

# HAVERHILL TOWN COUNCIL

## HAVERHILL AREA FORUM

13 November 2017



**Present:**                   **Cambridgeshire:**  
Councillor Daniel Hoddinott, Castle Camps Parish Council

**Essex**  
Councillor Diana Garrod, District Councillor for Bumpstead Ward,  
Braintree District Council & Chairman Sturmer Parish Council  
Councillor Ian Westrope, Steeple Bumpstead Parish Council

**Haverhill Town Council**  
Mayor David Roach  
Councillor Tony Brown  
Councillor John Burns  
Councillor Barry Robbins

**Suffolk**  
Councillor Margaret Marks, St Edmundsbury Borough Council  
Councillor Andrew Dickson, Little Thurlow Parish Council  
Councillor Chris Lowe, Little Thurlow Parish Council

**Apologies:**               Matthew Hancock MP  
Sergeant Tom Bastendorff, Community Policing Team, Essex

**Cambridgeshire**  
Councillor Duncan Ogilvy, Bartlow Parish Council  
Councillor Enid Bald, Linton Parish Council

**Essex**  
Cathryn Carlisle, Clerk, Helions Bumpstead Parish Council  
Councillor Nigel Chapman, Steeple Bumpstead Parish Council  
Lisa Courtney, Clerk, Saffron Walden Town Council

**Suffolk**  
Councillor Mary Evans, Suffolk County Council, Clare Division  
Claire Ebeling, Clerk, Clare Town Council

**Haverhill Town Council**  
Councillor Winny Yang

**In attendance:** Sergeant Richard Jackson, Rural Crime Team, Cambridgeshire  
Sergeant Danny Cooper, Suffolk Constabulary  
Colin Poole, Town Clerk Haverhill Town Council  
Vicky Phillips, Assistant Town Clerk, Haverhill Town Council

1 member of the public

## Welcome

The Mayor of Haverhill, Councillor David Roach, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## MINUTES

		Action
HAF /024	<b><u>Apologies for Absence</u></b> The above apologies were noted.	
HAF /025	<b><u>Rural Crime</u></b> Inspector Danny Cooper introduced himself and his role. He explained that each Police Force have Crime Prevention Teams, Suffolk's is a new team.  Sergeant Richard Jackson also introduced himself and his role. He explained that he and five Officers worked on the Rural Crime Action Team (RCAT). RCAT was formed on 1 April after discussions with Cambridgeshire Countryside Watch. The team are working on combating hare coursing and poaching as well as farm machinery and plant theft, Church burglaries and any other rural crimes. Raising awareness is also a big part of their work.  <b>Cllr Burns</b> There had been a recent story in the press regarding a theft of a lead from a Church roof, even though the Church had an alarm.  <b>Insp Cooper</b> Crime prevention is important, although this could be made difficult as Church buildings could be a listed. There are various ways to keep them secured and alarms are a deterrent. Crime Officers are available to make on site visits to hand out up to date information  <b>Cllr Hoddinott</b> Are the Police able to catch these criminals, are there are any prosecutions? <b>Sergeant Jackson</b> The Police use information gathered from various sources and using this information are then able to put the 'jigsaw' pieces together resulting in prosecutions. As a result of working together, a criminal gang from Birmingham are currently serving a prison sentence. The Romanian crime gang which recently targeted Churches in the Eastern Counties and Devon are currently on the run in Europe. There is a Grade A response time when the crime is reported. <b>Insp Cooper</b> Organised Crime Teams do share intelligence and work together cross-border.  <b>Cllr Robbins</b> Has mentioned before that there is a lack of resources, there are no 'Bobbies on the street' to catch these criminals in the act. <b>Insp Cooper</b> Has spoken previously regarding this issue raised by Cllr Robbins, the Police are working with the resources they have.	

**Cllr M Marks**

Rural crime is on the increase, is there any information available to provide to people to help them protect their properties.

**Insp Cooper**

Although it is a sad fact that if a criminal gang or group want to get into your property they will, but people do need to be vigilant and report anything suspicious that they see. Fitting the best quality locks will also help prevent opportunists. SNT Crime Prevention Units are available to come to talk to you to give more advice. Tim Passmore, Suffolk Crime Commissioner, is 'hot' on rural crime and making it a priority.

**Cllr Garrod**

Thanked Insp Cooper for the work done on the drug problem they had in their pocket park.

Lots of Crime gangs are from London, are the MET co-operative?

**Insp Cooper**

The Rural Crime team have never had a problem working with the MET.

**Sergeant Jackson**

In Cambridgeshire between 20 June and 23 October there were 552 incidents of poaching, which is up from the year before (300 incidents). Criminals have been caught in the Centre of London by Traffic Police picking up on markers put on vehicles or by identifying people registered on the Police National Computer. All Forces work together to collect data to build up a picture. They are currently working with the MET on finding the Romanian Gang in Europe.

**Cllr Hoddinott**

Business units in rural areas are also being targeted. Catalytic Converters were stolen from buses where he works in Soham, but when this was reported to the Police they did not visit the site.

**Insp Cooper**

Can only apologise that this happened. When a crime is telephoned through it is recorded and a Scene of Crime Officer should be sent out. He is surprised that this did not happen. It sounds like there may have been an error made by the Officer receiving the call, unfortunately human error does happen. There is a complaint procedure if Cllr Hoddington wanted to make a complaint.

**Sergeant Jackson**

Also apologises. As an alternative to the telephone reporting system, there is an on-line system for reporting a crime.

**Cllr Burns**

Does the Crime Team have a relationship with the Border Agency?

Is there an effective cross-border computer system.

**Insp Cooper**

Intelligence Officers and Analytical teams have an effective, daily process of dialling-in to the computer system, picking up emails and telephone calls to work together.

Can't answer the question about the Border Agency, but will find out and get back.

**Sergeant Jackson**

Essex, Cambridge, Norfolk and Suffolk use the Athena system and more Forces are coming on board with this system.

**Cllr Marks**

There have also been Catalytic Convertors stolen in Haverhill, do the Police carry out spot checks on local Scrap Metal dealers?

**Insp Cooper**

The Police can't just turn up, they have to rely on information that they receive, but yes, they will visit a scrap dealer if there is prior intelligence.

**Cllr I Westrope**

There was an incident in the Steeple Bumpstead Post Office recently where people were distracting the Post Office worker whilst changing money into Euros. An article about the incident was reported in the Grapevine Magazine, do the Police work with Grapevine?

**Insp Cooper**

Has not heard of Grapevine, but any information should be passed directly to the Police. Anyone with any worries should inform the Police.

**Cllr Garrod**

What are the most common crimes in the area?

What crimes are up?

Is there a problem with Slavery?

**Insp Cooper**

House Burglaries are up, CID at Bury St Edmunds are currently working on a plan to deal with this and Tim Passmore has made it a priority.

Also, hare coursing in Suffolk and drug use are on the rise.

He has not seen any Slavery, known as Hidden Harm, in Haverhill and surrounding villages, but the Police are aware.

**Cllr Hoddinott**

Going back to stolen lead from Churches, do the Police work with scrap dealers on a National basis?

**Sergeant Jackson**

Lead stolen locally can go all over the country, so local Forces do liaise with National Scrap Dealers.

High value 'kit' fitted with Sat Navs have shown that machinery does go abroad. The Police have worked with John Deere nationally on this. As manufactures become aware of issues, they take steps to deal with it.

**C Poole**

Parish Councils are frustrated that they are at present unable to contribute towards repairing Church buildings due to an 1894 Act. Suffolk Local Council Clerks, One Voice Wales, Suffolk Association of Local Councils and Haverhill Town Council are lobbying to remove this Act and suggests that Parish Councils should also lobby for this.

**Cllr Burns**

What can be done to secure old farm machinery which isn't fitted with modern security systems?

**Sergeant Jackson**

There are lots of security gadgets on the market. Batteries can be sprayed with pink paint, which was an idea adopted from another Force. When buying a trailer, check that that it is legitimate.

There is company called CanTrack who sell a tracking system which can be purchased for about £167. It is attached with a Resin glue to a vehicle and there is a 100% return on missing vehicles using this system.

	<p><b>Cllr Brown</b> Why is hare coursing such a priority in Rural Crime?</p> <p><b>Sergeant Jackson</b> There is a lot of damage to property and very threatening behaviour. Land owners and their families are threatened with shot guns and have been shot at with ball bearings. This is a travelling criminality and cars arriving and parking on Farmer's land could have come up from Kent, Surrey or Sussex. It is difficult to police as the Force are working under an Act dating back to the 1800's. The Police run on intelligence, Neighbourhood Watch, the general Community, running clubs, cycling groups, walking groups etc. all can work together to help to keep the Police informed.</p> <p><b>Cllr Marks</b> Had a poor experience in that she was given poor advice when reporting suspicious behaviour around a property.</p> <p><b>Insp Cooper</b> Again, human error can happen when Phone Operatives take calls, however, they are trained to give out practical advice.</p> <p><b>D Garrod</b> Steeple Bumpstead have a problem with vehicles speeding through the village. Is there any effective ways that the Parish Council can reduce speeding? The Parish Council is under pressure to buy equipment but they need to know what would be the most effective.</p> <p><b>Insp Cooper</b> SNT can act on data from covert devices, VAS do help deter speeding and there is speed watch training available.</p> <p><b>Cllr Roach</b> Thanked Insp Cooper and Sergeant Jackson for attending. To summarise, what can people do to help prevent rural crime?</p> <p><b>Insp Cooper</b> Continue to inform the Police, make calls and don't give up. Take steps to protect your own property, he has some information leaflets to give out. Use Social Media to follow the Police latest news. There is a Rural Policing Strategy document available online, with lots of helpful information and advice.</p> <p><b>Sergeant Jackson</b> The public are the Police's eyes and ears!</p>	
HAF /026	<p><b><u>Open Forum</u></b></p> <p><b>Cllr Westrope</b> The signs on the Haverhill bypass are covered by overgrown vegetation.</p> <p><b>Cllr Roach</b> A Highways Engineer has been along the bypass and they are aware of the situation.</p> <p><b>C Poole</b> Has had a discussion with SCC to arrange a volunteer day to cut back the overgrown growth, which is being taken back to Maintenance.</p> <p>Update from previous minutes:</p> <p><b>Cllr Hoddinott</b> Has the data been received from the speed camera on the A1307?</p>	

