

Rural Crime Reduction Board

Draft Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 18 October 2022

via Teams at 10:00

Present:

David Sidwick (Chair)	Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)
Helen Fletcher	OPCC
Jenny Heaver	OPCC
Nick Bunting	Cornish Mutual
Nicola Marshall	Dorset Council
Tim Merry	Farm Manager
Gemma Harvey	NFU
Jane Sansbury	Environment Agency
Elliot Hutt	CLA
Jon Boyd	Natural England
Lucy Wyman	Natural England
Insp Richard Jefferies	Dorset Police
Luke Rake	Kingston Maurward College
Michael Radice	Forestry England
Elliot Hutt	Country Land and Business Association (CLA)
Mark Harrison	Historic England
Lee Turner	Dorset Police
Jessica Morton	Dorset Police
John Newcombe	Dorset Council (Community Safety)
Leo Henley Lock	National Trust
Matthew King	BCP Council
Canon Richard Hancock	Salisbury Diocese

Apologies:

Lucy (Luce) Woodland	Environment Agency
Cllr Graham Carr-Jones	Dorset Community Safety Partnership & Dorset Council
Dorset Young Farmers Clubs	
ACC Rachel Farrell	Dorset Police
Andy Frost	Dorset Council
Neil Wedge	DAPTC
Cllr. K D Johnson	DAPTC – Vice Chair
Matt Uren	NFU Mutual
Pat Halliday	Association of Dorset Watches
Brian Bleese	Dorset Wildlife Trust (DWT)

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

1.1 The PCC welcomed all attendees to the meeting. Introductions were made and apologies noted.

2. REVIEW OF DRAFT MINUTES AND ACTIONS FROM 19 JULY 2022

2.1 The previous meeting minutes were agreed as an accurate record. Actions were updated and completed as below.

3. AMENDMENT TO TERMS OF REFERENCE

3.1 The PCC updated the attendees on the amended Terms of Reference (TOR) with the inclusion of Heritage England and National Trust as core members. There were no objections, and the amended TOR were agreed.

4. RCRB ACTION PLAN - UPDATE

4.1 Inspector Richard Jeffries (RJ) gave an update on Dorset Police Rural Crime Team (RCT) and the work that has been undertaken in driving forward partnerships. There has been an increase in engagement with rural communities, increasing confidence in the public, working with partners in Dorset and Cross county. It was noted that the team and the work is much clearer now 6 months on.

4.2 The Board were updated on several recent positive cases including Op Galileo, Op Hardware and an Op in Mannington Heath where agencies found a huge illegal waste site. The PCC commented on the apparent hard work and expressed his thanks and praise.

4.3 The meeting acknowledged the launch of Country Watch in September and there was encouragement from the board to use the logo to gain traction.

4.4 LT provided a presentation on the Communication and Engagement work undertaken by Dorset Police.

4.5 Updates were provided on all actions due by the next Board meeting in February 2023 – see attached RCRB Action Plan.

5. HEADLINE ITEM – PREVENTION

5.1 HF presented a report to the Board focussing on the delivery of prevention of rural crime. It highlighted the work that has been achieved so far, potential actions identified, and how they are going to be delivered - paper attached.

5.2 The meeting had identified a potential pilot project to be explored using cameras to identify offenders of rural crime, including fly-tipping. The proposal was to use data to 'heatmap' the top 3 locations. HF given contact by MH in Lincolnshire to look into the cameras they use.

5.3 The NFU were about to host a Farmers focus group meeting with attendance by the Rural Crime Team. They are also progressing the 'Stop that Thief' scheme.

5.4 GH to be invited to the next Prevention Task and Finish group. – ACTION HF

5.5 RJ shared views on the use of cameras, to discuss away from the meeting – ACTION RJ

6. MOUNTED RURAL VOLUNTEERS

6.1 LT shared a presentation on a new concept of Mounted Rural Volunteers for Dorset Police. The role has been created to patrol local areas identified as hot spot areas of ASB and animal related offences. Volunteers will have branded high visibility clothing and undertake specific training

6.2 A role profile has been drafted and Dorset Police have received a number of expressions of interest. There was an explanation of the current challenges, including the creation of a policy and finalisation of training.

- 6.3 The launch of the Mounted Rural Volunteers (MRVs) was suggested for March 2023 and Luke Rake gave his support and offered the facilities at Kingston Maurward for the launch. It was suggested Heritage Crime form part of the MRVs training – LT confirmed this would happen.
- 6.4 A date of 25 March 2023 was suggested which would launch the MRVs as well as demonstrate the overall investment by bringing all the Rural Crime Team Assets together.
- 6.5 The PCC shared his thanks to the attendees and added that the RCRB is paying dividends and there is great partnership working.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 7.1 Mike Radice (MR) asked for Dorset Police representation at the Urban Heaths Partnership meetings where agencies meet to discuss concerns and issues on heathlands, forests, including ASB. RJ confirmed he would arrange for a nominated trained officer to attend. MR to email RJ with details for attendance – ACTION
- 7.2 Richard Hancock (RH) explained his role with agricultural chaplains who group together with a foot in the farming community. He added there would be an online comms hub presence next year, which could link with RCRB. PCC expressed his thanks.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 9 February 2023 at 10:00 on Wildlife Crime, to be held in person at Dorset Police HQ, Winfrith, Dorchester, DT2 8DZ

ACTIONS – Please see the live action tab on the RCRB Action Plan