In the Loop

Hertfordshire Constabulary Stakeholder Newsletter

JUNE 2008 – Special Business Edition

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Introduction

Welcome to In the Loop – your regular update on news from your Constabulary.

In this special issue you will find a range of items which we hope will be of interest to people running businesses – large or small – within the county.

Whilst we do have officers and staff who specialise in supporting businesses, all of our officers and staff – whether they be local officers in the Safer Neighbourhood Teams, Intervention Officers or PCSOs – are also there to help businesses when required.

I hope you find this special business edition helpful - please use the feedback details at the end of this bulletin if you have any suggestions or comments to make.

Frank Whiteley
Chief Constable

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KEY CONSTABUALRY CONTACTS

There are over two thousand two hundred police officers in Hertfordshire, two hundred and fifty Police Community Support Officers and almost three hundred Special Constables. They are supported by over a thousand support staff many in specialist roles such as scientific support scenes of crime officers and control room operators. Whilst businesses in Hertfordshire will receive support from all of these officers and staff as required, we also have officers and staff who are there specifically to help businesses. They can be contacted direct through the Constabulary switch board on 01707 354000 or 0845 33 00 222

Business Crime Champion/Force Alcohol Licensing Co-ordinator
Insp Deirdre Dent, Community Safety & Crime Reduction Dept - call 01438 757428
e- mailto: Deirdre.Dent@herts.pnn.police.uk

Local Crime Prevention/Reduction Officers
To contact with your local officer please call 01707 354000 or 0845 33 00 222 and ask for your local officer

County Architectural Liaison Officer
Crime Prevention Advice for Business New Builds **-Ian Carmichael,** Community Safety & Crime Reduction Dept

Force Alcohol Licensing officers
To contact with your local officer please call 01707 354000 or 0845 33 00 222 and ask for your local officer

Further contact information is also available from our web site – follow the link:
http://www.herts.police.uk/business/index.htm

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SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS

Working together for a safer Hertfordshire

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SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAMS

Hertfordshire Constabulary has over four hundred and fifty Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers working on crime and disorder at the local level and looking for and achieving long term solutions to local problems.

Assistant Chief Constable Steve Devine said: "These officers and PCSOs are there to help businesses as well as local residents. Safer Neighbourhoods is a partnership between police, residents, businesses and local agencies to tackle the issues that really matter to communities. It is about putting communities first and putting their needs, issues and priorities at the heart of local policing."

Steve continued: " In the last year, crime in Hertfordshire fell by 12%, building further on reductions from previous years. We want to ensure that all of our communities – including businesses – benefit from continuing reductions in crime."

You can easily search for your local officer contacts via the Safer Neighbourhood pages on the Herts Police Web Site. http://www.herts.police.uk/

CRIME PREVENTION AND REDUCTION OFFICERS ARE THERE TO HELP YOU

Hertfordshire has eight Crime Prevention/Reduction Officers who are there to help make your business more secure. Based across the county, they are qualified in assisting business with crime prevention issues, carrying out security surveys of all types of business premises and providing advice on physical security features such as windows and doors, alarm and CCTV systems.

Inspector Deirdre Dent – the Constabulary's Business Crime Champion said: "They are capable of providing the complete crime prevention package to any business. They will provide information on business security plans, staff vetting, safety procedures, cash handling, product protection and the security of business transport.

Deirdre continued: "They can also advise on how to protect public access areas and how to address the risk of terrorism affecting businesses through helping with continuity plans."

To Contact your Crime Prevention Officer please call 01707 354000 or 0845 33 00 222 and ask for your local officer

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PUTTING THE LID ON BUSINESS CRIME

"A business crime is a crime committed against a business or an individual as a direct result of their employment in a business capacity."

Hertfordshire Constabulary's Assistant Chief Constable Steve Devine is the regional representative on the Association of Chief Police Officers committee for business crime.

Steve Devine said: "We recognised that nationally there was no definition of "business crime" and developed a definition which is now used in the reporting of crime to help us identify and tackle the problems and issues specific to our business communities. We have mapped established business links across the Constabulary area and this is currently being used to support the development of a network of Business Crime Partnerships. Currently there are four established partnerships in the county, *St Albans Business Against Crime, The Dacorum Partnership, Stevenage and Welwyn/Hatfield.*. Existing regionally based partnerships have proved highly effective and we are keen to work closely with local businesses to set up other such partnerships around the county."

Steve continued: "A Constabulary Business Crime Champion was identified in June 2007. This post holder sits with the Force Alcohol Licensing Coordinator in order to integrate all aspects of the developing economy in the county."

The Constabulary has set up a Safer Clubs, Pubs & Bars accreditation scheme which is currently rolling out across the county in order to support night time economy partners. The Constabulary is also supporting the growing number of pub watch groups across the county and providing training and advice for their members."

There are 6 dedicated Licensing Officers in the county who are available to help relevant businesses. They cover Watford, Dacorum, Three Rivers, St Albans, Welwyn /Hatfield and Hertsmere and a licensing unit covers Nth Herts, Stevenage, East Herts and Broxbourne.

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HertsWatch

Uniting Watches across the county

OWL

OWL (Online Watch link) is a well established part of Neighbourhood Watch life in our communities. It has been rolled out across Hertfordshire to enable the police and Neighbourhood Watch members to administer their Watch schemes online. It provides police with an easy and effective way to communicate with residents on local and force-wide issues, be it an alert on distraction burglary, help with a missing person or even an important message following a terrorist incident or civil emergency.

It was developed in partnership with Direct Path Solutions and is a secure internet based communication system which allows information to be passed in fast time via phone, text messaging, fax and e-mail and does not require any soft or hardware deployment. It is ideal for sending out alerts/information and the user can select the type of contact required.

We see the next arm of this scheme moving into the business arena to complement in town centres the CCTV schemes and in rural areas as a large scale communication tool, we are currently working with Gary Fenton from Direct Path Solutions to enhance the system ready for the business community.

Inspector Deirdre Dent said: "We aim to extend the benefits of the Owl system to businesses in Hertfordshire – for example store detectives could circulate in fast time information about shop lifters. We will be contacting businesses through business associations over the coming months."

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AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS

Inspector Deirdre Dent, the force Business Champion says: "The Constabulary want and need to work closely with businesses across the county. These are obviously very diverse in terms of size, location, nature of business and activity. To this end we welcome the support and close working relationships we have with business groups in the county. The following list includes some of these groups – though by no means covers all Business Organisations in the County."

If you would like your group to be included in future bulletins or you would like to work closer with the Constabulary please contact Deirdre on 01438 757428 or by email Deirdre.Dent@herts.pnn.police.uk

National Farmers Union

The National Farmer's Union in Hertfordshire is very well supported, with over 96% of Farmers and Landowners being members. There are regular Branch Meetings during the winter period between the months of October and April in the following areas: Tring, Watford, Barnet & St Albans, Hertford and Royston

Farmers are kept up to date by the NFU using a weekly email (newsletter) as well as monthly magazines We have developed links with this organisation both nationally and locally. We have been looking at the problems and crime priorities for this group and are currently putting together a working party to progress the usage of OWL with this community in order to address their needs around reducing and detecting crime.

Contacts: Julian Cartman Tel: 01442 270000
Paul Heydon Tel: 01920 469173
Nicola Moore Tel: 01763 241611

Chamber of Commerce

Hertfordshire Constabulary is forging stronger links with the business community across the county through its membership of the Hertfordshire Chamber of Commerce. The Herts Chamber is a membership organisation working to support businesses across the county. It acts a voice of local businesses at national level and with over 1800 members it is one of the leading networking organisations in the county. Membership also brings a wealth of business information and employee benefits. As a result of membership, Hertfordshire Constabulary has worked with the Chamber on a local level in Dacorum; establishing dialogue with local businesses in the both Hemel Hempstead town centre and Maylands Business Park to improve safety, promote crime prevention initiatives and support the creation of an Action Against Business Crime (AABC) format Business Crime Reduction Partnership (BCRP). This highly successful national programme is business-led and is supported by the Home Office, Police and local bodies such as the Chamber of Commerce.

Contact: Rachel Boxall (Western)Tel: 01707 398400
Yolanda Rugg (Eastern) Tel: 01438 310017

Website: http://www.hertschamber.com/

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St Albans Business Against Crime

SABAC was established 2 years ago and set up as a limited company. It receives support in the form of funding and premises from both the Constabulary and the Local Authority but is predominantly self funding which Linda Treasure (SABAC Manager) obtains via sponsorship and membership. They have approximately 120 members across St Albans, Harpenden and London Colney and hold monthly meetings sharing information and dealing with local business issues. They work closely with the Constabulary in progressing work around criminality and information sharing and have been involved in directing operations with the Neighbourhood team. They have a good working model which they are willing to share as a good practice guide.
Contact: Linda Treasure Tel: 07900 135075

Federation of Small Businesses
The regional office of the Federation of Small Businesses covers Beds, Cambs and Hertfordshire. In Hertfordshire it is divided into an East and West Hertfordshire (contact details can be found on their website www.fsb.org.uk). These groups have monthly meetings for their members and hold regular events with guest speakers. We have formed a good relationship with their policy officer David Burch working on developing close links with the business community represented by this organisation and as a result of feedback from this group developed our business crime definition. We are currently progressing other initiatives around information sharing and crime reporting with them.

More….

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SPECIALS – GOOD FOR HERTFORDSHIRE – GOOD FOR BUSINESS

Specials Constables wear the same uniform as their regular colleagues, carry the same staff protection equipment and have the same powers of search and arrest. Although unpaid, Hertfordshire's 270+ Specials performed an all time record of 89,010 duty hours during the last policing year - a nine per cent increase on the previous year – and arrested 269 people making them some of the hardest working in the country!

Many of these Specials are supported in their work by their employers who see the real benefits in having staff who have gained from Special Constabulary training and experience.

Special Chief Officer Peter Mould said: "A number of large employers are engaged in an Employer Support Scheme where they support their staff who become Specials by allowing a certain amount of additional paid leave for training and policing duties each year. Such companies include Sainsburys, KPMG, John Lewis, Dacorum Borough Council and Broxbourne Borough Council as well as the Constabulary itself. These organisations appreciate that the training provided by the Constabulary, as well as the skills which are developed by officers, are transferable to an individual's full-time occupation, making them a more valuable asset."

Peter added " We truly appreciate the support given by employers to these men and women, who selflessly give up a great deal of their free time in order to improve the quality of life for all those who live and work in Hertfordshire. Their achievements in the past year are truly amazing and stand as a testimony to their willingness to do something positive for their communities."

Potential new recruits must be aged between 18 and *62* and be able to devote a minimum of 16 hours per month to their duties.

For more information on the Employer Support Scheme or an information/application pack, please write to County Commandant Peter Mould at Watford Police Station, Shady Lane, Watford, WD17 1DD or ring him on 01923 472576 or log on to www.hertspolicecareers.co.uk

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COUNTER TERRORISM SECURITY ADVISORS

Hertfordshire Constabulary currently has two Counter Terrorism Security Advisors CTSA's who work with the business community to provide Counter Terrorist advice.

Their roles include advising businesses on counter terrorism security and measures to respond to a terrorist attack. The advisors will visit sites which are deemed to hold hazardous materials. The sites are visited at least once a year in order to scrutinise and assess the security measures in place, and to undertake full security reviews when appropriate.

Advisors will also visit locations which are considered to be 'Crowded Places' under the Home Office guidelines and will meet with managers and security officials to discuss and advise them on mitigating against an attack.

They also engage with businesses in presenting Project Argus, which is a Government initiative aimed to help ensure business continuity in light of a terrorist incident.

Since the beginning of 2007, CTSA's have delivered 15 Argus presentations across Hertfordshire, mainly facilitated by a number of District and Borough Councils. Argus presentations have also been facilitated by a number of businesses direct and these businesses have hosted the presentations.

Briefings to pub watch have also been held along the same format as the business Argus presentations, but on a shorter version. Ware, Baldock , St Albans and future presentations for licensed premises in Stevenage are being planned.

For further information contact PC Richard Felgate 01707 354000 x 4684

Feedback

If you have any comments on information you would like to see on future bulletins please contact police.bulletins@herts.pnn.police.uk.

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