

## Playden DC Report October 2018

### 1. Police and Crime

Sussex Police has launched its new [rural crime strategy](#) outlining how it aims to keep all those in rural communities safe and detailing how it aims to tackle those who commit crime in the countryside.

With large rural areas and significant numbers of the population defined as living in rural settlements, Sussex Police has had an established network of rural and wildlife officers specifically trained to deal with agricultural, environmental, heritage and wildlife incidents for several years.

This network of specialists is also available to provide support and advice to colleagues who may be called upon to deal with incidents of rural crime during their daily duties.

Rural crime is a typically under-reported area and Sussex Police are encouraging those affected to ensure that they do report incidents so that an accurate picture of the problem can be assessed. They are already working in partnership with a number of agencies including the National Farmers' Union (NFU), the Environment Agency and local authorities across the county to prevent crime wherever possible and to deal with it effectively and swiftly when it does occur.

Initiatives in support of this include Operation Traverse, in liaison with the Angling Trust, the National Wildlife Crime Unit and other partners, which encourages anglers to become 'eyes and ears' for tackling wildlife crime across the county.

Sergeant Carter has been involved in a national campaign to educate dog owners in responsible control of their pets in a bid to reduce the large number of deaths from sheep and other livestock-worrying incidents. He has worked closely with farmers and the NFU across Sussex in dealing with incidents.

Assistant Chief Constable Nick May said: "Sussex Police take rural crime seriously. Superintendent Emma Brice was appointed as the dedicated strategic lead for rural crime early this year and she is supported by Sergeant Tom Carter, our operational lead, who has an enormous amount of experience in this area. They are coordinating how Sussex Police prevent, respond to and investigate rural crime to keep communities safe and feeling safe at a local level.

"As part of our commitment to keeping rural communities safe and building confidence in the services provided by us and our partners, **we will soon be inviting people to join the new Sussex Countrywatch Partnership.** This will provide the opportunity for those living and working in, and visiting, rural areas to sign up to receive information about rural crime and prevention advice to protect their homes and businesses."

I will keep an eye out for information regarding the new Sussex Countrywatch Partnership and keep you updated.

You can find more advice on rural crime [here](#).

2. Cabinet Meeting 1st October 2018. As I will be away in Birmingham for the Cabinet Meeting, I may not have time to update my report in time for the Parish Council meeting; below are set out the most pertinent matters for Cabinet discussion. Paul may well attend Cabinet and may be able to update you verbally.

2.1 The draft Consultation Plan and Consultation Document in respect of a Housing and Homelessness Strategy is coming to Cabinet for approval. This will allow a six week consultation on the priorities for the development of a final Housing and homelessness Strategy.

2.2 Cabinet is to consider for approval the Proposed Submission version of the Development and Site Allocations Local Plan and Policies Map. If approved, this Plan and supporting documents, such as the Sustainability Appraisal, will be published for a six week period for representations and subsequent submission to the Secretary of State.

2.3 Delivery of Housing at Blackfriars, Battle to be accelerated.

3. Community Grant Scheme - a reminder that Round 2 of Rother District Council's Community Grants Scheme will be open for applications **from Monday, October 1 until Tuesday, January 15, 2019.**

Community groups and organisations can apply for funding, ranging from £500 to £30,000 depending on the size of the project, to provide community facilities, buy equipment or host local events.

Please do speak to Paul or me if you have any questions - we have encouraged and supported thousands of pounds coming into our Ward for the benefit of our local communities.

**SAH**