REPORT TO RUCKINGE PARISH COUNCIL MARCH 2026.
All the matters of routine crime prevention remain the same, however the war in the Middle East could lead to

FUEL THEFTS

1 Fuel syphoned at night from parked cars and vans.
2 Theft of fuel from parked HGVs
3 Theft of fuel from storage tanks i.e. Farms and plus Farm machinery.
4 Thefts of number plates to assist drive of thefts from garage forecourts.
5. Theft of domestic heating oil from residential storage tanks.
I am hoping these crimes will not apply in Pluckley.

A concern with my ex-fire service head on is if a fuel shortage or panic buying occurs people will purchase fuel in correct containers but decant into wholly inappropriate plastic containers and store them in vehicles, sheds and garages.
A simple shed fire suddenly becomes a napalm inferno.

I hope matters ease however costs may drive a crime trend and we need to be alert, vigilant and ready.

ANIMAL CRIME
As Spring arrives, I will be running campaigns to warn and highlight rural crimes for example dog attacks on sheep, sheep worrying, and care around horses.

Sadly, it is not always visitors into the countryside but locals who forget the basic rules.
Speed around roads where horses could be is a definite concern.
A selection of posters I will be using.





Protecting livestock – signage available

Owners are urged to keep dogs away from livestock, on a lead near farm animals and be aware of where their dogs are at all times while on countryside walks.

Property owners near fields where livestock are kept are also asked to ensure their gardens are secure, so pets can't escape.

The Rural Task Force has signage available for any livestock owners who have footpaths near their grazing fields. Contact the team for more information.

RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNER?



Please keep your dog on a lead.

'Worrying' livestock is a crime under the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953.

If you are on agricultural land and a dog you own or are in charge of **attacks** or **chases** livestock in a way that may cause **injury**, **suffering** or **loss**, you could be **prosecuted**, **fined** and **ordered to pay compensation**.

If you see a dog worrying livestock, please call the police on **999**.

Under the Animals Act 1971, a person acting to **protect livestock** may be able to **kill** or **injure a dog**, without incurring any criminal or civil liability, if he or she believes it is worrying livestock.

Kent Police

NFU

Farm Watch Member


LAMBING SEASON
PLEASE WALK YOUR DOG RESPONSIBLY
Keep to footpaths
Keep dogs on leads


20
Rural roads are not racetracks
Whatever road you drive on, remember who you share the road with. Always drive at a safe speed for the road conditions and never exceed speed limits.
NO NEED TO SPEED


2 METRES
10
DEAD SLOW
ORSES ARE UNPREDICTABLE.
SSING HORSES WIDE AND SLOW CAN PREVENT
E DEATH OF DRIVERS, RIDERS AND HORSES.



What is Pass Wide and Slow?

Pass Wide And Slow is a Facebook group set up to encourage and educate drivers how to pass horses safely on the road.

PASS WIDE & SLOW
AWARENESS RIDE/DRIVES

10 MPH

In the wild a horse is a 'prey' animal, that is they are DINNER and have therefore developed a fright/flight response to anything that scares or startles them (known as spooking).

A horse's natural response to something that spooks them is to run, kick out or spin and look.

No matter how well they are trained, occasionally nature takes over. If it makes you jump, it will make a horse jump - that bird suddenly erupting from a tree could be a tiger!

A horse can spook sideways at up to 50mph.

A horse can beat many road legal vehicles at 0-30mph.

A horse's back legs can kick out a surprisingly long way.

SO...

Give 2 metres width where possible.

When passing (from front or behind) slow to 10mph. If you are approaching a horse head on at 30mph and that horse spooks, that is an impact speed of 80mph!

Cyclists - please call out if approaching from behind, a voice is less scary (especially if riding into the wind, when even the horse may not hear you).

A carriage should be classed as a LONG vehicle.

Please look at the rider. If they are asking you to stop or slow, they are doing it for a reason (they are NOT waving!).



MYTH BUSTERS

Drivers may say:

Horses shouldn't be on the road - why not?

Should ride in the fields - Fields are privately owned, and to get to any that allow us to ride in, or bridleways, WE HAVE TO USE THE ROADS.

You don't pay road tax - neither do you! Road tax was abolished in 1937. Vehicle emission tax also doesn't apply to bicycles, classic cars, vintage cars, and electric cars.

Are you insured? – There are probably more horses insured on the road than cars!

Only toffee-nosed, rich, entitled people own and/or ride horses riders come from all walks of life - nurses, lorry drivers, police officers, shop workers - to name but a few.

THESE ARE ALL OPINIONS! - which have been often expressed to horse riders!

PLEASE REMEMBER,

The riders are all someone's mum, dad, son, daughter, brother or sister. The horse is a member of their family.

Don't leave a ghost behind.



10mph

Slow down to a maximum of 10mph.



Be patient

I won't sound my horn or rev my engine.



Pass wide

Pass the horse wide and slow (if safe to do so), at least a 2 metres if possible



Staying safe as a horse rider

- **Be visible** – wear high vis clothing. A tabard or vest and leg bands for your horse.
- **Use appropriate hand signals** – make sure drivers know where you are planning to go.
- **Observe your horse** – if your horse shows signs of stress, try to pull over to give your horse time to settle.
- **Thank drivers** – a nod or wave to a driver encourages people to continue to take care around horses.
- **Think ahead** – plan your route and let somebody know where you are going.
- **Consider the conditions** – avoid roads in poor visibility, weather or heavy traffic/roadworks.

As reported previously I am watching for fly tipping in rural areas and was surprised to find by total accident that the Ashford Tip is open with a limited booking service.
However, I am expecting the tip to be fully operational around the first weeks of April.

It is very important we stay focused on all the routine crimes and keep the community alert and vigilant.

I will report on my work in the more specialist crimes I work on especially the
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS CAMPAIGN

I am also working on Resilience Planning, not thousands of words to tick a box but a meaningful plan that can help rural communities with possible problems. The best example of which would be the lessons learnt with the failure of water supplies and the need to issue bottled water to communities and ensure we reach the vulnerable and housebound with supplies.

Thank you, all for your support as always, I appreciate it and never ever take it for granted.
The kindness and concern that you have shown me during my hip operation and recovery has been greatly appreciate by me and indeed my family, thank you!
Stay safe.
Peter

Peter New
Community Neighbourhood Watch