

DAPTC Executive of 12th May 2022

Agenda Item: 07.b.i – Rural Crime Reduction Board

The Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner, David Sidwick, invited the Chair/Vice-Chair of DAPTC, alongside the Chief Exec., to attend the inaugural meeting of a Rural Crime Reduction Board at Police Headquarters, Winfrith, on 26th April. Given my previous experience on the Dorset Community Safety Partnership, I attended this meeting on behalf of the Executive*. Neil was unable to attend.

There were some familiar faces there, including Andy Frost, the Dorset Community Safety Manager, and some names to put faces to. Cllr. Graham Carr-Jones, Dorset Council's portfolio holder for Community Safety was unfortunately unwell and unable to attend. David Sidwick, whom I have met on several occasions, chaired the meeting.

The PCC has considerably expanded the Rural Crime Team in accordance with his election pledges. Previously we had only Claire Dinsdale (PC), Tom Balchin (PCSO) and Killy Turner (Researcher). I know that Tom has moved on but I am not aware of whether the others are incorporated into the new team. The new team, based in Blandford Forum, consists of an Inspector, a Sergeant, 5 PCs, 2 PCSOs, some Special Constables and volunteers making a total of 14 on the team. Some discussion was had about publicity and a new logo.

I gave an observation about a previous meeting, which I attended on behalf of DAPTC in September 2017 – after which all action seemed to fizzle out. I was assured that this would not be the case with this new initiative.

Terms of Reference for the Rural Crime Reduction Board were agreed – see attached.

Chief inspector Andy Edwards gave us an overview of Dorset's Rural Crime Strategy and Delivery Plan and Andy Frost (see above) gave a brief report on the work of the Community Safety Partnership, where Rural Crime remains one of their priorities.

An Action Plan for the Rural Crime Reduction Board, produced at a previous meeting in November, was reviewed and updated with considerable debate on a number of points.

Next Meeting

The Board is scheduled to meet quarterly, though the ToR actually states bi-annually. I have no advanced dates available yet.

KD Johnson
27^h April 2022

Attachment: DRAFT terms of reference for the RCRB.

*: In advance of the meeting a SurveyMonkey questionnaire was sent out to all DAPTC member councils to gauge what problems and priorities were apparent. 23 member councils responded within the available timeframe and the principal problems seemed to be Traffic/Speeding and ASB/Graffiti/Vandalism. There was no opportunity to present our findings at this inaugural meeting, however there may be a future opportunity.

Rural Crime Reduction Board

DRAFT Terms of Reference - April 2022

Aim and Objective

The **aim** of the Rural Crime Reduction Board (RCRB) is to make Dorset the safest County and lead the way in preventing and reducing rural crime. Introducing a Rural Crime Reduction Board, in partnership with rural communities, is to ensure their concerns and issues are understood and to drive improvement in this area including:

- Improve communication and engagement, and crime reporting, within rural communities
- Prevent rural crime, including rural theft, wildlife crime, fly tipping, and related organised crime
- Strengthen rural watch schemes and implement a grant scheme

Purpose

The purpose of this Board is to oversee the delivery of the key actions to implement Priority 4: to Fight Rural Crime, in the Police and Crime Plan 2021-2029. The RCRB will ensure integration with the work of other strategic partnerships, boards and groups - so that there is clarity of responsibilities between them, and all key priorities are addressed (see Governance below). This will include to:

- Influence and develop strategic themes and projects to tackle rural crime issues
- Support development of plans focussing on prevention, intelligence, and enforcement
- Identify high priority rural crime issues and subsequently prioritising these issues for Board activity - through the delivery of a RCRB Action Plan

Membership

- Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)/Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)
- Dorset Police – Chief Inspector level
- Dorset CSP Chair - Cllr Graham Carr-Jones
- Dorset Council – Lead Officer for Community Safety
- Dorset Council – Waste Enforcement Lead
- Dorset CSP's Rural Crime Partnership Coordination Group
- Environment Agency
- Natural England
- Gamekeeper
- Dorset Association of Town and Parish Councils (DATPC) - Chief Exec and Chair or Vice-Chair
- Tim Merry – Farm Manager, West Knighton
- Young Farmers Association / Group
- NFU
- CLA
- Kingston Maurward College
- Cornish Mutual
- NFU Mutual
- Revd Richard Kirlew - Rural Officer for Diocese of Salisbury
- Pat Halliday Association of Dorset Watches (ADW)
- Nick Viney - Coordinator for Dorset Farming Community Network (FCN)

Any additional members will be approved by the Board - either at the meetings or via email. The quorum of this Board should be at least the PCC, Dorset Police and a minimum total of eight attendees from the core membership.

Roles and Responsibilities

- The RCRB will be accountable for:
 - Encouraging and fostering collaboration
 - Maintaining the focus of the RCRB on the agreed purpose
- The membership of the Board will commit to:
 - Attending all scheduled meetings
 - Open and honest discussions, and to share all (non-sensitive) communications and information across all Board members

Review

- To continually review the purpose of the RCRB
- Review the delivery of the RCRB Action Plan, the Terms of Reference, and the achievements of the Board annually

Meetings

- Meetings will be chaired by the PCC (or the OPCC in the PCC's absence)
- Meeting agendas, minutes and supporting papers minutes will be provided by the OPCC
- All Members are expected to contribute to the agenda
- The Board will meet bi-annually

Decision making

To make decisions within the remit of the Group and these will be recorded as follows:

- Minutes will be taken at each meeting recording details of decisions made and actions assigned to group members. These will be circulated to all members and actions progressed at meetings
- Administration of Group meetings shall be the responsibility of the Chair

Governance

Delivery of actions through the RCRB will be reported, as appropriate, via the Dorset Police and Crime Panel, Dorset Community Safety Partnership, and other relevant bodies.

Review of ToR

This Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually.