

Agenda Item report on Rural Business Forum held at Kenward House, Yalding on 12th July 2018 and Proposal to Gift Trail Cams – Report by Cllr Riordan

Councillors

The rural Business Forum was led by Helen Grant MP.

The forum was designed for Farmers and local businesses in the rural economy based around Maidstone & the Weald.

There were four speakers the 1st of which was Therese Coffey MP who provided a very interesting speech on the large amount that Kent's farming and agriculture industry injects into the UK economy. She spoke about how Brexit may impact on the industry and also opportunities that will arise from Brexit.

The second speaker was Mathew Scott from Kent Police, he oversees most of the way the force is distributed and gave some very positive information on how Kent Police are recruiting, how he is supporting PCSO's in Kent and community wardens at a time when many County Police Forces are reducing numbers and even closing their PCSO service.

He explained how the 101 emergency phone number service had been approved and additional staff recruited.

Some local Farmers commented that they had struggled with the 101 service.

The third speaker was a representative of Barclays Bank who is charge of Cyber/internet/mobile phone crime and abuse.

He gave a very interesting speech on how it is very easy to download apps which mean anyone can use your phone number or email address to impersonate you online. They can endeavour to get private information, passwords, bank details etc. He stated that millions of pounds are lost/stolen/embezzled every year because of cyber-crime.

The final speaker was a gentleman from Gullands Solicitors who spoke about the importance for businesses safeguarding themselves as old contracts may change and new ones may open as a result of Brexit.

All speakers took questions from the attendees.

There was then a representative of Kenward House who explained their facility and how they run.

Could Councillors take time to view the attached page which is a request for Non- Financial donations to assist Kenward House. The 1st item which I have marked with an X is for Cameras to view wildlife. I thought it might be nice if we donated the (Wimpey Field) Trail cameras we have, which would mean we have donated them to a good cause. I would like to offer this as a proposal for consideration/decision.

Regards

Paddy