We also encourage you to use the online form to tell us about any intelligence or report any suspicious circumstances or activity if they're not happening right now, as I've explained above.

In addition, I am always happy to be contacted directly in relation to any intelligence matters. However, please note that crimes should be reported via the online form or 101 in case I'm not at work and these need to be actioned in a timely fashion.

Reporting Anonymously

You can tell us about things or share information or intelligence anonymously via the 999 or 101 numbers, as is appropriate.

There are also two dedicated lines you can call outside the organisation that will share that information with police forces as they see fit.

These organisations are Crimestoppers, which you can reach on 0800 555111 or the NFU, which you can call on 0800 783 0137. Both of these organisations also have online reporting options too.

Fly Tipping

Another common complaint we receive is around fly tipping. Without going into specific details about the laws on fly tipping, the best way of explaining really is to tell you that if the fly tipping is ongoing at the time, right now, this should be reported to police. However, if it has already happened then you need to report it to your local council which can investigate. Relevant number for your local authority can be found online if you don't already have these available.

Stray/Found Dogs

Stray and found dogs are not dealt with by us. If you come across a stray, the local dog warden will collect if you can secure the dog. If you are unable to secure, they are unlikely to attend. Again this is a service provided by individual local authorities.

NFU Reporting line:



The NFU crime reporting line and website is now live. This is a really useful tool to report a range of rural crimes anonymously by calling 0800 783 0137 or through the website at: www.ruralcrimereportingline.uk .



Theft of Post Boxes

This is a crime that does occur every now and again as they are often seen as collector items.

Should you see anyone acting suspiciously around a post box, please do call us and tell us what you saw.

People trying to enter post boxes to steal the contents is also not completely unheard of!



Scrap Metal

Whilst on the subject of metal like objects, scrap metal prices have seen a recent increase. This may lead to further crimes of stolen

metal. Of particular interest is the increase in the price of the precious metals found in the catalytic converters on our cars.

Marking Property



This week I have taken delivery of a new handheld engraver. I plan to carry this around with me when I am allowed back out and about and on to sites so we can help mark

property for people.

We continue to see tools and other valuable items that have been stolen, and are not marked in anyway with the owner's ID. In addition, there have been occasions when the owners didn't know the serial numbers of items that have been stolen.

When purchasing high value goods, especially tools and machinery, please don't forget that many of them have unique serial numbers. We will check these numbers when we recover these stolen items.

Unfortunately, we can't confirm that the tool or item of

machinery has been stolen if they are not marked or we do not have the serial number of that item recorded on the crime.

Please review all your equipment and record the serial numbers somewhere securely,. That way, should the worse happen and it is stolen, there is more of a chance that your property will be recovered and returned to it.

Also, please consider marking your property as it makes it less attractive to steal as it's more difficult for the criminal to sell on. Make it obvious you've marked it! Its not going to stop its functionality just because it has your postcode in permanent marker written over it or etched into the back of it.



Finals Thoughts

Thank you for reading this newsletter, and please do contact me if you wish to discuss anything further.

We must ensure we follow the government's guidelines in relation to the current lockdown, and follow them diligently to protect our NHS and loved ones.

Spring is only round the corner and hopefully with it comes fresh hope for a better summer. Until then, we must not lose sight of what is being asked of us right now.

As usual, the next page has a couple of recent press releases relating to rural issues.

As always, keep safe!

Chris



twitter @RuralCrimeNfk

Next Month

If anyone has any feedback on the newsletter, please get in touch. I appreciate any feedback. You can contact me at: christopher.shelley@norfolk.police.uk

I'd also like to hear from anyone who has any useful ideas about rural crime prevention or anything that you've implemented that has been particularly successful in deterring criminal activity in our rural communities.

Witness Appeals

Trailer Theft Saxthorpe

Police are appealing for information after a trailer worth £1,435 was stolen from rural land at Saxthorpe.

The Williams twin-axle trailer GD84 is 8ft by 5ft, was on land in Briston Road, behind a locked gate, when the hinges of the gate were broken and it was stolen.

The incident happened between 5pm on Thursday 7 January and 8am on Friday 8 January 2021.

Anyone with information should contact PC Kim Love at Norfolk Police on 101 quoting reference number 36/2060/21.

Criminal Damage at Primary School, Corpusty

Police are appealing for witnesses following an incident of criminal damage at a primary school in Corpusty.

The incident happened in the early hours of Friday 1 January between approximately 3am and 4am, when suspect(s) smashed a number of the school windows.

Officers are appealing for anyone who may have witnessed the incident or has any information concerning it to come forward.

Anyone with any information about this incident should contact PC Russell Bradnam on 101 quoting crime reference 36/66/21.

Burglary Trowse

Police are appealing for information following a burglary in Trowse last week.

The garage of a property on Devon Way was broken into between approximately 4pm on Thursday 31 December 2020 and 10am on Friday 1 January 2021. A bike was stolen.

Officers are appealing for anyone who may have witnessed the incident or any suspicious activity within

the area during the times stated to come forward.

Anyone with information should contact PC Amanda Shreeve in Op Solve on 101 quoting crime reference number 36/261/21.

Theft of Trailers, Thetford

Police are appealing for information after the theft of a number of trailers from a secure storage area in Thetford.

Sometime between midnight and 7:30am yesterday (Tuesday 29 December 2020), three trailers and a mini digger were stolen from a business premises on Staniforth Road.

An unknown suspect(s) is believed to have forced entry into the area by angle grinding and cutting galvanised fencing, before driving a vehicle through, and towing the equipment away.

Over £25K worth of equipment was taken from the storage area during the incident, including:

- 14ft Ifor Williams Hiab trailer with ramps – labelled with 'Premier paving & landscaping', with small drill holes in side of trailer, and a black Honda engine.
- 10ft x 5.5ft Humbaur 3-way tipper - labelled with 'Premier paving & landscaping'. Distinctive wheel that winds all the way down. Licence plate – AF57 OZE.
- 10ft x 5ft Ifor Williams box trailer with barn and ramp doors – serial number: 660394.
- 1 x JCB Mini Digger, signposted with 'Premier paving & landscaping', and reflective orange dots on the back - serial number: JCB08008LH1930322.

Officers are asking anyone who may have seen the equipment, or suspicious activity in the area at the time, to contact PC Charlie Miller at Thetford Police Station on 101, quoting crime number 36/91104/20.

Alternatively contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111

Pin It, Pen It or Lose It*



*Potentially

We continue to see high value thefts of GPS domes and screens from farm machinery.

Please look at the following steps and consider whether you are doing everything you can to protect your valuables?

- ◇ Can you remove the dome/unit and secure it in a separate building?
- ◇ If not can you lock the machine in a building?
- ◇ Have you locked the machine?
- ◇ Can it be placed under good artificial light and CCTV?

**Need any
advice,
please
contact me**

Alongside the above, Pin It and Pen It.

- Simply mark the equipment dome/back of screen with your postcode and surname.
- Make it **obvious** you've marked it, significantly reduces resale value to thieves.
- This can be done with permanent marker or even better a simple engraving tool
- If the screen can be PIN enabled, activate it immediately only give the PIN to people who need it (and don't use 1234!)



Next Month

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