

Tidworth Area Board Police Report November 2017

1. East Community Policing Team

Sector Head:

Sector Deputy: Sergeant James Williams

Community Coordinator: Pc Lucy Wileman

Tidworth PCSO: PCSO Maria Downham & PCSO Natalie Cleife

Hare coursing and Poaching, All areas of East Wiltshire.

Increasing activity and reports to Police regarding hare coursing within East Wiltshire has occurred since 1st September 2017. A total of forty four storm logs refer. Many of these have occurred in the Upavon area, but also include damage to farmland at Wilton, incidents at Stanton St Bernard, Manningford Bohune and All Cannings. Vehicles of interest in relation to these offences include a green Landrover Defender, a green Honda CRV, a blue Subaru and red Landrover.

A policing operation was conducted daytime on Wednesday 27th September by members of the East Community Policing and the Rural Crime Team, in partnership with a number of farmers and gamekeepers who assisted as spotters for the area.

The event resulted in a number of vehicles and occupants being subject to stop searches. No incidents of coursing occurred during this time but intelligence was gathered in relation to other incidents involving a van seen at Roundway, an area where we experience theft from vehicles. This vehicle and its occupant were located at Broad Hinton during our area search.

Improved partnership working has resulted via the use of two Whatsapp groups established with the farming community for these areas. This has enabled immediate responses by officers on the team to alerts of suspicious and coursing activity. We have requested permissions for Whatsapp downloads to our works mobile phones for all officer access.

Two males from Somerset were arrested and subsequently charged with offences concerning The Prevention of Poaching Act 1862, following an incident on 7th October 2017. Officers from the East Community Policing Team were alerted by members of the public reporting suspicious activity by the occupants to a vehicle, located during an area search.

Two suspects to daytime trespass in pursuit of game are under investigation regarding offences identified in the Pewsey Vale area.

Pc Marc JACKSON of the Rural Crime Team has recently launched Operation Artemis in a bid to tackle all aspects of poaching across the county.

The public are encouraged to report all incidents of poaching to help build a better intelligence picture and enable our officers to target offenders through rural operations.

The operation will also aim to advise our rural communities how they can best prevent and disrupt

poaching activity on their land.

The operation sits under the nationally recognised poaching operation Project Trespass which aims to coordinate action across England and Wales through prevention, intelligence, enforcement and reassurance.

Rural Crime Officer PC Marc Jackson said: “As part of the rural crime partnership we have listened to the concerns of landowners, farmers, game keepers and agricultural workers within Wiltshire.

“We understand the impact poaching has on their livelihoods and the resulting fear of crime that comes from this.

“We want Operation Artemis to reassure our rural communities that we do take poaching seriously, and anybody found to be committing such offences here will be dealt with robustly. Wiltshire is not a soft touch and we will use the full legislation powers that have been given to us as the police.

“The image of poaching has drastically changed over the years. The idea of poachers just taking one for the pot is no longer the case.

“Many of the groups involved are very organised and travel vast distances, across numerous counties to participate in poaching.

“Often poaching involves vast amounts of money through illegal betting and can be connected to other crimes like burglaries, thefts and can involve intimidation and violence towards landowners and gamekeepers.”

Poaching becomes more frequent when the harvests come down at the end of the summer, peaking in October and December. This year harvests have been early so potential poachers can access the fields earlier than usual meaning we are already seeing an increase in poaching in September.

Poaching can take many forms, from hare coursing, shooting deer at night to using catapults to take pheasants.

Police and Crime Commissioner Angus Macpherson said: “Wiltshire is a rural county and those living in isolated locations can be vulnerable to crime types that do not affect urban areas.

“It is important that the Force police rural crime as part of its overall policing.

“Rural crime can have a huge impact on local people and businesses. I welcome this new operation and applaud the ongoing work being done by the Rural Crime Team and the Wiltshire Rural Crime Partnership to help keep Wiltshire safe.”

When reporting incidents, call 101 and quote ‘Operation Artemis’. If a crime is in progress call 999.

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Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/wiltshirepolice/>

Or sign up to Community Messaging <https://www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk/> Our free Community Messaging service will also help keep you updated about policing and crime in your local area.



2. CPT - Current Priorities & Consultation Opportunities:

Current Priorities Tidworth and surrounding areas.

Patrols of Farms situated in The Chutes

It became clear from speaking to a farmer on 18th Sept and looking at recent reports around this date that the farms situated in The Chutes were starting to be targeted. It was decided to commence a New NTG Priority on this date, we appreciated that the NTG meeting was set for 26th Sept and usually such a decision is discussed at this meeting however felt that we needed to commence this as soon as possible and update the group at the NTG. This would also not affect any additional topics that would be raised.

So on 19th Sept the Priority commenced, at this time the following farms will be patrolled in line with recent information and issues raised. New Zealand Farm, Gammons Farm, Chrystal Palace Farm & Deans Farm. In total 8 patrols/actions have taken place. Depending on information received the locations will be reviewed. To date 43 patrols/actions have taken place.

Target Patrols Tidworth and surrounding areas

Co-op Store Andover Road Ludgershall

On 17th October additional patrols commenced at the Co-Op Store, due to 10 shop lifting incidents and 2 burglaries over the past 6 weeks. The patrols are in place to offer reassurance and deter further incidents. To date 16 patrols have taken place, we are pleased to say that there hasn't been any further incidents during this time.

Mughal Restaurant - Closed

Problems have returned to this location and therefore a target patrol has been set up starting from 28th August. In total 70 patrols took place and the patrol closed down on 18th October 2017. 3 people were referred off to the ASBRAC panel.

Neighbourhood Tasking Meeting

The next meeting is due to take place on 5th January 2018 at 14.30 hours at the Tidworth Police Station.

Media

Maria has agreed to do a regular slot on Castledown Radio with Brian Pratt and Marc Read.

Consultations

You PCSO's are carrying out consultations on their areas.

Update re Rural Crime Partnership

Rural crime operations continue, in our efforts to target what is often cross border organised criminal activity. Of one particular individual who has been actively involved in hare coursing and trespass on farmland a Community Protection Warning notice has been issued, in addition to seeking out prosecution for the offence itself. We are eager to utilise this legislation for persistent and impactful rural crime incidents.

3. Wiltshire Police Control strategy

Below is our Control Strategy for your reference. This focuses on how we conduct our operational policing based on the Police and Crime Plan. We will continue to align our resources with the threat/harm/risks presented in line with the control strategy.



Child sexual exploitation and abuse

Young people often enter the criminal justice system as a direct result of being exploited by others for financial or sexual gain. This has been recognised recently with a shift in focus to these young people being dealt with as Criminally Exploited and Vulnerable (CEV) individuals. Where circumstances dictate, this will mean that the safeguarding of these young people will take precedence over any criminal offences they may have committed. Those doing the exploiting are the individuals that should be targeted.

Please be vigilant for young people who may be being exploited in this way and report to Police through the normal channels.

Organised criminality

Operation Sirius is a dedicated response team investigating Asian Gold burglaries, one of which recently occurred within this area. Our local officers have also been engaging with businesses in the town requesting they report anything or anyone acting suspiciously in their neighbourhood, unknown or unexpected doorstep traders, unusual vehicles, many offenders use high performance vehicles. Please be mindful if you see such a vehicle driving around your area. We work closely with forces nationally, sharing information, helping to tackle this criminality which occurs throughout the country.

Cybercrime

Our Cyber Crime Prevention Officer is working closely with our partners within the region including attending Area Boards.

Many of the cyber scams which succeed occur following an individual's response to act quickly to an instruction or use distraction techniques so that less concentration occurs on the task in hand.

County Lines and the Criminality Exploited

Four people have been sentenced for their roles in a crack cocaine and heroin supply conspiracy which saw drugs trafficked from Bristol into Wiltshire towns.

Tumaini Matsimela, age 34, of Wilson Street, Bristol was sentenced to 7-and-a-half years imprisonment.

Melody Collins, aged 28, of High Street, Pewsey was sentenced to 3-and-a-half years imprisonment.

Franco Cosentino, 37, of Cranesbill Road, Melksham, was sentenced to 20 months imprisonment suspended for two years, 20 days rehabilitation, 200 hours unpaid work and six month drug dependency rehabilitation.

Jack Hedges, age 23, of Pockeridge Road, Corsham, was sentenced to 2 years imprisonment, suspended for 2 years, 30 days rehabilitation and forfeiture of £420.

The investigation by the Dedicated Crime Team began in November 2014 when officers stop checked Matsimela at Chippenham train station. He fought with officers and threw a quantity of Class A drugs into a bush, with a further quantity being found inside his pockets. He was arrested and bailed whilst the investigation continued.

He was again stopped in Chippenham in May 2015 when he was suspected to have been selling drugs. No drugs were found on this occasion, however, a large quantity of cash was located along with a mobile

phone which officers suspected contained evidence of his drug dealing.

The investigation continued and led to officers visiting the St Paul's area of Bristol on 2 February 2016. A short time later they located Cosentino and Hedges sat waiting in Cosentino's car. Matsimela was sighted

walking towards the vehicle and was detained a short distance away. He fought violently and threw a mobile phone and a quantity of Class A drugs. Mobile phone evidence showed that these drugs were intended to be supplied to Cosentino and Hedges and also implicated Collins in controlling the enterprise for the purposes of supplying crack and heroin onto the streets of Wiltshire.

When officers searched Matsimela's home address they located his brother Abiola inside with over £2,000 worth of cannabis and £1,100 in cash. He was sentenced at an earlier hearing for possession with intent to supply class B drugs.

Matsimela, Collins, Hedges and Cosentino were all charged with conspiracy to supply crack cocaine and heroin between 26 December 2015 and 3 February 2016. They all pleaded guilty.

PC Luke Barnett, of the Dedicated Crime Team at Melksham, said "I am very happy with the sentences passed in this case.

"Matsimela had been active in Wiltshire for some time, supplying hard drugs onto the streets of our towns and was well versed in police tactics. It required a lengthy investigation to successfully convict him of these offences and I am pleased that we were able to also successfully convict other significant members of his supply network.

"County Lines drug networks, who supply drugs from large cities such as Bristol into Wiltshire, pose a significant risk to our communities and we are determined to bring the offenders to justice."

If you suspect county lines drug activity in your community, please report it on 101, all information is treated with the utmost discretion.

Dangerous and Persistent offenders

Work is continuing with our SWITCH nominals, (those who are identified as persistent and prolific offenders), including intelligence gathering and relevant actions following dissemination. We currently have three nominals within the East Policing Area classified as such and we work closely with our SWITCH team members and partner agencies to manage these offenders.

Modern Slavery and Human Exploitation

Wiltshire Police and PCC response to HMICFRS Modern Slavery report 24 October

Detective Superintendent Craig Holden said: "Today's report serves as an important reminder that police forces must take a robust approach to modern slavery and human trafficking - this is a complex area of modern day policing and it can be demanding on resources, but that should never deter us from ensuring we are doing everything we can to protect victims.

"Tackling modern slavery in our communities is something that we place a lot of emphasis on. Fundamentally, it is about protecting the most vulnerable in society and we've made it one of our top priorities where we will be focusing our resources.

"A steady flow of information from the public is vital in the fight against Modern Slavery and we are making positive strides in this area too. We are raising awareness of this issue both internally with officers and staff and externally, within our communities. They are the eyes and ears that provide the local intelligence needed to help us continue to target businesses and individuals that traffic and exploit vulnerable people.

"Combining our day-to-day frontline resources with specialists is also a critical component of our approach. Our dedicated Human Exploitation and Emerging Threats (HEET) team is central to us tackling this type of crime. They gather and analyse information to help us better understand where the specific threats exist in our communities. They then use that to set in motion operations (both locally and with our partners in the Regional Organised Crime Unit) that disrupt and dismantle criminal exploitation of vulnerable people.

"Over the course of the last year, we have carried out operations in a number of areas all related to modern slavery and human trafficking. These have included tackling and closing down 'pop up' brothels in Swindon and identifying labour exploitation in nail bars and car washes across the county. Modern slavery is complex and manifests itself in a number of ways. We will continue to focus our activity on the issues that have the greatest impact on our communities.

"Let me be clear, we will not tolerate any form of exploitation and we want victims to feel confident in reporting to us, safe in the knowledge that we will support them alongside our partners.

"Of course, modern slavery is not just an issue for the police. There are so many other areas that it impacts, from public health to housing to child protection. We work closely with our partners as part of the Swindon and Wiltshire Anti-Slavery Partnership (which is chaired by Wiltshire Police) to ensure that collectively we are working together to tackle these issues and put plans in place to provide support to victims.

"The welfare of victims is paramount and should always remain our priority. Modern slavery and human trafficking are abhorrent crimes and community based intelligence is crucial in investigations of this nature. Working together we can put a stop to the exploitation of the vulnerable. Call 101, or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 where information can be left anonymously. You can also contact the Modern Slavery helpline confidentially at any time, day or night on 08000 121 700".

Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon Angus Macpherson said: "Protecting the most vulnerable in society is one of the four priorities of my Police and Crime Plan and I welcome this report from HMICFRS into what is a serious, complex and challenging issue for police forces and partners across the country.

"Modern Slavery is not just a 'big city issue'. Wiltshire is a safe place to live but that doesn't mean it is immune to issues like modern slavery.

"The Chief Constable and his team must continue to 'lift the stone' on this toxic crime in our communities. I want to see offenders brought to justice wherever possible though close cooperation with our partners."

Domestic Abuse

A third of DA perpetrators are repeat offenders. A quarter of offenders have also been the victim of DA.

James Williams
Sector Deputy,
Wiltshire East CPT