**Badger Cull**

**Information Leaflet**

Since 2013 the government has authorised two four year badger culls within Somerset and Gloucestershire for the purposes of controlling bovine tuberculosis within cattle.

Dorset has been considered as an alternative location for a cull, along with a number of other counties. Following the 2015 General Election, the government has indicated their intention to continue the policy and expanding the cull to other counties in the bovine TB “high Risk Area” where there is a high incidence of the disease.

This is a Defra managed policy, and licences to cull are the responsibility of Natural England. This is not something any respective police force or Police and Crime Commissioner has direct jurisdiction over.

While Dorset Police has not been notified that Dorset will be included in this year’s cull, as part of our overall operational planning process as a force and specifically in relation to the above programme, it is important for you to understand our policing intention and any police activity which may take place.

Should a cull take place in the Dorset area, the role of Dorset Police would be to protect life and property and deal with any incidents’ of crime and disorder.

The Force will remain impartial to all groups, companies, associations and communities while upholding its statutory responsibilities of maintaining law and order, preserving life and keeping the peace by dealing with any incidents in a proportionate and effective manner.

Our primary concern is community safety. We are committed to keeping our communities safe and, just as importantly, make sure you feel safe.

If you have any concerns, please speak to your local neighbourhood team by calling 101 or send them an email.

All contact details can be found on our website www.dorset.police.uk.