



Sussex Police and the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner are inviting residents to complete the 2018 National Rural Crime Survey.

It has been three years since the first National Rural Crime Survey asked the public for their views on matters relating to rural crime.

This year's survey went live this week on April 17, and those who live, work or visit rural communities in the county are being encouraged to respond and have their voice heard.

In late 2017, the force appointed Superintendent Emma Brice and Sergeant Tom Carter as dedicated leads for rural crime, to address the vulnerabilities and crime types which are specific to rural areas.

Supt Emma Brice said: "A large proportion of Sussex residents live, work in or visit rural areas regularly and we really want to hear your views on issues related to rural policing and crime.

"We know that there are certain types of crime and areas of vulnerability which impact rural communities and businesses differently from those in urban areas.

"Alongside other measures, the responses to this survey will contribute towards ensuring we are meeting the needs of our rural communities.'

Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner Katy Bourne said: "One of the focuses of this year's survey is whether rural crime continues to be underreported. Three years ago, one in four people who responded to the survey nationally said they didn't report the last crime they'd been a victim of because they didn't see the point.

"This is uncomfortable thing to hear, and for all those involved in protecting rural areas, so it's important we ask these questions again and find out whether people are more willing to report crime and if they feel safer.

"It's vital that the voice of rural communities is heard by those who can make a difference – from the Police to Government. I urge residents to take part in the survey and help us build a clear picture of crime and anti-social behaviour in rural Sussex and to understand the impact it has where you live or work."

The survey is open for submissions until Sunday 10 June. Have your say here: <http://www.nationalruralcrimenetwork.net/research/internal/2018survey/>.