

Chairman's Announcements

Subject:	The Rural Crime Partnership for Wiltshire and Swindon
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The Rural Crime Partnership for Wiltshire and Swindon (hereafter 'the Rural Crime Partnership') has been established by Wiltshire Police in consultation with the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Wiltshire and Swindon. The partnership aims to provide governance for, and oversee the delivery of the rural crime strategy. It provides coherence, direction and guidance to the delivery and apportionment of rural policing resources across the county in the context of the Community Policing Model.

The Rural Crime Partnership is chaired by the Head of Crime Prevention, Supt Phil Staynings of Wiltshire Police.

For the purposes of the Rural Crime Partnership, rural crime is defined as "crime that specifically targets and exploits agriculture, wildlife, the environment and heritage".

The government's own statistics identify 97% of Wiltshire's land area as being 'rural' in nature. Rural crime cost Wiltshire businesses and communities £800,000 in the last financial year. National Farmers Union data suggests that rural crime cost the South West region £6.1m in 2015, and year-on-year reporting indicates that this figure increases by 3% annually. Intelligence suggests that a majority of this crime – particularly rural burglaries, theft of agricultural machinery, livestock and metal theft – is Organised Crime.

The aim of the Rural Crime Partnership is to reduce the number of victims of rural crime; improve the confidence of rural communities in reporting crimes knowing that action will be taken; and to reduce offending and re-offending.

The partnership is made up of members from a number of organisations including the National Gamekeepers' Organisation, the National Farmers' Union, and the Country and Land Business Association.

Wiltshire Police encourage all of the rural communities to sign up for their free messaging system, Wiltshire and Swindon Community Messaging. Community Messaging is a system where local officers and their press office send out local police and crime updates by email, text and voicemail. You can sign up for free by visiting www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk. Several recent policing operations have resulted in real successes across rural communities, and we intend to maintain these operations going forward.

You can help. Be aware of rural crime and what constitutes it. Report it – on 101 the non-emergency number, or 999 if there is a crime currently in progress. Subscribe to the Community Messaging system. Volunteer to work with Wiltshire Police in the rural crime area, or perhaps join the Rural Crime Team as a Special Constable.

Members of the Area Boards are cordially invited to the next meeting of the Rural Crime Partnership, and further details can be sourced through the Secretary – joe.power@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk or josephlukepower@gmail.com

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Finally, the Rural Crime Partnership serves the County as a whole, and specific policing issues should continue to be addressed through your Community Coordinators in the first instance.