

Report on 3rd Police Engagement meeting held at Downham Market police station on Thursday 12th April 2018.

The meeting was chaired by Inspector Mark Cant with Downham Market Beat Manager PC Richard Allen & Rural Crime Beat Manager PC Ben Clark.

The following PCC's were represented:

Marshland St James; Stoke Ferry; Outwell; Tilney; Welney; Hockwold; Fincham; Terrington; Upwell; Marham & Middleton

Inspector Cant explained that of the 5 PCSO's that were at Downham Market, 2 have started their training as police officers, 1 has been redeployed elsewhere within the force and the remaining 2 have left and gained employment elsewhere.

Downham Market is also recruiting 4 new police officers giving us 6 police officers in place of 5 PCSO's giving the area more front line officers.

There will be 6 Beat Managers, one for each area, who will take on the public engagement role previously undertaken by the PCSO's. Currently 2 are in post and interviews are taking place for the other vacancies – Inspector Cant wants to make sure that the right person is in the right role.

The SMS texting service has been extended and this is proving a good way to disseminate information quickly from the force to the public. Any councillor can sign up for it but it is envisaged that Parish Clerks will do so and then pass information to their councillors as relevant.

The SMS service was trialled for the Hare Coursing and there have been many arrests, with phones, cars & dogs seized. The question was asked why Hare Coursing appeared to take precedence over other crimes and the answer is that most of the people involved in this activity are 'career criminals' and this is just their hobby and by arresting them we are making it harder for them to undertake their other criminal activities.

The increasing problem of 'fly tipping' was discussed following the decision to charge for DIY waste. Some areas are already experiencing an increase. This is NOT a police matter.

If the land is privately owned, then the owner can install a 'Game & Trail' camera to identify offenders but it is unfortunately the landowners responsibility to remove the rubbish – and of course if they use the tip they have to pay and if they leave it elsewhere then they are guilty of 'fly tipping'!

If the land is council owned then it is down to the council to remove it and prosecute if possible.

If you need to contact the police for a non emergency using 101 and are experiencing long waiting times then ask to be put through to Downham Market police station beat manager's office.

We can still request the neighbourhood police surgery for a question & answer session or for a specific reason i.e. bike marking; crime prevention information etc. This should be requested through Inspector Cant.

SNAP meetings are held every 3 months at Downham market town hall – the next meeting is May 16th at 7pm.

There will be a meeting at 7pm on Monday 23rd April in Downham Market Town Hall arranged by the PCC & Chief Constable which the public are welcome to attend.

The next police engagement meeting will take place in 6 months time.