

## HOOK FOCUS/JUNE 2020 ISSUE

# COUNTY MATTERS

### NEWS FROM HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

*Jonathan Glen, County Councillor for  
Hook, Odiham and the Western Parishes*

It's good to be in touch again, and yes, I plan to report on the 'C' word.....CRIME.

I imagine you all have probably heard enough about the coronavirus measures currently in place (and changing every day) but in these challenging times it is frustrating that there are always people who will take advantage of the situation and make it even more difficult. However, petty crime is actually an issue we can do something about now.

Jennifer Lovegrove, our new Hart District Inspector for the police, recently asked me to share my thoughts on local crime. Since COVID-19 took over our lives, our rural communities have been feeling particularly isolated and vulnerable. There has been an increase in rural crime throughout Northern Hampshire which includes theft of quad bikes, burglaries to farms, and garage break-ins. Luckily, Hart has not been affected as much as other districts.

There are special operations in place to target this type of offending and in Hart there is now a new Engagement & Prevention Plan in place to ensure that this level of criminal activity does not escalate. In early May, Hart suffered from a small increase in minor burglaries, particularly in Crondall. Our new Inspector is passionate about rural policing and targeting those responsible, and teams have now been set up to tackle these challenges.

Thanks to their vigilance and community support the police have recently made arrests at a site in Hartley Wintney where several of the Crondall items were recovered, and a suspicious car stopped and searched in Hook Road, with the result the driver was arrested for intent to commit a crime.

In addition, I was informed and have reported on the following:

*Councillor Jonathan Glen  
jonathan.glen@hants.gov.uk*

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- Bicycle thefts in Rotherwick, where entry was probably made from the fields.
- Rotherwick Woods – you may be aware that a company is advertising land for sale along the Hook Road, where reports have come in of suspicious campsites there appearing at random. Hart District Council and the police are aware and are watching the situation.
- Over three months ago there was a spate of burglaries in Holt Park. The MO was to engage youngsters to monitor residents' movements and report back to their criminal masters when houses were likely to be empty. Access had been gained through back doors, keys taken and selected cars driven away. There have also been incidents of 'key-less' car thefts, where the criminals replicate the signals from wireless key fobs. Keep your keyrings out of sight and as far from the vehicles as possible!

There is also anecdotal evidence of 'county-lines' activity along the Holt Lane track from the bridleway bridge over the M3. This allows east entry north and south of the motorway.

If you have outside lights you might consider leaving them on at night to deter opportunist burglars. As ever, if you see any suspicious behaviour or activity that makes you uncomfortable, please make a note of when and where and email myself and Jennifer ([jennifer.lovegrove@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:jennifer.lovegrove@hampshire.pnn.police.uk))

Stay alert and stay well!

*Councillor Jonathan Glen*  
*jonathan.glen@hants.gov.uk*