Crimestoppers renews appeal to catch man who raped 11-year-old girl in Pound Hill

By Crawley News | Posted: February 28, 2015

By Luke Warren

A CRIME-FIGHTING charity has renewed its appeal to catch the man who raped an 11-year-old girl as she walked home from school.

Crimestoppers is appealing for more information about the daylight attack last September in Balcombe Road, Pound Hill.

The schoolgirl's attacker dragged her onto a secluded footpath – between Blackwater Lane and Balcombe Road – pushed her into bushes and raped her.

The shocking attack happened on or around September 22, although the exact date is uncertain as the child was so traumatised she did not report the crime straightaway.
In December Sussex Police issued an e-fit of the suspect and Crimestoppers put up a reward of £3,000 for information leading to the culprit's conviction.

Kieran Theivam, a Crimestoppers spokesman, explained that the reward would be "up for renewal" on March 16, when police can extend it for another three months or withdraw it.

He said: "The period for a reward that we facilitate we run for an initial three months.

"It's up to Sussex Police to extend that."

After the attack forensic investigators scoured the area for DNA clues and officers carried out house-to-house inquiries.

But a police spokesman told the Crawley News this week that their have been no new developments and inquiries continue.

Mr Theivam said a "steady" flow of information had initially come through, but had dried up in the last month. He added that the charity does not reveal exactly how many calls it receives about specific incidents, but he appealed for people to come forward with extra information.

He said: "We have had information come through about this crime but we have not had anything since the middle of January. While we have information that has come in we would appeal for more so we can support police with their investigation.

"This is a particularly heinous crime and for this reason we would ask anyone that does have information to contact us, completely anonymously."

The suspected attacker is described as being aged about 40, with ginger and grey hair and gingery stubble.

He was wearing a black fleece, a beanie hat and a knee-length, khaki-coloured coat.

Although the attack occurred in the daytime, in December Pound Hill South and Worth borough councillor Bob Lanzer said that money could be found to ensure that the footpath where the attack happened is better lit, given how secluded it is.

He added last week that he would be following this up and looking into this possibility again.

Anyone with information on the rape is urged to call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 or visit www.crimestoppers-uk.org