

CLEVELAND POLICE

- *The Force's current and future policy position on the issue of fly-grazed horses*
 - *Details of Police involvement in any incidents since March 2020*
 - *Update on developments around the Cleveland-wide approach*
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The current Police position remains the same as I highlighted during my attendance at the two previous select committee meetings, prior to lockdown. Cleveland Police are committed to working with partners to agree and put in place a partnership approach to tackling this issue.

As you will recall, I put forward a plan of action which was based around the response which York City council have been utilising for some time. This strategy clearly outlines roles and responsibilities for all agencies involved and is a good foundation to build a local plan from.

I have discussed this plan with our legal department and Steve Donaghy from SBC. I believe, from my constructive conversations with Steve that we can quickly come to an agreement around what a local plan should look like and how it can be introduced across the district.

I have been in communication with the Police legal department and their ideal outcome would be for the development of a force-wide plan, I believe this is a sensible approach if it can be achieved.

Fly grazed horses is not solely a Stockton problem and as a force we need to tackle this from a Cleveland area response, having a consistent and formal approach will allow the plan a better chance of success. However, if this is not possible, the organisation would re-evaluate this.

The situation around COVID-19, has caused a significant delay in the progress of this work as individuals have been unavailable, lack of technology in relation to virtual meetings and no actual face to face meetings possible for a lengthy period, as we are currently moving towards a more 'normal' situation I am addressing this.

I have over the past fortnight made contact with relevant individuals from Hartlepool and Middlesbrough, both of whom are willing to discuss the development of the plan. Despite my best efforts to identify the relevant person at Redcar and Cleveland unfortunately, to date, I have not been able to confirm any willingness or otherwise from them.

The next stage is to arrange a meeting either in person or virtual with all relevant persons to discuss the proposal which is ready for discussion, the purpose of this meeting is to agree on the document with a view of developing this to a point of roll out.

In relation to the current status of the issue, from a police and numbers perspective, I have obtained some raw data covering S LPA which shows since March 2020, the Police have received in the region of 21 calls for service in relation to horses.

These incidents range from simple concerns for welfare of horses tethered to areas of green belt close to the highway, to the more serious of incidents.

Of those 21 incidents highlighted, I have been able to break down the most serious of incidents to 3. Each of these incidents involved horses getting onto the carriageway, causing problems for road users. One of these incidents resulted in the deaths of 2 horses and significant damage to a motor vehicle.

I hope this information provides the committee with the relevant information to assist in evaluating progress.

*Gary Cookland
Cleveland Police
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