

GOVERNMENT STEPS UP THE FIGHT AGAINST WASTE CRIMINALS



The fight to tackle scourge of waste crime takes another step forward as Michael Gove announces a comprehensive review to beef up the government's approach.

Waste criminals act illegally to evade landfill tax, undercut responsible waste disposal businesses, operate illegal waste sites, export waste illegally and fly-tip - blighting communities with bad smells, fly infestations and fires.

Their activity cost the English economy more than £600 million in 2015 and the review announced by the Environment Secretary on June 10th is the next step in the government's ongoing work to tackle the crime - which is already a serious offence with tough penalties.

A Call for Evidence just launched will enable a wide group of people to have their say on ways to crack-down further on Organised Crime Groups (OCGs), who profit from waste crime.

The review will be chaired by Lizzie Noel, a Non-Executive Director at Defra.

The review will:

- Consider the types of crimes being committed and organised crime groups involved;
- Consider the environmental, community and economic impacts of serious and organised waste crime;
- Consider how the Environment Agency, other organisations, and the law enforcement system can work together to tackle the threat;
- Make recommendations for a strategic approach to serious and organised waste crime.

Please [click here](#) for the full article

COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO INVESTIGATE THE RURAL ECONOMY



The House of Lords has appointed an ad hoc Select Committee to consider and report on the Rural Economy.

Chairman of the Committee, Lord Foster of Bath, said:

"There are around 9.4 million people living in rural areas of England whose businesses and services contributed an estimated £229 billion to England's total economy in 2016. But the rural economy still suffers from a range of problems, including patchy infrastructure, expensive housing and limited services. The Committee will be exploring how to help support rural economic growth while tackling these issues.

"The voices of those living in rural communities are vital to this inquiry, and the Committee is planning to visit rural areas to learn more about their successes and challenges, and their ideas for the future."

The rural economy has transformed over the years and is now dynamic and diverse, contributing substantial added value to the country as a whole as well as to rural residents. Rural communities are also growing, with significant migration of all age groups from urban areas. With these changes have come challenges, and there continues to be constraints on the growth of the rural economy, particularly in more remote areas. This inquiry will explore these challenges in more detail and consider how they can be addressed.

Source: www.parliament.co.uk

AN ACTION PLAN AIMS TO RAISE AWARENESS OF BANKING SERVICES AVAILABLE AT POST OFFICE BRANCHES AMONG LOCAL COMMUNITIES GRAPPLING WITH BANK BRANCH CLOSURES.



The five-point plan has been developed by the finance industry and the Post Office working with the Treasury and government officials. It will promote awareness of the day-to-day banking services that bank and building society customers can access at 11,500 Post Office branches across the UK. Some 99% of personal account customers and 95% of business account customers can withdraw and deposit cash, deposit cheques and check balances at any of the Post Office's branches. Many bank customers already visit Post Office branches

to access their business and personal accounts – but there is still limited awareness of these vital services.

An infographic describing banking services offered by the post office is available [here](#).

Customers who will benefit most from the availability of the service, particularly those in rural or urban areas with less bank branch coverage, are the primary focus of the plan.

The plan seeks to:

1. Raise awareness of banking services available at the Post Office via regional and targeted localised pilot media campaigns. These will be timed to coincide with Post Office in-branch campaigns across the Post Office network.
2. Support specific communities, including those impacted by bank branch closures, through information leaflets, joint Post Office and bank outreach to communities and improved collaboration between Post Office and banks during any bank branch closures.
3. Promote the Post Office as an integral channel for day-to-day banking, with clear and prominent information for customers in banks' literature, on websites and telephony channels.
4. Provide enhanced support for vulnerable consumers to be developed based on Citizens' Advice best practice guidelines.
5. Carry out ongoing monitoring of awareness and confidence in the Post Office counter service.

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

PRINCE'S RURAL FUND IS OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS



THE PRINCE'S
COUNTRYSIDE
FUND

The Prince's Countryside Fund seek applications to support activity that results in a long-term positive impact on rural communities by helping the people that live and work in the countryside.

The grant programme currently aims to tackle the following key rural issues:

- To improve the prospects of viability for family farm businesses
- To sustain rural communities and drive economic vibrancy
- To support aid delivery in emergency and building resilience

The Fund will be open for grant applications from April 30th to June 14th 2018.

For further information regarding eligibility and how to apply please [click here](#)

PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA IN RURAL COMMUNITIES ARE INCREASINGLY ISOLATED.



The Alzheimer's Society issued the warning as it launched a new guide urging individuals and organisations in rural communities to address isolation for people with dementia, take action and better support people affected in their area. To raise the profile of people with dementia – and encourage support so they feel included in their local communities and able to live the lives they want. Some two-thirds of people with dementia live in the community, with the percentage of older people occupying rural areas as high as 56%, leading many to feel very isolated. Dementia is the UK's biggest killer with someone developing it every three minutes –

and the Alzheimer's Society says too many face it alone.

The guide is building upon the work Alzheimer's Society has led, working with key individuals and organisations, to create dementia friendly villages, towns and cities. Already over 350 areas have embraced dementia friendliness, ensuring people with dementia are empowered to live a life they want in their community.

Right to a life - Society chief executive Jeremy Hughes said: "We hear too often about how people with dementia in rural areas are denied their right to a live a life they want, instead facing extreme isolation.

"People often feel unable to participate in community life as their dementia progresses, due to lack of understanding, stigma and poor access to services and support.

"We need to see all of society, including the most remote and rural areas, uniting now and committing to the steps outlined in this guide, so that no one has to face dementia alone."

The Dementia: [Rural Communities Guide](#) details how rural residents with dementia are often unable to access important services – including transport, shops, and healthcare.

For full article please [click here](#)

For more information on how to get involved and to download the guide, please visit: alzheimers.org.uk/rural or email: programmepartnerships@alzheimers.org.uk.

ESSEX YOUNG FARMERS SHOW 2018 – A GREAT FAMILY DAY OUT



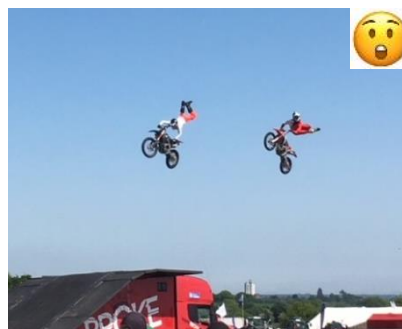
From a troublesome overzealous Limousine bullock making his first appearance in the show ring, camel racing to high flying motor cyclists! The Essex Young Farmers (EYFC) Show was far from disappointing this year! A glorious sunny day drew the crowds to Roxwell, where families filled the showground eager to watch the Pony Club in action, tractors through time, taste locally produced food and so much more. The show provided an assortment of attractions to satisfy all that attended; it was great to

see the Essex Police Dog Unit (EPDU) which was a huge hit with the spectators. Police Dog (PD) Baloo becoming a firm favourite with her ability to completely take out a fellow colleague mentioning no names ... on a straight chase! In their own words EPDU stated 'the crowds loved it!' EPDU also joined in dancing to 'who let the dogs out' with a group of children to finish off a fabulous day.

Well done to the EYFC your hard work and commitment shone on a thoroughly enjoyable day!



Note this chap did behave!



The Essex Young Farmers are a youth organisation made up of 16-26 year olds and, despite the name, you don't have to be a farmer to join; absolutely anyone can be a member! Essex Young Farmers is run by its members for its members so everyone has the chance to have a say in what goes on. With 10 clubs across the county there really is something for everyone, be it organising events, playing sports, fundraising for charities or simply enjoying the social side of it all! Please [click here](#) to find out more about EYFC.

ENJOY A PIECE OF ESSEX IN THE SUMMER MONTHS



From Constable Country to the Crouch Valley, the Grape and Grain Trail will take you to independent local producers, many of which are family-run. Over the past decade, there has been an exponential growth of vineyards, breweries and distilleries in the region and this number will continue to rise in years to come. Enjoy a tour or a talk, where you can learn about how the products are made, and you can also give them a try yourself during a tasting session.

The Grape and Grain Trail has been created by Braintree District Council and Maldon District Council
To plan your visit please [click here](#) for full details

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