

## ESSEX POLICE LAUNCH NEW RURAL CRIME STRATEGY



On Thursday 16th November a new Essex Police Rural Crime Strategy was launched at a partnership event jointly hosted by Essex Police, the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and Essex Rural Partnership.

The launch was held at Stow Maries Aerodrome and was followed by 'Fighting Rural Crime' - an information event where members of the public were able to visit over exhibitor stands showcasing the work of Police departments and partner organisations.

The event was deemed as a huge success with many partners joining us on the day to show support, and to learn about plans and challenges in the future. Keynote speeches were given by Roger Hirst (Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner), Cllr Simon Walsh (Chair of Essex Rural Partnership) and Stephen Kavanagh (Chief Constable). Chief Inspector Ian Gennery (Local Policing Support Unit) and Mrs Suzanne Harris (on behalf of Essex Rural Partnership) provided an informative presentation about the content of the strategy to an invited audience. Jane Gardner (Deputy Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner), spoke of the hard work and commitment that had been given to create the new strategy.

Roger Hirst and Stephen Kavanagh both showed tremendous support for the new strategy, recognising the needs of rural communities and businesses, and pledging continued support from Essex Police.

The event was open to the public in the afternoon where visitors were treated to entertaining and informative displays from the Dog Unit & Drone Operators.



Alongside the Strategy, a short information booklet 'Fighting Rural Crime' was published and launched on 16th November. To view the Essex Police Rural Crime booklet [Please click here](#)

Printed copies can be obtained by contacting Lizzie Rose at ERP: [elizabeth.rose@essexrcc.org.uk](mailto:elizabeth.rose@essexrcc.org.uk)

## ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY CONFIRMS SENTIENCE OF ANIMALS WILL CONTINUE TO BE RECOGNISED AND PROTECTIONS STRENGTHENED WHEN WE LEAVE THE EU



Michael Gove has set out the government's position on animal sentience after we leave the EU. Mr Gove made a Written Ministerial Statement: This Government is committed to the very highest standards of animal welfare. As the Prime Minister has set out, we will make the United Kingdom a world leader in the care and protection of animals.

It has been suggested that the vote last week on New Clause 30 of the EU Withdrawal Bill somehow signaled a weakening in the protection of animals - that is wrong. Voting against the amendment was not a vote against the idea that animals are sentient and feel pain - that is a misconception.

Ministers explained on the floor of the house that this Government's policies on animal welfare are driven by our recognition that animals are indeed sentient beings and we are acting energetically to reduce the risk of harm to animals – whether on farms or in the wild. The vote against New Clause 30 was the rejection of a faulty amendment, which would not have achieved its stated aims of providing appropriate protection for animals.

The Prime Minister has made clear that we will strengthen our animal welfare rules. This government will ensure that any necessary changes required to UK law are made in a rigorous and comprehensive way to ensure animal sentience is recognised after we leave the EU. The Withdrawal Bill is not the right place to address this, however we are considering the right legislative vehicle.

To read the full statement please [click here](#)

## LEAF OPEN FARM SUNDAY 2018 - 10TH JUNE



Be part of The Great British Farm Day

Hundreds of farms all over the country will open their gates for LEAF Open Farm Sunday 2018 on the 10th June. As the farming industry's annual open day, it offers a fantastic chance for people to discover real farming at first hand and see for themselves how their food (and much more besides) is produced. It is also a great way for farmers to shine a light on what they deliver and why supporting British farming matters.

To get involved in LEAF Open Farm Sunday 2018, register your event from the 1st November 2017 here.

All host farmers receive a huge range of fabulous free resources and support.

For further information please [click here](#)

## BIOFUEL 'COULD HEAT RURAL HOMES'



Many rural homes could be heated by vegetable oil within the next five years, claims an industry report. Rural homes currently heated by oil could switch to a renewable alternative, such as a vegetable oil blend, by as early as 2022, it says. The report is by OFTEC, the trade association for the oil heating industry. It says biofuels could play an important role in reducing carbon emissions from rural homes and provide a long term, sustainable solution for rural heating.

Malcolm Farrow from OFTEC, said: "Oil heating is incredibly popular due to its low price and flexibility. But we are all being encouraged to take steps to reduce our carbon emissions and, although it may sound strange, vegetable oil could be the key." Switching oil using homes to a biofuel represented the best of both worlds, claimed Mr Farrow.

"Households could continue to enjoy the benefits of a liquid fuel, such as topping up when they want and shopping around for the best price, whilst also drastically cutting their carbon emissions.

To read further please [click here](#)

## COMMISSION SEEKS TO IMPROVE RURAL LIFE



An independent high-profile commission aims to improve life for rural communities after the UK leaves the European Union. The Royal Society for the encouragement of the Arts, Manufactures and Commerce launched the Food, Farming and Countryside Commission on Wednesday (1 November). A major, two-year independent inquiry, it is being funded by Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, and chaired by businessman and Barclays UK chairman Sir

Ian Cheshire. Commissioners are rural stakeholders from across the rural spectrum – including the environmental, health and farming sectors. It will consider how post-Brexit Britain can achieve a safe, secure, inclusive food and farming system, a flourishing rural economy and a sustainable and accessible countryside.

The commission will listen to countryside groups and devise solutions to improve public health, sustainability and rural communities outside of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy.

The Royal Society said it was essential to think afresh about food, farming and rural communities – and how we invest in the many benefits the countryside provides.

For the full article please [click here](#)

## GROWING COMMUNITIES HEALTHY PACKED LUNCH PLOT COMPETITION RETURNS! – PLEASE HELP SPREAD THE WORD



### WIN ALLOTMENT EQUIPMENT FOR YOUR SCHOOL AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO PLANT YOUR DESIGN!

Growing Communities invites all children in primary schools and special schools of Essex to take part in designing a healthy kitchen garden plot and also create a recipe for a healthy packed lunch using the produce.

The age groups for the competition are: Infants (Years R,1&2) and Junior (Years 3-6)

Think about the vegetables, fruit and herbs that could easily be grown at school or at home and when harvested, could be used to make the perfect healthy packed lunch. The 'dish' can be sweet or savoury but must include the produce from the plot. You can also use additional ingredients for example: pasta, rice, bread, couscous, meat, fish or chicken and not forgetting some seasoning!

We want to hear some exciting and new ideas for lunches, try putting a twist on the usual packed lunch and create an explosion for the taste buds!

**The FIRST 20 Primary Schools and FIRST 8 Special Schools to register will receive a PLANTING KIT kindly sponsored by Perrywood Garden Explorers.**

**All applications received by Friday 12th January 2018 will receive FREE seeds, kindly sponsored by Kings Seeds. For more information on the competition [please click here](#)**

## FESTIVE SPIRIT



Festive free parking will return to Maldon this Christmas. Town centre pay and display car parks will be free to people visiting the town on December 9, 16 and 23. Normal charges will apply at Promenade Park during these periods. Bob Boyce MBE, chairman of the Maldon District Council's Community Services Committee, said: "I am delighted to announce that there will be free parking in all Maldon town centre pay and display car parks including the council offices car park, on Saturdays 9, 16 December and 23 December. **Normal charges apply at all other times.**



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