

The East and Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership

A Partnership between East & Mid Devon District Councils, Devon & Cornwall Police, Devon County Council, Northern, Eastern and Western Devon Clinical Commissioning Group, Devon & Cornwall Probation Service, Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service.



TACKLING RURAL CRIME

Due to increasing concerns regarding crimes being committed within rural communities the East and Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership has agreed to include tackling rural crime as one of its priorities for the next 12 months.

The Partnership is in the process of developing an action plan which members feel will help in reducing such crime and part of it is about raising awareness of the problem and how we can all help by taking more care and responsibility for our property. We should also be mindful and aware of any suspicious activity or behaviour.

Many people working within our own agencies also live in rural areas and the advice is that if they witness what they think is a crime being committed they should not hesitate to dial 999. If they see what they consider to be suspicious behaviour they should dial 101 and that information will then be filtered through for further investigation to a small team of Police Officers working on Operation Newmarket. Operation Newmarket has been set up to coordinate intelligence and to take positive action in respect of criminals engaged in rural crime.

Police Constable Simon Aldred, a member of the Operation Newmarket team told me, "It is vital that officers have such information which could then lead to positive action being taken in due course. We need to know who is out and about in our rural communities acting suspiciously because we will do our very best to disrupt their criminal activities".

Preventative measures that can be taken are as follows:

- Clearly mark with your name and postcode any items of garden equipment such as lawnmowers, strimmers, hedge cutters etc. For the farming community this includes all valuable items of farming equipment and quad bikes.etc. Often marking the items clearly in large letters with a decent gloss paint can deter would be criminals. Keep a record of all serial numbers.
- Secure outbuildings and gates with quality padlocks.
- Consider installing security lighting or even CCTV cameras on your property. Ensure that such equipment is regularly maintained.
- Join a scheme such as CESAR to protect your vehicles and ensure that they are fully traceable should they be stolen.
- Join the free Community Messaging Service operated by the police to receive information and advice relating to local issues including crime. You can sign up via the police website - www.devon-cornwall.police.uk or contact your local officers by dialling 101.

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