

May 2021

FIGHTING CRIME

OUR WEEK OF ACTION AGAINST METAL THEFT



The Rural Engagement Team were fully committed to supporting the national operation to combat metal theft.

Essex Police ran a week long operation across the force area where each policing area committed their staff to the operation.

The Rural Engagement team worked in partnership with Local Authorities and we visited 24 Scrap Metal Dealers, 10 Vehicle breakers and

stopped 6 Mobile scrap metal collectors during the week.

We seized a stolen trailer and are making enquiries into an amount of cable found at one site.



For up-to-date information about **Coronavirus (COVID-19)** in Essex, please check essex.gov.uk/coronavirus* and make sure you **#StaySafeEssex**

* thurrock.gov.uk

[southend-on-sea](https://southend-on-sea.gov.uk)

in **Thurrock**, please check thurrock.gov.uk/coronavirus
or in **Southend-on-Sea**, please check southend.gov.uk/coronavirus

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



Do it online at:
essex.police.uk

**IN AN EMERGENCY
ALWAYS CALL 999**

The purpose of our visits was to ensure that all were compliant with legislation relating to their business and to ensure that stolen items weren't being easily disposed of. In doing so, Essex Police and the Local Authorities can be sure that criminals are denied an easy opportunity to dispose of their stolen items.



A total of 16 motorists were prosecuted for minor road traffic offences and one driver had his vehicle seized when it was discovered that he was driving without a drivers licence.

FLY TIPPING



We continue our work with the Environment Agency and the Local Authorities tackling fly tipping.

So what will one of our operations look like?

We'll arrange a day of action with one of the Local Authorities and set up a multi-agency check point as well as mobile Police patrols.

Having selected a suitable location we'll stop any waste carrying vehicle and ensure that all documentation is in order. This includes motoring documentation as well as waste carrier licences and waste transfer notices.

In April this year we held those operations in Heybridge, Basildon and on the Dengie.

We stopped 136 vehicles and 6 of those were prosecuted for minor road traffic offences. One driver was arrested when it was discovered that he was wanted for questioning regarding a domestic assault. He was also driving without a drivers licence and his vehicle was seized.

The Local Authority prosecuted 6 others for waste offences and issued warnings to 10 others for minor breaches.



The NFU in partnership with the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner and Essex Police have produced a wallet card offering good advice regarding the reporting of hare coursing.

1. Report every incident—if it's live 999, otherwise 101 or online
2. Clearly state 'hare coursing'
3. Provide exact location (use what3words app)



4. Get photos or details of people and dogs
5. Get vehicle details—make, colour, registration
6. Be discreet. Approaching hare coursers may be inflammatory
7. Note down crime reference number
8. Share intelligence with farmwatch, local whatsapp and speak to an NFU rep.

REPORTING OF CRIME



It is believed that there is still crime that is not being reported throughout Rural Essex. That could be fly tipping, is it happening at the same location time and time again? Hare coursing happens post harvest, are you reporting it? Are you telling us

about what matters to you. We base our patrols upon crime reporting and spend most of our time in the hardest hit rural areas.

Why should I report crime?

Not all crimes require an immediate police response but they do need to be recorded. Be assured that there is far more going on behind the scenes than you will see. We are listening, we are mapping rural crime and we are on patrol where we are needed most.

Report all emergencies via 999, all other matters please either do it on line or call us on 101.

Call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

So when we're not on patrol in your area, what are we doing?.

We work in partnership with Border Force and can be found climbing through lorries at Harwich Port to ensure that stolen items aren't being smuggled out of the country. Pc Jed Raven is pictured examining the contents of one of the lorries stopped.

We also run various operations to target the travelling criminal and recently ran one of those operations on the Essex & Suffolk border. The operation involved both Suffolk and Essex Police and we had the assistance of our road crime unit.

We used mobile ANPR (automatic number plate recognition) and this resulted in 5 drivers reported for no insurance. We seized their vehicles together with one for no road tax. One driver failed to stop and abandoned his vehicle following a pursuit. The vehicle was seized and the registered owner is assisting Suffolk Police with their enquiries.



We oversee all investigations relating to the theft of Plant and Agricultural equipment, ensuring that all identification markings and lines of enquiry are recorded and followed.

Our wildlife officers also oversee all investigations relating to wildlife, offering assistance and guidance to officers across the force and take ownership of complex investigations.

THE AL CAPONE METHOD !

The Rural Engagement Team have been working with the Environment Agency in relation to illegal waste disposal at an industrial level.

Our team stopped a heavy goods vehicle owned by the company being investigated. The vehicle was used for waste transfer but had been previously prohibited from being used due to a dangerous condition.

Following some good partnership working the company was taken to court and fined the maximum permissible for the offences. A total of £17000 (£5000 for each offence, £1500 court costs and £500 victim surcharge).

UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENTS

In April our team have attended and managed 16 unauthorised encampments across the force area.

Those encampments were at Basildon, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Colchester, Epping, Rayleigh, Thurrock and Uttlesford.

While the majority of the encampments lived in harmony with local communities one group decided to behave in an inappropriate manner and police intervention was required.

The team received praise from those affected and our from senior command team for 'their swift and professional action'



RURAL PATROL

If you see us out and about please don't hesitate to stop us to discuss any concerns that you have.

As covid restrictions ease we will be arranging events to allow us to get together with our rural communities and we look forward to meeting with you soon.

Remember.....**Report Rural Crime**

RURAL ROAD SAFETY

We have been conducting road safety checks in the villages and rural locations. If you would like to see us in your village please email the team rural.engagement.team@essex.police.uk.

In April we seized a total of 17 vehicles and dealt with several motorists for minor road traffic matters.

One driver was arrested following a positive road-side drug wipe test.



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](https://www.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**

**#FIT THE
BILL**