

COUNTRYWATCH LAUNCH



North Yorkshire Police are turning up the heat on the rural criminal, with the launch of "CountryWatch" in the Craven District.

Inspector Will Scarlett, the Safer Neighbourhood Inspector for Craven Rural, leads the team behind the launch and hopes that as many people as possible will sign up to the scheme.

CountryWatch, in principle, is a crime prevention scheme, specifically designed to answer the needs of people living in, working in and visiting Craven's rural area. By the nature of rural crime, individuals and communities can feel more impacted when a crime occurs to them, or near them, as they can feel more isolated and less supported. These feelings have been borne out of surveys, done by the police and other organisations, like NFU mutual.

CountryWatch looks to support these communities and bring them together, so that together with the police, they look out for each other, report incidents, and make life for the criminal more difficult.

Members who sign up will receive, free of charge, a pack containing gate signs, car badge, crime prevention booklet, a note pad for reporting suspicious incidents and information about a number of crime prevention products. They will also be signed up to a community messaging system, called ringmaster, which is used to pass out information about crimes and suspicious incidents as well as inform members of successes. They will also be visited by their local officers, who will do a crime prevention survey of their property and suggest a number of measures they can take, to reduce their chances of becoming a victim of crime and also suggest suitable products that are on the market, that can help secure their property and also make their property identifiable if it is stolen and recovered, which is often a difficulty for the police.

The free members packs have been provided, through money given by the Craven Community Safety Partnership and North Yorkshire Police.

Stacey Mitchell, the Partnership Co-ordinator said "The Community Safety Partnership has 'Rural Communities' as one of its priority areas and is happy to help fund the Country Watch Scheme as it works as a practical crime prevention network designed to answer the needs of people living, working and visiting Craven's rural areas. With Craven having a number of borders with other districts it is imperative that we have a network of individuals that can assist in our ability to tackle cross border crime."

The launch was at Skipton Auction Mart, during a normal sale day and it is recognized that farmers can be massively impacted by crime if they lose livestock or

a vital piece of machinery. The NFU mutual have been a key partner in getting the scheme to this point and it is hoped that other partner organizations will also support the scheme and encourage people to join.

Inspector Will Scarlett ran a similar scheme in the rural area of Scarborough back in 1996 and the scheme still exists today. "I know we have a formula for a scheme, which I hope will be self sustaining, with the support of members and partner organizations. The scheme will grow and we will look at ways of engaging with companies who provide different products, to make them available to members, consider patrols with members in our area, as happens in other parts of North Yorkshire and surrounding forces and loaning equipment, like trackers, alarms, marking kits, if funding can be found to buy these."

CountryWatch aims to encourage many different groups to become involved – farms, caravan parks, pubs, stables, parish councils, schools, rural businesses, visitor attractions, residents, hunts, campsites, activity centres, game keepers, churches, bunk barns, B&B, quarries, fisheries, the list is endless.

Will Scarlett's ultimate aim, would be for any criminal travelling into Craven, to see the CountryWatch sign on every farm entrance, building, or beauty spot, so that the message is loud and clear, they are being watched and are not welcome here.

COUNTRY WATCH NEEDS YOU!



A PARTNERSHIP AGAINST RURAL CRIME

COME AND SPEAK TO THE
POLICE AND FIND WHAT
IT'S ALL ABOUT

COULD YOU HELP MAKE YOUR COMMUNITY SAFER



HELP NORTH YORKSHIRE
POLICE TO HELP YOU
“COUNTRY WATCH”

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