

## RURAL CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE

**We know that increased vigilance and security are key elements in denying criminals with the opportunity of stealing expensive farming machinery, equipment and livestock, but it's also important to talk about the significance of rural crime to those around us and how it can impact many farming families.**

**Police Service of Northern Ireland's Rural Crime Lead, Superintendent McDowell said:** "Educating others is imperative and we all must work together to make rural areas safer for everyone. Reporting promptly to the police, any activity that raises your suspicions is a good way to initiate police investigations and will help to deter criminals and reduce crime in your area.

"It could be an unusual vehicle seen parked or travelling on a road in the area, or someone calling and asking for directions. Remember that these could well be criminals checking out what's on offer, what vehicles they will need to transport the machinery they intend to steal, and the level of farm security you may or may not have.

"Take a note of the vehicle registration number and a description of the vehicle and pass that onto police. Criminals are always on the lookout for valuable items that they can easily re-sell. Quads, trailers and other items of farm machinery should therefore be kept locked away in garages or outbuildings, when not in use. And, for added security, people should consider locking gates, using good-quality closed shackled padlocks, at yards and on laneways to prevent unauthorised vehicle access.

"Preventing crime and being switched on to crime prevention will help to protect your property. Putting frequently used machines away and locking up sheds and outbuildings may seem like a chore you can do without, but it won't be as inconvenient as having an important and valuable piece of equipment stolen. Make your property unique to you by permanently marking all items with your postcode and house number. The marking should be placed on parts of the equipment that will be difficult for the thieves to disguise or expensive for them to replace. Remember to take a photograph of the machinery and keep a list of makes, models, serial numbers, colour and a record of any damage.

**To find out more about setting up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in your area, or for further information on Neighbourhood Watch email: [pcsp@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk](mailto:pcsp@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk) or call 028 703 47034 or speak with your local PSNI Officer.**

"Owners should also seriously consider using anti-theft systems such as security tagging, and electronic tracking devices in addition to wheel clamps and hitch locks. Make sure your oil tanks are locked and are situated in well-lit areas. Keep receipts from the latest delivery and check the oil level regularly. Any oil drums should be locked away in a secure building. Farmers also need to give some thought to the security of their livestock, and in addition to keeping records of stock numbers and making regular checks to ensure all is in order, farmers should also record the colour and location of dye markings. Access to fields should not be overlooked either and gates leading to fields should be securely locked at all times.

"Remember – do not make life easy for criminals to access your property!"

### **Here are 10 simple crime prevention steps to protect yourself, your property and your livestock:**

- 1)** Access to your property: Restrict access to your yard, the fewer ways in the better; use locked gates or security posts if practicable.
- 2)** Boundaries: Fencing, hedges and walls should be robust, well maintained and regularly checked. Find out about alarms and the latest technology, such as point-to-point electronic beams, to protect the perimeter of your property.
- 3)** Lighting: Good lighting helps make a farmyard both safe and secure.
- 4)** Vehicles: ALWAYS remove keys and lock vehicles. Secure or immobilise vehicles, plant, trailers and equipment when not in use. Keep items of value in securely locked sheds, out of sight. Police operate a trailer marking scheme which is free of charge (contact your local crime prevention officer for further information).
- 5)** Physically secure ATV's using heavy-duty chains and padlocks or block the machine in with other equipment so that it cannot be pushed away. Consider more sophisticated options include Tracker, CESAR marking systems and immobilisers,



which can help, prevent theft and help police retrieve and return recovered items.

- 6)** Tools: Lock away hand tools when not in use not only to prevent theft but also so they cannot be used by the thief against your own property. Engrave items with house number and postcode or use CESAR.
- 7)** Store equipment and vehicles out of sight: and mark your property using permanent marking kits or DNA solution.
- 8)** Alarms/CCTV: Consider fitting alarms and install a CCTV system. Ensure the correct CCTV signage is placed round the perimeter of your property. Signs can be a great deterrent in themselves. Record items: Keep an inventory of items, including all serial numbers, makes, models and any distinctive damage or marks. Photograph items.
- 9)** Livestock: Regularly check fields where stock is grazing. Keep gates (including yard gates) locked with British Standard closed shackle locks and ensure that all fixing bolts cannot be removed easily. Invert or cap gate hinges to prevent gates being lifted off to provide access. Take photographs of valuable animals with brand and/or ear tags clearly visible.
- 10)** Be a good neighbour: Report all suspicious activity or any form of farm theft.

For more information on rural crime prevention measures visit : <https://www.psnipolice.uk/ruralcrime> or call 101 to make a report.

# Message from PCSP Chairperson Cllr Ivor Wallace

**WELCOME** to this Autumn/Winter edition of the Causeway Coast and Glens Partnership Neighbourhood Watch newsletter.

We are aware that the cost of rural crime has risen in Northern Ireland in the last year, and we urge everyone across the Borough to report any suspicious activity to PSNI or Crimestoppers to help prevent crime. Within this edition, you will find crime prevention advice specific to farming and rural communities as well as a reminder that our tracker\* scheme remains open to applicants.

As the darker nights draw closer, fear of crime often grows so I would urge everyone to keep an eye out for your neighbours and especially those most vulnerable. Small efforts from all of us can

really help people feel supported and safe within the local community. If you and your neighbours wish to start up your own neighbourhood watch scheme, please do not hesitate to contact any PCSP member or staff who will help you through the application process.

Lastly, I wish to make you aware that the PCSP small grant programme of up to £999 is currently open to constituted (not for profit) organisations who may have a project or event that will help prevent, reduce, address crime and help people feel safer in their own communities. Details of Guidance notes and applications can be found on the Council website: <https://causeway.eformz.info/>

## PAVEMENT PARKING

**PAVEMENT PARKING** can place other road users and pedestrians at unnecessary risk and this is predominantly true for those with sight impairments, mobility issues, wheelchair users or parents with young children in prams.

Causeway Coast & Glens Neighbourhood Inspector Burns said: "All road users should show consideration for others by ensuring parked vehicles leave enough room for pedestrians, pram and wheelchair users, enabling them to safely pass by on the footpath.

"Any vehicles found to be illegally parked or causing an obstruction to local residents, emergency vehicles or traffic may be removed at considerable expense to the owner, a fixed penalty notice and/or penalty points may be given to the driver of the vehicle, or the owner of the vehicle could be taken to court.

"There is a specific offence of "Obstruction of premises" which will apply to a vehicle causing obstruction to or from any premises and officers can issue a non-endorsable fixed penalty to the offending vehicle.

"Please be mindful of this in areas across Causeway Coast and Glens, particularly around tourist hot spots and when large events are taking place when the number of road users increases.

Please ensure there is enough room around your vehicle for access before walking away, and remember to be respectful of others."

### Pavements are for PEOPLE



### Obstructing the pavement is illegal



# HATE CRIME

## NATIONAL HATE CRIME AWARENESS WEEK is set to take place from the 14th to 21st October 2023.

A **HATE CRIME** or incident can involve people being targeted based on their disability, gender identity, race, religion and sexual orientation. It can take many forms such as physical and verbal attacks, vandalism, graffiti, online abuse and threatening behaviour, and over the course of the week, the Police Service will be taking the opportunity to raise awareness of hate crime, how it affects those who experience it and how victims can seek help and support.

Your local police will be using this opportunity to engage with communities, speak to those affected by hate crime and to reinforce the message that Northern Ireland is no place for hate.

Hate Crime Lead for the Police Service of Northern Ireland, Superintendent Sue Steen, said: "Hate crime continues to be an issue across our increasingly diverse communities, and as a Police Service we want to play our part in encouraging everyone to see diversity as something that should be embraced and celebrated".

"There is no excuse or place for hate crime in our communities.

"The National Hate Crime awareness week remains an important opportunity to encourage victims and witnesses

**HATE IN ANY FORM IS UNACCEPTABLE.  
NOBODY DESERVES IT  
AND NOBODY DESERVES  
TO GET AWAY WITH IT.  
TO STOP IT, REPORT IT.**



to come forward and report these crimes. The more we understand the extent of hate crime, and the impact on those who experience it as well as their families and wider community, the more effective our response can be. Help is also available and if victims report we can sign post them to the independent Hate Crime Advocacy Service who can provide them with that support".

A report can be made to police

by dialling 101 or 999 in an emergency, or online at [www.psnipolice.uk/makeareport](http://www.psnipolice.uk/makeareport) or anonymously through the independent charity Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111. If victims do not wish to contact police directly they can seek support from the Hate Crime Advocacy Service.

Further information on the Police Service response to Hate Crime can be found here [www.psnipolice.uk/hatecrime](http://www.psnipolice.uk/hatecrime).



# USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

## PSNI CONTACT DETAILS



CONTACT NAME	RANK	ROLE	STATION	MOBILE NO.	EMAIL
Gordon McCalmont	Superintendent	District Commander	Coleraine	07801738268	gordon.mccalmont@psnipolice.uk
Sinead McIlDowney	Chief Inspector	Chief Inspector	Coleraine	07890021176	Sinead.mcilDowney@psni.police.uk
Louise Cummings	Chief Inspector	Chief Inspector	Coleraine	07796555652	Louise.cummings@psni.police.uk
Stephen Burns	Inspector	Neighbourhood Policing Team	Ballycastle/Limavady	07500900561	STEPHEN.BURNS2@psni.police.uk
Bjorn O'Brien	Inspector	Neighbourhood Policing Team	Coleraine	07826866254	Bjorn.O'brien@psni.police.uk
Vince Redmond	Inspector	Local Policing Team - A	Coleraine/Limavady	07825184379	Vince.Redmond@psni.police.uk
Richard Jack	Inspector	Local Policing Team - B	Coleraine/Limavady	07786888384	Richard.Jack@psni.police.uk
Stephen Craig	Inspector	Local Policing Team - C	Coleraine/Limavady	07827018602	Stephen.craig@psni.police.uk
Adrian Brogan	T/Inspector	Local Policing team - D	Coleraine/Limavady	07769677636	ADRIAN.BROGAN@psni.police.uk
David Armour	Inspector	Local Policing Team - E	Coleraine/Limavady	07500905440	David.armour@psni.police.uk
Wendy Nixon	Sergeant	Community Planning	Coleraine	07816350828	Wendy.nixon@psni.police.uk
Ian Ferriby	Sergeant	Neighbourhood Policing Team	Limavady	07917357831	IAN.FERRIBY@psni.police.uk
Deborah Smyth	Sergeant	Neighbourhood Policing Team	Coleraine	07747625914	Deborah.smyth3@psni.police.uk
Anne-Marie McCann	Sergeant	Neighbourhood Policing Team	Ballycastle	07816192040	Anne-Marie.Mccann@psni.police.uk

ALL INFORMATION STATED IS CORRECT AT TIME OF PRINT AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Causeway Coast and Glens PCSP would like to hear your view on any aspect of Policing and Community Safety;

**COLERAINE:** Cloonavin, 66 Portstewart Road, BT52 1EY

**BALLYMONEY:** Riada House, 14 Charles Street, BT53 6DZ

**BALLYCASTLE:** Sheskburn House 7 Mary Street, BT54 6QH

pcsp@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk 028 703 47034

Further information on the PCSP and its members can be found:  
<https://www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/live/policing-and-community-safety-partnership>

**THIS NEWSLETTER IS SUPPORTED BY THE  
 NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD AND  
 THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.**

**With thanks to PSNI for providing information in this leaflet**



### OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

#### IN AN EMERGENCY CALL - Call 999

- NEW SERVICE: 999BSL for deaf/hearing impaired  
 Download the 999BSL app or open the webpage 999bsl.co.uk  
 - Press the red button 'Call 999 BSL now'  
 - Connect to an interpreter
- PSNI non emergency number is **101**
- Crimestoppers - **0800 555 111**
- 24 Hours Domestic & Sexual Violence Helpline - **0808 802 1414**
- Causeway and Mid Ulster Women's Aid - **028 703 56573**
- Foyle Women's Aid - **028 714 16800**
- Crime Prevention Officer - **07764638397**
- Childline - **0800 1111**
- Action Fraud - **0300 123 2040**
- Victim Support NI - **028 713 70086**

