
RE: Hunting in Holford

1 message

Peter Bolton <Peter.Bolton@avonandsomerset.police.uk> 23 November 2017 at 11:48
To: Holford Parish Council <holfordpc@gmail.com>, Jamie Munro <Jamie.Munro@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk>, Susan Thompson <Susan.Thompson@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk>

Hi Hema

Firstly , apologies for not always being able to attend the PC Meeting - it really does depend on one of the three of us based at Williton Police Station being on duty and not otherwise committed . I may have omitted to send an area report in time for the meeting , please let me know if you have not had one .

Anything which is assumed or appears to be illegal pertaining to Hunting should be called in to the 101 line .

For your information , the Wildlife Officer for the area is PC Charlie Fitzpatrick , who is based in the Dulverton area but covers Wildlife Crime matters over the general area .

We patrol all of the locations where Hunting takes place , as and when we find out about it and always subject to other commitments / incidents taking priority - we also have a list of Hunts and the days of the week on which they carry out their pastime ..

I have personally spoken with many of your parishioners , who must have seen us out and about in Holford and the general area , and near the Deer Sanctuary etc. - an area which I know you are very familiar with . The Wildlife Officer has investigated incidents in the Holford area fairly recently .

Police have seized illegal quads and 4x4's as well as reported drivers to court for driving offences whilst taking part in or attending various Hunts over the past season, most noticeably on Exmoor where a targeted Police presence was put together after a request made to Police FROM the Devon and Somerset Staghounds as well as Exmoor National Park . A considerable amount of Police resources (Police Officers , Police Special Constables /some from the Taunton Area as well as locally , and Police Staff) assisted with this initiative .

I am not aware of any recent noticeable upsurge of Hunt related anti-social behaviour , admittedly vehicles and groups of spectators have been moved on (by myself on a few occasions in the Crowcombe area) recently when found to be obstructing the Highway , and participants spoken to and asked to be respectful with regard to local residents and road users . In general , we have found the Hunt Organisers to be co-operative and appreciative of our intention to deal positively with Anti-Social behaviour , illegal and non-

roadworthy quads and vehicles .

May I remind you to request residents to call in any issues , via the 101 line and PLEASE NOT via the 999 line , UNLESS a Police Emergency , and not directly to anyone's mobile phone .

Crimes must be reported via 101 or using the online crime reporting via the Police website

POLICE NEED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION .

- 1) LOCATION
- 2) DATE
- 3) TIME
- 4) DESCRIPTION OF PERSONS AND VEHICLES ETC
- 5) VEHICLE REGISTRATION NUMBERS AS WELL AS TYPE / MAKE / COLOUR
- 6) IF ANY UNCOVERED FIREARMS / SHOTGUNS ETC ARE SIGHTED IN PUBLIC VIEW , WE NEED FULL DETAILS
- 7) PLEASE LOOK UP THE LEGISLATION REGARDING HUNTING IN THE UK TO GET MORE INFORMATION

*HUNTING - some information for general guidance :

There are different rules for foxes, deer and other mammals.

Foxes : It's illegal to hunt foxes with a pack of dogs. You can use dogs to simulate hunting, for example 'drag' or 'trail' hunting. You can use up to 2 dogs to chase ('flush' or 'stalk') foxes out of hiding if the fox is causing damage to your property or the environment. Dogs can't go underground to find the foxes unless they're threatening wild or game birds kept for shooting - only one dog can go underground at any time.

The fox must be shot quickly after it's been found

Hunters must have proof of ownership of the land they're shooting on or written permission from the landowner

Deer : There are restrictions on when deer can be shot and what type of firearms and ammunition can be used .

A licence is required to shoot deer in the closed season and / or at night (at any time of the year

A vehicle CANNOT be used to chase deer.

I hope the above helps with your enquiry , if there is anything else we can help you with , please get in touch

Thank you for contacting us .

Peter

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THIS EMAIL HAS BEEN COPIED TO THE WILDLIFE OFFICER , AND THE OPERATIONS PLANNING OFFICER FOR AVON AND SOMERSET POLICE FOR INFO

From: Holford Parish Council [mailto:holfordpc@gmail.com]

Sent: 22 November 2017 20:52

To: Jamie Munro; Peter Bolton; Susan Thompson

Subject: Hunt in Holford

Dear all,

During our Holford Parish meeting last week there was a number of complaints raised by local parishioners with regards to the Hunt in Holford a few weeks back. There was a lot of noise & rowdy behaviour reported by persons

on quad bikes.

Have you come across similar complaints in the surrounding area/s? Is this behaviour a more recent problem? What would be your advise in dealing with such matters.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks,

Hema Stanley (Clerk).

Holford Parish Council

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