



RURAL MATTERS Newsletter



SOUTH WORCESTERSHIRE POLICING AREA

It's great to share with you the on-going activity we are involved with to tackle rural crime in our communities across South Worcestershire.

Since the appointment of the Rural & Business Officer for the South Worcestershire division back in September 2017, there has been increased, positive engagement with communities across the districts of Malvern, Wychavon and Worcester, including identifying problem areas and responding with initiatives such as: crime prevention workshops, trade presentations, property marking events and implementing watch schemes.



Worcestershire 'Rural Watch'.

One of the main objectives of our Rural Watch scheme is to encourage rural communities to work with their local policing teams, reporting in crimes and suspicious activity in their area, to better deter criminal activity and to help the police identify prolific hot spots of crime. Utilising existing information, gathered by community watches, it enables the local Police to build a picture of crime trends and evidence against the perpetrators involved.

We are actively empowering the public and encouraging communities to be more vigilant in their approach to crime prevention and reporting. Using initiatives such as 'Rural Watch' and 'CMS' Community Messaging System, members of the

public can register to receive alerts of reported crimes in the area. All you need is an email address.

Details of how to register for CMS can be found on the West Mercia Police website. <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/cms>



For more information on how to sign up for Worcestershire 'Rural Watch', please email the Rural & Business Officer at tracy.tooze@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

FARMERS CRIME PREVENTION WORKSHOPS

A new initiative to encourage communication and engagement between police, partnering agencies and the local farms was started back in March 2018 by the Rural and Business Officer for South Worcestershire. Since then there has been a number of successful workshops across the area providing crime prevention advice, demonstrating creative methods and educating members of the community on how to be more vigilant about criminals operating in these vulnerable areas.

Ongoing efforts are being made to improve communication to the local communities about what West Mercia Police are doing to tackle crimes in local areas, particularly the rural areas. A way of tackling this issue along with providing crime prevention advice to volumes of people that have been or potentially could be affected was to trial an initial crime prevention workshop on a farm.

The objective of the workshops are for farmers in their local communities to come together to discuss issues of crime, to receive up to date crime prevention information and advice on how best to secure farms and outbuildings. Farmers and landowners have also benefited from the effects of partnership working, as local authorities, machinery suppliers and businesses specialising in security are also present to talk about initiatives and options.

Feedback received so far is very positive, especially on the free property marking of tools, quad bikes and even Land Rover Defenders for those that attend!

Property marking and applying security trackers to valuables is a big deterrent to thieves, and provides the owner with a greater possibility of having stolen goods returned.

As a division of West Mercia Police, we will be actively working on other crime prevention events throughout the South Worcestershire area, which you can find details of via your local policing team, West Mercia Rural Matters Facebook and Twitter accounts and also your local Neighbourhood Watch facebook page. If you would be interested in more information on crime prevention advice or would like to host a crime prevention workshop, we would welcome your suggestion via email:

tracy.tooze@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Farmers' discussion groups

Do you host or attend a farmers group that you think may be useful for the Rural & Business officer to attend?

Earlier in the year, the Rural & Business Officer attended Broadheath Farmers discussion group as a guest speaker. It was a great way to share ideas and experiences amongst the group and how the rural communities and police can work together to be more effective at tackling rural crime.

Should you wish to invite the Rural & Business Officer along, please drop an email to:

tracy.tooze@westmercia.pnn.police.uk



“We Don’t Buy Crime” Smartwater villages

Villages and towns in the rural areas can potentially be more vulnerable when it comes to rural crime.

West Mercia Police have a preventative initiative which has proven to have positive results in reducing attempted burglaries in the more rural areas.



A “We Don’t Buy Crime” town or village is where every residential property has the opportunity to mark their possessions with Smartwater. Once a street or village has an uptake

of at least 70% of its population, kits of Smartwater are distributed to each area for householders to claim, enabling them to forensically mark valuables and personal items in the home. Large street signage is erected giving warning signs to would be criminals at the key entry and exit routes. Smaller signage is repeated throughout the area. The purpose of this is to let any would-be criminal know that if they commit crime they are likely to

- Be caught
- Not able to profit from their crime i.e. second-hand shops and the wider public won’t buy stolen property.

If you would like more details on this initiative, please email:
tracy.tooze@westmercia.pnn.police.uk
Or you can contact your local policing team via the website:
www.westmerciapolice.co.uk/myarea

Volunteers

We are currently looking to involve volunteers from the local Neighbourhood Watch schemes or local communities in events such as free property marking days.



If you are interested in discussing this further, please contact your Rural & Business Officer via email
Tracy.tooze@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

