

Dawley and Malinslee Newsletter - 28 January 2019

Community Messages

01/02/19 - Livestock Worrying - Advice for Farmers & Landowners

The following advice for farmers & landowners is provided by [SHEEPWATCH](#) on how to reduce instances of livestock worrying as we head into early lambing season:

How can you better protect your sheep

1. Support education around keeping dogs on leads near sheep. Maybe put some posters up in your vets. Give a talk in the local school or other community groups. This may be a pain but it will be worth it.
2. Let dog walkers know when they are getting near to sheep so dog walkers can keep their dogs close and not allow them to charge through nearby fields - put signs up 'You are 200 meters from a sheep field'.
3. Let dog walkers know when sheep are in a field that they are about to enter 'Sheep in field - dogs on leads please'.
4. Keep signs up to date. If people keep entering a field that says 'sheep - dogs on leads' and then it is empty, people can become sign blind as they don't know which sign is true and which is out of date. Thus they begin to ignore all signs.
5. Don't forget to put your phone number on the gate so people know who to contact if they see an incident occur or discover injured sheep.
6. Where possible block access under gates.
7. If you see people crossing the land without a dog on a lead or not under proper control near sheep, confront them and let them know you will be informing the police as this is a crime. If it is safe to do so, photograph them and ask for their name and address. This could stop the dog attacking in the future and word soon gets about that you will not tolerate bad dog ownership.

How can farmers can help the police?

Early warnings: For police to intervene early and reduce the likelihood of a livestock attack, it is critical that poorly controlled dogs, dogs which are repeatedly escaping, or dogs trespassing from public footpaths are reported to the police.

The police and local authorities have options for enforcing responsible dog ownership and can also offer advice and help to dog owners.

Report in all cases: Livestock worrying is a crime and must be reported to the police in all cases.

Data from reported incidents create a picture of where incidents are happening; the police can then put in place prevention initiatives, including targeted educational material and signage.

Preserve evidence: Preserve attacked livestock for forensic examination. This can secure key evidence to identify the dogs involved. If it is raining or wet, please cover any carcasses with waterproof material such as tarpaulin, this will enable the police to obtain the best evidence. Take photographs and video (mobiles or a camera) of the attacked livestock, the whole scene as well as detailed close-ups and eartag numbers. If possible, obtain a veterinary examination - expert medical evidence is useful for subsequent prosecutions.

Contacting the police

Dial 999

Dogs worrying livestock is considered an emergency if it is taking place at the time and there is, or likely to be serious damage to livestock, so dial 999. Ask for the police and explain to the operator that there is a dog attacking livestock. To enable your call to be correctly graded, please stress to the operator that there either has been, or will be serious damage to your livestock.

Provide an accurate location and in remote areas please try to provide both OS grid co-ordinates and the location of the nearest road and point of interest. If possible, arrange to meet officers to guide them to the location.

Dial 101

If livestock has been attacked and the dogs have left the location, please use the 101 service. Ask for the relevant police force and explain to the operator what has happened. The operator will give you advice and explain how the force will handle your report.

If you are reporting intelligence on poorly controlled dogs, dogs regularly trespassing on farm land, escaping or being allowed to roam freely - then please either report to the local police via the 101 service or email your local force through the address on their website. Photographs and video footage can be attached to email reports.

What service should you expect from the police?

The police will investigate your report of crime - this may be over the phone or by sending officers depending on the circumstances.

If your report is being handled as an emergency you will be informed of this and officers will be dispatched to the location to identify the dog(s) and owner and investigate the offence.

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/56763/Livestock-Worrying---Advice-for-Farmers--Landowners>

30/01/19 - Cyber crime losses in West Mercia down by over half according to latest national statistics

Cyber dependent crime losses in West Mercia have dropped by over half in the six month period April - September 2018, compared with the previous six months.

Losses for West Mercia of some £227K compare with a national increase in total losses of nearly a quarter, at 24%.

Reporting of cyber crime in West Mercia has also dropped by over 1.7% in the same period, compared with a national increase of just under 8%.

These are among the latest statistics released by the City of London Police's National Fraud Intelligence Bureau in their cyber crime report of 27 January (see <https://www.cityoflondon.police.uk/Pages/default.aspx>).

The figures include details such as the number of reports of cyber crimes made to Action Fraud and the amount of money lost by victims in each police force area. The cyber 'dashboards' show the impact that this kind of crime can have in a local area.

For West Mercia, it is also estimated that at least 74% of all reported fraud crime was cyber enabled (i.e. the fraud crime was made possible via the use of a computer or device).

Other statistics in the report for West Mercia indicate that people aged between 40 - 49 suffered the greatest from this type of offence.

The highest losses to the public in West Mercia due to cyber dependent crime were as a result of 'hacking' of their social media and e-mail, with this type of hacking also being the most reported crime.

However, whilst individuals incurred 84% of such crime, businesses were also targeted, representing 13% of the total. This is similar to national figures.

The top 'malware' (malicious software) method of attack used for such crimes in the period was 'Multi-purpose' malware, with 876 devices being infected.

Detective Inspector Emma Wright, of the Economic Crime Unit, said:

"It is good news that West Mercia has seen a decrease in victim losses from cyber dependent crime.

"The reduction in losses may be as a result of people taking on board our 'Cyber Protect and Prepare' key messages, which we have worked hard to convey to the public and businesses, working closely with our partner agencies.

"West Mercia has also seen a decrease in reporting. However, we know that cyber crime is under-reported so we continue to encourage the public and businesses to report cyber crimes to Action Fraud - the national reporting centre.

"Whilst cyber dependent crime remains fairly low, the figures show that for West Mercia around 75% of all fraud is cyber enabled and this is a figure we would like to see come down.

"We have taken significant steps to combat and reduce this type of crime, and are working closely with our partners across West Mercia. We have recently established a team of cyber intelligence and investigative staff, with more equipment and training coming through soon. This will enable us to devote more resources to cyber dependent investigations and bear down harder on cyber criminals.

"However, as always, our best results are achieved by working closely with the public and business. They should be on their guard at all times and report any cyber crime to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or 0300 123 2040.

"Remember the following simple ways to guard against cyber crime:

- ensure you use strong, separate email passwords for your email account.
- protect yourself from cyber crime - always install the latest software and app updates on your phone and computers, as they contain vital security updates, helping protect your device from viruses and hackers.
- consider also enabling two factor authentication (also known as two step authentication or two step login) where services support it.

"Don't be the next cyber victim.

"Members of the public can also find up to date advice and tips on preventing cyber crime at our force website and by following our Digital Police Community Support Officer James Squire, on Twitter - @cyberpcso."

The City of London Police is the national policing lead for fraud, a founding member of the Global Cyber Alliance and hosts Action Fraud, the national reporting centre for cyber crime.

Full statistics for the period April - September 2018 are on the City of London Cyber Crime 'dashboard' published today.

Statistics for West Mercia include:

Victim losses: £227,316 (compared with £521,336 previously, down 56.4%)

Cyber reporting: 238 cyber dependent crimes (down 1.7%)

Reports of Hacking - social media/email: 86

Victim losses from Hacking - social media/e-mail: £99K

****End of Message ****

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/56677/Cyber-crime-losses-in-West-Mercia-down-by-over-half-according-to-latest-national-statistics>

30/01/19 - New support service that gives victims a voice - Victim Advice Line

As part of Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion's commitment to ensuring victims of crime receive an improved and more consistent service, a new support function in the form of the Victim Advice Line is launching in West Mercia.

Wanting to know if victims of crime felt fully supported, Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion carried out a consultation with a number of people who gave a clear mandate for wanting things to be done differently.

The victims stated they wanted a single point of entry into support, they wanted quick updates on their case, and they also wanted to have greater ownership of their journey and help shape it themselves - as opposed to being labelled by a type of crime and having a 'one size fits all' support package.

The outcomes from the consultation have shaped all that the Victim Advice Line (VAL) is aiming to deliver when it goes live on 1st April 2019. The VAL will be replacing the initial needs assessment function that has previously been provided by Victim Support and will remove many layers within the victim's journey, meaning they will have a clearer pathway of support and they won't need to repeat their story multiple times.

The Victim Advice Line will be made up of a team of expert and fully trained Victim Care Coordinators who will help the victim when they come through to the service, be it through police, third party or self-referral (the crime doesn't have to have been reported to the police). The victim may then be referred onto other specialist services, dependent on the level of support they may need.

This type of model is being seen as best practice and a flagship across the country in delivering support to victims, having already been adopted by other PCCs and police forces.

Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion said: "Whilst the contract we had with Victim Support was good, in order to provide victims with what they wanted we needed to make some fundamental changes.

"The Victim Advice Line will look at an individual and make sure they're getting the level of support they need. They won't be given a pre-determined package, they'll be given support that is completely tailored to them. By doing this we hope to give victims greater confidence and satisfaction that will help in moving forward with their life."

"The service will also allow better multi-agency working, such as with the police and other support services, which will ensure victims are supported throughout the entire criminal justice system from the very beginning of their journey through to the end."

Assistant Chief Constable Martin Evans said: "I have been working closely with the PCC's office for a number of months and I am delighted to see that the new Victim Advice Line will be going live on 1st April. West Mercia strives to put victims at the heart of what we do and the support that the Victim Advice Line will provide alongside us will be invaluable."

"The majority of staff that will be working within the Victim Advice Line already have a great deal of experience in supporting victims of crime and their enthusiasm and determination to provide the best service possible is very clear to see."

****End of Message ***

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/56676/New-support-service-that-gives-victims-a-voice---Victim-Advice-Line>

29/01/19 - PCC Pledges to Drive Improvements with Policing Budget

PCC Pledges to Drive Improvements with Policing Budget

John Champion is promising to ensure policing improvements are delivered in communities across West Mercia, as plans are confirmed to increase local budgets by £13m.

75% of people supported the Commissioner's proposals in a recent consultation, which would see an extra 115 officers recruited in West Mercia and take the force to its highest officer numbers since 2012. That uplift would cost the average home an extra £1.60 per month in council tax.

A series of measures are in the budget to ensure communities get the best return on that investment. Key improvements have been agreed with the Chief Constable around things such as emergency response times, police community visibility and unresourced incidents.

John Champion said: "Our communities have been clear that they support our police and want to see more officers tackling crime and keeping us safe. I have listened to that feedback and my budget delivers the resources the Chief Constable has told me he needs."

"The public are trusting more of their hard earned money to me with a justified expectation that it will be used wisely and services will improve. I will work tirelessly to make sure they get best value and return for that investment."

"This will not be a case of simply pouring more money into the force and hoping for the best. I have agreed some challenging targets with the Chief Constable and will follow those up in the months ahead to make sure our communities are getting the service they need and deserve."

The Commissioner's final budget proposals also include more money for tackling rural crime, CCTV schemes, road safety, and effective schemes to prevent crime in our communities.

West Mercia's Police and Crime Panel will scrutinise the plans next month.

***Message ends ***

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/56631/PCC-Pledges-to-Drive-Improvements-with-Policing-Budget>

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