

News from Matthew Scott: Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner

Rural Campaign Newsletter

This summer we've been highlighting and raising awareness about various rural issues in Kent. July has been the PCC's month of action on fly-tipping, social isolation, speeding, antisocial behaviour amongst other important issues that rural communities face.

Fly-tipping is a scourge on our countryside, so Matthew went out with his team to speak directly with Farmers and stakeholders, such as the National Farmers Union to see the shocking scale of fly-tipping around the county.

It's not just individuals who're dumping rubbish illegally, its waste dumping on an industrial scale. Fake waste disposal companies are taking your money and rubbish and then dumping it on farmers' land, meaning they have to foot the bill to remove it.

Meanwhile their fields are contaminated and our food is polluted.

How to prevent it:

Bulky Waste (Fridges, sofas etc.) – your council is not obliged to remove this. However, many local authorities do provide a bulky waste collection

service. Please contact your local council for details.

If you are asking a third party (e.g. builder) to remove your waste as part of a job, you should ensure that they are a registered waste carrier. Ask to see their certificate, or alternatively check with the Environment Agency.

Report it

- If you report it, the rubbish can be removed and with your help the crime can be investigated. If you see someone fly-tipping, or you want to report an area where fly-tipping has taken place, take note of the following:
- Date, time and place of the incident.
- What the waste looks like and how much there is.
- Descriptions of any person and/or vehicles involved along with the registration number.
- Or you can report it via the [Country Eye](#) app. Just take a photograph and upload it to the app and tell them where it is.



Matthew Scott standing in front of a pile of fly-tipping with Amanda Corp from the National Farmers Union

What does the PCC do?

- Sets Kent Police's priorities
- Holds the Chief Constable to account
- Decides the budget and sets the policing part of your council tax

- Commissions services for victims
- Runs a custody visiting scheme
- Works with councils and others to prevent crime
- Chair of Bluelight Commercial, which leads on savings and improvements in policing's commercial capabilities

PCC out with the Rural Crime Taskforce

Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Scott, has also been out with the Rural Crime Task force who tackle many rural crimes. One such role is to apprehend those responsible for fly-tipping and those without relevant waste carrier licences. On this particular operation they pulled over trucks and vans suspected of illegal dumping and fined anyone without the correct paperwork during an operation in North Kent last month.



Rural Task Force round-up

July 2021

- 9 ARRESTS
- 12 TRAFFIC OFFENCE TICKETS ISSUED
- 26 VEHICLES SEIZED
- 4 DAYS TACKLING FLY-TIPPING ACROSS 7 DIFFERENT DISTRICTS



Talking to people who are directly impacted by rural crime was a vital part of the rural month of ac-



tion. In order to understand and appreciate the reality these people face, we put our wellies on and visited Farmers.

Matthew spent time at Ashford's Cattle Market, and heard about the problems of hare coursing and general trespassing. Farmers stated they don't mind you taking your dogs for walks on the designated paths, but please do respect the Countryside Code: close gates and keep dogs on leads around livestock. It was



pleasing to see the obvious strong partnerships the Rural Taskforce had created with local Farmers across the county.

Speeding on country roads is another issue about which we receive many complaints.

The Commissioner spent time with Community Speedwatch and heard about the excellent work this growing group of volunteers does. More than 1000 people give up their time to monitor the roads of Kent and in June alone they caught about 4500 cars driving too fast, which was 10% of all passing traffic. However, after that first warning 90% of speeding drivers are not caught again. Those who do are given further warnings then a fine. Thank you to those

who give up their own time to support the force in helping make our roads safer.



I'm happy to help you or answer questions—please do get in touch with me using the details below

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Phone: 01622 677055 | **Email:** contactyourpcc@kent.police.uk | **Website:** www.kent-pcc.gov.uk

Twitter: @PCCKent | **YouTube:** "Kent PCC's Office" | **Instagram:** @kent_opcc | **Facebook:** KentPCC | Nextdoor: Kent PCC

Antisocial behaviour in rural areas

The other issue which blights so many areas is antisocial behaviour, especially things like off-road bikes tearing round villages and the countryside.

To understand the issues more, the Commissioner met with community leaders, such as Kent Police, Community Wardens and the local MP Helen Grant in Cranbrook. They discussed the issues and want to encourage people to report every incident because if there are frequent complaints it can generate a 'Community Trigger', which forces relevant partners to work together to resolve the problem before it gets worse.



team for a lovely morning bringing old friends together again. The Rural Coffee team have started back up again travelling the length and breadth of the county in rural areas where it may be more difficult to get to more-populated areas. This is our third or fourth time joining the team in yet another location.

ing your views and issues over a cup of coffee, piece of cake whilst sitting in a rural area in Medway was an enjoyable experience.

To find out more, visit: [Coffee Project - Rural Kent - Action in Communities](#)



Talking helps

It's been nice to get back out to meet more of you too. Matthew Scott joined the Rural Coffee Project

Isolation has been one of the hardest things about the last 18 months and in very remote areas it can be harder still. Coming together, shar-

Respect the Kent countryside

