

**14<sup>th</sup> July 2015****Agenda Item: 7****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR ACCESS AND PUBLIC  
PROTECTION.****COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE****Purpose of the Report**

1. To update the Community Safety Committee about key Community Safety matters.

**Information and Advice****The Control of Horses Act 2015.**

2. The Control of Horses Act 2015 received Royal Assent on 26 March 2015. This bill has been supported by a coalition of animal welfare charities and rural organisations, made up of the British Horse Society, Redwings Horse Sanctuary, RSPCA, World Horse Welfare, Blue Cross, CLA, Countryside Alliance, HorseWorld, Local Government Association and NFU.
3. The new law aims to tackle the increasing incidents of fly-grazing, where horses are left on private and public land without permission.
4. As with the Control of Horses Act (Wales), which came into effect in January 2014, the bill gives English authorities greater powers to seize horses grazing illegally. They will now be able to take action after four days rather than a minimum of two weeks, as previously.
5. In response to this new legislation an officer from the community safety team is working with district council officers to create a cross local authority protocol for dealing with fly grazing incidents, with a short term goal to identify key people within districts as a single point of contact for fly-grazing incidents.

**Gypsy & Traveller Liaison Update**

6. **Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month** - takes place every year in June and highlights the collective history, experiences and culture of the various Traveller communities. The event also aims to offset the negative stereotyping and prejudices that have led to the situation where The Children's Society reported (Nov 2007) that nearly 9 out of every 10 children and young people from a Gypsy background had suffered racial abuse and nearly

two thirds had also been bullied or physically attacked. Unfortunately, travelling communities still suffer from being subjected to racism.

7. In partnership with various schools the County Council is undertaking a pilot project with the following aims:
  - To challenge negative perceptions of the Gypsy Traveller communities
  - To support schools in the development of their spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development and British Values agenda
  - To promote tolerance of and respect for people of other cultures and lifestyles
  - To use Gypsy Traveller culture as a stimulus for creative writing (poetry competition)
  - To contribute to the Closing the Gap agenda (raising attainment in writing)
8. The project will be high profile, as it is the first of such for Nottinghamshire. We will be hosting a celebration event on 16<sup>th</sup> July, to include all participating schools.
9. Funding was agreed via the Safer Nottinghamshire Board Hate Crime Steering Group to show four performances of the play 'Crystals Vardo' performed by a drama company from Friends and Families and Travellers – (Brighton). These performances took place in schools in the Ollerton areas, and included secondary and feeder primary schools.
10. Funding was also accessed via the Community & Voluntary Sector team to support two other events during the month:
  - Renowned, Traveller Story teller, Richard O'Neill visited schools to stimulate creative writing, particularly poetry, supporting raising attainment.
  - A visiting traditional Gypsy wagon from Gordon Boswell's Romany Museum to stimulate creative writing and discussion about Gypsy Traveller culture.

### **“Respect & Tolerance” campaign**

11. A Community Safety Officer is currently co-ordinating the “Respect and Tolerance” campaign across the county, which is scheduled to go live in September 2015. The aim is to have a co-ordinated response to engage children and young people in creative participation and give them a real voice and say in preventing bullying, hate crime and prejudice and promoting respect and tolerance across the county.
12. The work will contribute towards this year's national “Make a Noise about Bullying” campaign and provide the participation mechanism for children and young people to engage with the County Hate Crime campaign. The campaign will also link in to the Nottinghamshire High Sheriff's focus on Health and Emotional Well-being. The High Sheriff will help to champion these best practice projects at a local and national level.
13. Working with colleagues across other NCC departments (including Targeted Support, Supporting Families, Youth Arts and Achievement and Equality) and external partners, including the National Crime Beat winners from Merseyside MD Productions, this campaign, which is currently under development, will include a number of showcasing events and

projects over the next year. The first of which was the work with schools during Gypsy Traveller Month, outlined above. I will keep you updated as this campaign develops.

### **Review of Partnership Plus Areas and Improved Integrated Locality Working.**

14. The Community Safety Team have been an integral part of the review team examining the impact of Partnership Plus Areas in the County and the associated project to look at how services can be improved by better integration between agencies and with communities.
15. The team has recommended, that for Partnership Plus Areas to be as effective as possible in the future they must be able to evidence robust partnership action plans, giving clear information on the problems/issues occurring in the area, the problems that are underlying these issues, good practice from elsewhere that could be used, and measurable actions and inputs that will be adopted to tackle the problems. They must also demonstrate how communities and local people have been part of the process, both in identifying the issues but also forming part of the solution.
16. Specifically this will include an approach that:-
  - Is local by default
  - Enables agencies to work together to solve problems
  - Promotes early intervention
  - Enables community engagement and empowerment
  - Develops a shared definition of neighbourhoods
  - Adopts a problem solving approach
  - Shares data and intelligence
  - Aligns budgets and resources
  - Offers a medium to long term commitment
17. The Team has been working with partners in the Community Safety Partnerships, via a series of workshops, to offer advice and guidance on the key elements of Retail/business crime, Performance and Evaluation and Consultation and Engagement. The workshops were designed to improve working methods within Partnership Plus Areas and to offer guidance to agencies on how to better integrate work in these key areas. As a result Partnership Plus Areas will now, better utilise local information and awareness, offer training to relevant Chairs and improve their reporting and accounting procedures, both to their Community safety partnership but also to the Police and Crime Commissioner, the County Council and their local communities.
18. Partnership Plus outcomes will now promote an approach that enables:-
  - Services that are designed around citizens
  - Early intervention
  - Joined up problem solving that highlights the real, rather than the perceived problem
  - Improved trust confidence and satisfaction by service users
  - A seamless service
  - Community empowerment
  - Reduced demand

- Increased efficiency and effectiveness
- Reduced threat, harm and risk

19. The Police and Crime Commissioner for Nottinghamshire has confirmed that funding from his office for Partnership Plus Areas (£300k) will remain in place until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015. This committee has allocated £140k for Partnership Plus Areas during 2015/16. This review will ensure the most effective use of this funding. Further reports will be brought to this committee as the work develops further.

### **The National Rural Crime Network website and Crime Survey.**

20. The National Rural Crime Network (NRCN) champions a better understanding of crime in rural areas, and new, effective ways to help to keep rural communities safer. The National Rural Crime website went live in May 2015 and can be accessed via: <http://www.nationalruralcrimenetwork.net>

21. The National Rural Crime Network (NRCN) is concerned with all crime and anti-social behaviour occurring in rural areas. This includes problems typically associated with the countryside such as wildlife and heritage crime, farm equipment and animal thefts. However, there have been very substantial increases in fraud and other scams, with criminals deliberately targeting isolated, vulnerable people.

22. This year the NRCN commissioned the biggest ever survey to uncover the true impact of policing and crime in rural areas. The survey, which closed on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2015, called for people who work or live in rural areas to come forward and give their views on policing in their community, the impact crime and ASB has on them and their neighbours and to ultimately help shape the future of crime prevention and rural policing.

23. An officer from the community safety team will be monitoring the NRCN website to help collate and implement good practice across the County, as well as monitoring the results of the crime survey.

### **Impact of the County Council Car Cruising Injunction**

24. As previously reported, the Community Safety Team has taken a lead role in the development and implementation of a multi-site injunction to prevent car cruising in Nottinghamshire. This came into force in January 2015, and built on the success of an earlier injunction (2014) in Netherfield and Colwick.

25. Car cruising can be dangerous to both participants and spectators, and causes much annoyance and inconvenience for local communities. Car cruising can also have a substantial call on the staff and resources of the Council and partner agencies including the police, ambulance, and the fire and rescue service. The injunction, regarded as a model of good practice around the UK, prevents car cruising activity from taking place at known hot spot locations, namely:-

- Roads in and around Victoria Retail Park, Netherfield
- Roads in and around Junction 27 of the M1
- Roads in and around Chilwell Retail Park, Chilwell

26. The injunction has given out a clear message that car cruising, including racing, riding in convoy, driving at excessive speed and drifting (driving sideways around traffic islands etc.), will not be tolerated in Nottinghamshire. The Community Safety Team have been working collaboratively with Nottinghamshire Police and the Community Safety Partnerships to ensure that car cruising does not re-emerge across the County.
27. An example of the success of this approach, and the ongoing positive impact of the injunction has recently been seen in the locality of Junction 27, where more than 50 drivers were stopped by Police during a recent operation. Most of those stopped were reminded about the injunction in place in the area, and no further action was required.
28. However several motorists, who were driving in an anti-social manner, were issued with first breach injunctions – a final warning that their details were being recorded, and that they would face charges if they were found to be in breach of the injunction in the future. Once issued with the warnings, those motorists amended their behaviour.
29. In another example, a car enthusiast group organised an event on the 8 June 2015 in Chilwell for car owners to display their vehicles, inviting interested members of the public to come and view the vehicles. The event was organised to be held in the car park of a public house. As a result of the injunction, the organisers knew exactly how this event had to be organised to keep the public safe and to keep the event within the law.
30. The injunction also meant that partner organisations were clear about both their individual and collective roles and responsibilities. Approximately 60 vehicles were displayed and attracted good public attendance (an estimated 250 people). Nottinghamshire Police reported no significant incidents related to the event, and used the event as an opportunity to liaise and share relevant information with car enthusiasts.
31. The injunction continues to have a very positive impact on the prevention of car cruising within Nottinghamshire. Partners are keen to express their thanks to the County Council and the Community Safety Team for tackling this issue. The injunction remains in place until January 2018. The Community Safety Team will continue to ensure that it is utilised to maximum effect.

## **Connecting Communities (C2) Update**

32. The Connecting Communities Partnership Steering group that is taking forward the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) funded approach to working with communities is holding a Listening Event on Saturday 11 July to hear from local residents in New Cross in Ashfield about what it is like to live in this area.
33. The Connecting Communities Steering Group is made up of local residents and partner organisations, including the Nottinghamshire County Council (Community Safety Team), Ashfield District Council and Nottinghamshire Police. On Saturday 18 July the Feedback Event will be held so that residents can hear the findings of the collated views expressed at the initial event and start to look at how best to work together on the issues raised.
34. This is the third area of the County where the Connecting Communities approach is being implemented; Hucknall and Daybrook have already held their events and are now

progressing the action plans that have been subsequently developed. For example the Steering Group in Hucknall have three action plans which cover highway issues, environmental issues and antisocial behaviour. Activities undertaken include litter picks and gardening tidying involving residents and organisations.

35. As previously reported C2 connects communities in 3 different ways:

- Within themselves – networks and co-operation amongst residents
- With local service providers – building a parallel ‘community’ amongst front-line workers
- With other C2 communities – getting and giving inspiration directly from one place to another

36. C2 works by harnessing the collective strengths of the people who live in a neighbourhood, the residents, together with the people who work there, the service providers, police officers, teachers, nurses, housing officers and others.

37. C2 is described as a cost effective way of reconnecting both local residents and frontline service providers to jointly improve health, well-being and local conditions in disadvantaged areas via the creation of a ‘People and Services Partnership’.

## **Other Options Considered**

38. None

## **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

39. This report is a regular update to the Community Safety Committee to keep them abreast of local and national developments and our community safety work.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

40. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1) It is recommended that the Community Safety Committee notes the various development's in the areas of work contained within this report.

**PAUL MCKAY**  
**Service Director, Access & Public Protection**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact: Sarah Houlton, Team Manager Trading Standards & Community Safety x 72460 or Yvette Armstrong, Community Safety Officer, Trading Standards & Community Safety x 73058.**

## **Constitutional Comments**

As this report is for noting only, no constitutional comments are required.

## **Financial Comments**

There are no financial implications contained within this report.

## **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972:

- The Control of Horses Act 2015.
- National Rural Crime Network Survey (NRCN) 2015

## **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All