

Rural Engagement Team Newsletter

October 2022

MAKING ROADS SAFE

RET lead the force on rural road safety. The team carry out speed checks and vehicle stops across the county, directly responding to requests from local policing teams and parish councils.

WILDLIFE & HEATTAGE
CRIME OFFICER

Since January RET have seized 107 vehicles. 77 were uninsured. 30 were stolen.

We recovered 8 stolen caravans and were able to reunite some with their grateful owners. Other vehicles have included motorbikes, commercial vans and agricultural equipment.



RET have also arrested several drink and drug drivers following road safety stops and checks and they are currently awaiting court appearances.



Domestic abuse is all about control.

If you notice that someone seems to be controlled in all areas of their life, it could be a sign they are being abused.

SETDAB.org

Now there's a quick online alternative to calling 101 or visiting a police station:

DIGITAL 101



IN AN EMERGENCY ALWAYS CALL 999

Rural Engagement Team Newsletter



HARE COURSING SUCCESS



The illegal hare coursing season is underway, but 65% down on the same period last year. RET organised a meeting for our neighbouring forces and the Police helicopter at the Audley End Estate in Uttlesford to discuss action and swap ideas.

The same day, RET were called to hare coursers in a nearby field. 3 males with 4 dogs were detained and dealt with for trespassing with intent to hunt hares. Their vehicle was also seized.



The next day, RET attended another hare coursing incident. This time the suspects made off in a vehicle, ramming a RET vehicle to escape.

After a long pursuit the vehicle was bought to a stop in north London by a brave RET officer after a collision with the suspects vehicle. The driver admitted dangerous driving at court.

RET have seized 6 vehicles used for hare



coursing since the start of the season.

Rural Engagement Team Newsletter



DOG ATTACK

RET worked with Brentwood Council and Thorndon Country Park to resolve a dog attack on livestock in the park

The park is home to sheep. Three were attacked by one dog, with one being so seriously injured it had to be put down.



With agreement of the livestock owners, RET issued a Community Resolution requiring the dog owner to keep it muzzled in public, and pay compensation.

Please keep dogs under control around livestock.

STRAY HORSES

Two horses were found wandering the roads near Tilbury Port.

RET assisted local officers rounding up the escapee's. Sadly no owner could be found, and the horses were not micro chipped as required by law.



They are now being looked after by our horse contractor while enquiries continue to locate an owner.

If you own a horse, see the DEFRA website for details of microchipping and the database.

CANNABIS FARM OPERATION

RET assisted local officers with a proactive drugs warrant at a rural industrial unit in Uttlesford.

The building was found to contain large cannabis cultivation.

Four suspects were present. One made off across open fields and was caught by RET and arrested.



Rural Engagement Team Newsletter



ENCAMPMENTS FALL

RET deal with all reports of unauthorised encampments. This is where people and vehicles trespass on land intending to reside there.

Over the summer RET attended 52 encampments, down from 171 in 2018. This is a 70% reduction.

Sgt Felton said "It's about managing the rights of the people to enjoy their chosen way of life, and the concerns and rights of local communities. We are very sensitive to how we deal with them, but we are robust. Once the locals see we are coming back daily to monitor the sites, they understand that we're doing all we can.



FARM THEFTS

RET have identified a cluster of thefts of GPS units from farms in Tendring. Four farms were



targeted over the 13—14th October. GPS units and control screens were removed from farm vehicles. These are high value items.

RET are asking all farmers to lock their vehicles and keep them undercover at night if possible.

RET are working with surrounding forces and the National Vehicle Crime Intelligence Unit to identify the suspects.



Digital 101

You can report non-emergency crime by calling **101** or by using **Digital 101**, our quick and easy to use online service that's available at any time.





Digital 101 is available on the Essex Police website: essex.police.uk



If you, or anyone you know, is interested in protecting and serving Essex, you can follow us on social media, or search #FitTheBill