

Hampshire Police and Crime Panel

'Rural Crime 2017' Proactive Scrutiny: 7 April 2017

Request for Written Evidence

Deadline for receipt of responses: 3 March 2017

The following questions are being addressed to key stakeholders operating in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Your organisation's response to as many of these questions as are relevant will assist the Panel in its scrutiny and support of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) in his intention to keep rural communities across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight safe and secure.

The key questions of the proactive scrutiny are:

- How well have the PCC and his office worked with organisations engaged in the prevention of rural crime to foster partnership working and increase the sharing of information between agencies?
- How effective has the PCC been in engaging with rural communities to allay the fear of crime and increase the confidence of residents in protecting themselves from the risk of rural crime?
- What are the key concerns and priorities which need to be considered by the PCC to support the development of his new Rural Crime Strategy for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight?

You are welcome to use this document as a basis for your response, or submit a separate document if you prefer.

Name of Organisation Responding: HYDE PARISH COUNCIL

Contact Name and Contact Details:

- 1) How effective do you feel the PCC and his office have been in fostering a partnership approach to rural crime, and in encouraging the sharing of information between partners? What opportunities do you feel exist for greater engagement? **As a Parish Council we have had no contact with the PCC until recently when one of our councilors attended a workshop/meeting at Emery Down. We are waiting for the PCC to propose a policy to address the crime and concerns of the residents of this parish. Any engagement we have had as a Parish Council has been with the local police officers and at the moment we do not have a regular officer posted to Fordingbridge and the surrounding parishes.**

- 2) How well has PCC engaged with residents to help allay their fears of rural crime and encourage local communities to take measures to protect themselves against rural crime? Can you identify further examples of how the PCC might enhance this communication? **It is with regret Parish Council have had no contact with the PCC and the fears of our residents, many who are elderly has 'not' been allayed. The Parish Council would appreciate more communication especially in resolving problems and having issues addressed. We have a neighbourhood watch in the parish where information and knowledge is passed to the residents. Support of our N.W is important.**
- 3) How effective and efficient is the current policing response to rural crime? What role could the PCC take, at a strategic level, to support any improvements to this approach? **The Parish Council does not consider the response is effective for the residents. The main reason is the length of time to respond to a 999 call. The lack of a regular officer that our residents can recognise and have the confidence that the police will address their concerns.**
- 4) What would you identify as being the current key concerns in relation to rural crime?
The Parish Council would divide the concerns into two areas. Reportable crime and the other is the welfare of the residents. The parish continues to suffer from shed breaks and the appearance that the solving of these crimes and return of stolen property is of low priority. There is also the number of road accidents in the New Forest involving livestock and the distressing result. The welfare of the residents many who are elderly and vulnerable is the other priority. The problems of, on line crime, door knockers, and the fear they have that criminals are in their garden and sheds needs to be addressed.
- 5) What do you think should be the priorities for inclusion by the PCC in his new Rural Crime Strategy for Hampshire and the IOW? **Key to solving of the problems in this parish is the provision of enough rural police officers with knowledge of the parish and the rural issues. This is the only way crimes will be solved and the criminals brought to court and our residents will feel safe in their homes.**
- 6) Is there anything further that you can provide to the Panel that will assist us with our proactive scrutiny of this topic? **Yes the clear up rate of rural crime needs to be considered compared with urban crime by number of population/properties. The financial loss to residents and farmers should be compared with urban areas and also be related to the number of population/properties. This comparison will prove or disprove the rural population's impression that they are being targeted by criminals.**

The Panel thanks you for taking the time to respond to our request for written evidence; your responses will help Members identify areas for recommendation to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire. Please note, as evidence to a 'Select Committee' style inquiry, your responses will be published unless you specify that the content is not for publication.

Please return your responses to:

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Castle, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 8UJ

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It will assist the Panel's preparations for the event on 7 April 2017 if you can submit your
written evidence by 3 March 2017.