

Problem Analysis



Wildlife Crime

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Prepared By:	The Safer Neighbourhoods Team Point of Contact: Caroline Boff and Tracey Coyne
	Safer Neighbourhoods Partnership Shelford House Shelford Street SCUNTHORPE DN15 6QB Tel: 01724-272299

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Executive Summary

Background

At Brigg Neighbourhood Action Team meeting on the 13th of January 2010 the issue of Lamping was discussed and prioritised. On the 28th January 2010 the Area Action Team asked for a SARA problem-solving exercise to be started in relation to the problems around Lamping in the rural areas including Barton and the Isle of Axholme.

The Problem

Work began immediately on the Scanning phase of the exercise and numerous statistical data sets were studied (police reports, calls for service, etc). It became apparent that further information was needed to fully understand the problem and as a result, extensive consultation has taken place involving local police, local farmers; ex country watch police officers, local councillors and national research. As a result of this activity, the problem was identified as follows:

There is a perceived problem of lamping and poaching throughout the rural area of North Lincolnshire. The problem involves groups of individuals travelling from outside the area for lamping and hare coursing activity. The problem occurs on both weekdays and weekends at varying times. The farmers score the severity of the problem at 4.4 out of 10. This doesn't suggest a significantly serious problem however local farmers believe and evidence confirms that the problem has escalated over the last year. The problem has a negative impact and the reputation of Humberside Police is being harmed by the apparent lack of effective action.

Problem Analysis

An extensive analysis of the problem was undertaken and two potential courses of action identified:

- To educate Police Officers, Magistrates and the Crown Prosecution Service and others in the laws, evidence needed to arrest and prosecute.
- To encourage communication between farmers and inform them of any intelligence.

Recommendation

1. That the following SARA Aim be adopted:

To reduce the severity of the problem of damage lamping and poaching in the rural areas in North Lincolnshire on both weekdays and weekends from an average score of 4.4 out of a possible 10 (as measured using questionnaires posted out on 15th March 2010 by the NFU with their newsletter and returned in freepost addressed envelopes) to an average score of less than 3 by the 13th March 2011, when the respondents of the original questionnaires will be re-contacted to score the problem again.

2. That this be achieved by:

- An educational event advising on the enforcement avenues available to those agencies concerned in dealing with all aspects of wildlife crime through a training conference.
- The development of a communication mechanism to keep farmers up to date on current incidents and encourage two-way communication.

Recommended Outline Action Plan

Action	Timescale	Lead	Inputs	Remarks
Liaise with Police regarding Educational Event. Arrange speakers, venue, invites and confirm numbers.	By the end of July 2010	Safer Neighbourhoods	Officer time Funding	Event arranged. Awaiting invite responses
Agree funding sources for training event.	By the end of July 2010	Safer Neighbourhoods	Officer time	Complete
Liaise with NFU, Hanwag and local Farmers to determine the most appropriate communication mechanism for all	By the end of August 2010	Safer Neighbourhoods and Brigg Policing Team	Officer time Research products	Safelinks agreed
Produce flyer to residents and farmers to encourage information and evidence via Safelinks website	By the end of July 2010	Safer Neighbourhoods	Officer time to produce and distribute Printing costs	Flyer produced Needs distributing
Arrange press release prior to and during Education Event	Sept 2010	Safer Neighbourhoods	Officer time Press attend event	
Obtain information from farmers of locally used nicknames for areas of the county and arrange for them to be added to the Police mapping system	End of June 2010	Police	Officer time	Process started, some obtained
Liaise with Trading Standards over what information they have currently and what is required to enforce against illegal meat trading	End of July 2010	Safer Neighbourhoods	Officer time liaison and visits	
Arrange with Streetcraft to provide a user guide on the laws and arrest procedures and arrange training schedule for Police Officers	By end of Aug 2010	Police	Officer time	Started
Re contact farmers who originally completed questionnaire for scoring	March 2011	Safer Neighbourhoods	Officer time Phone call cost	

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