

# Huntingdonshire Business Against Crime



## Annual Report 2005-2006

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## Chairman's Statement

As Chairman of Huntingdonshire Business Against Crime (HBAC) I am very pleased to report that the results in the second year have been a story of continued success.

The major change since last year has been the alteration of our name from Huntingdon to **Huntingdonshire** Business Against Crime and the amendment of the Constitution to allow us expand district wide, all of which took place at the first AGM in June 2005. This was in anticipation of St Ives and St Neots embracing the scheme which took place in September and November 2005 respectively.

We warmly welcome the members in St Ives and St Neots. The "partnership working" amongst the market towns in Huntingdonshire has improved in the short time we have shared information and the membership now better reflects the major towns covered by our key partners, the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership and Huntingdonshire Police. We have proved that between the three towns businesses share the same prolific and persistent offenders and there have already been many successes to date, particularly with our Exclusion Notice scheme now applying to all three towns.

We also warmly welcomed the HBAC Commercial members in the Blackstone Road area of Huntingdon. Addressing business crime in the town centres is well established across the UK but to date little has been done to assist commercial areas. A recruitment drive for more such members in that area is currently underway and will provide an exciting challenge for 2006-7.

The HBAC team comprises Katy Sismore, HBAC manager, who continues to do great work is now ably assisted by Nicola Clark as HBAC Coordinator. Nicola joined the team in July 2005. Both ladies work part time addressing member's issues and promoting HBAC locally and nationally.

The Board of Management members are listed within this annual report and their hard work and support over the year is greatly appreciated. It was particularly sad to say goodbye to our Treasurer, Carl Knapp of Waitrose, Huntingdon, who has been seconded to help open Waitrose stores in London.

In closing I would like to recognise the fantastic support we have received from partners, sponsors and members, without whom HBAC would not be where it is today. All our work relies on a close network of agencies working to make Huntingdonshire towns safer places to live work and shop. The acknowledgements are encompassed within this report.

As we reflect on the successes of 2005-6 and look forward to 2006-7 we can confidently say HBAC is now an established and effective organisation working with businesses and partners to reduce the cost of crime, fraud and anti-social behaviour, and making it more difficult for thieves to carry on offending.

Mr Mike Fowler  
HBAC Chairman  
Sports & Fashions, Huntingdon

## Introduction

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the HBAC annual report for 2005-6. Since HBAC launched in March 2004 in Huntingdon the scheme has been set many challenges and the business members have reaped the rewards of the successes we have achieved in the last two years.

**Huntingdonshire – changing our name** The biggest achievement in 2005-6 was undoubtedly the inclusion of St Ives and St Neots under the umbrella of Huntingdonshire Business Against Crime. The membership numbers have doubled as a result and all members benefit from sharing information from a wider geographical area. A list of HBAC members is included in this report.

**Partnership works** Working in partnership is the key to our success. Our key partners are the local Police in Huntingdon, St Ives and St Neots, and Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership. Both organisations have been extremely helpful in addressing crime and prolific offenders, and also with grant funding, for which we are extremely grateful.

CCTV at Huntingdonshire District Council is an extremely valuable partner in our work, and a resource that is used on a daily basis via the two way radios. Our thanks go to the CCTV team for their dedicated and professional support.

**Sharing information** The work of the HBAC team is very varied both locally and nationally. Speaking at the national conference of Action Against Business Crime (AABC), our Home Office backed national organisation, at the NEC in February, on *Using Data to Prove HBAC is Working*, really put Huntingdonshire on the map. Just some of the Key Performance Indicators are in this report. HBAC is also represented on the national groups for AABC and HICOM, our crime database company.

Within Cambridgeshire and the Eastern Region it is hoped that many more towns and cities will embrace the same business crime prevention model as HBAC. To support the joined up approach across the country a new generation crime database is being installed, developed by HICOM, which links business crime data nationwide. Within the counties of Northamptonshire, Kent and Sussex the county works as a team.

To assist other schemes in their early development we have had visits from Kings Lynn, Harlow, Basingstoke and St Albans – amongst others. The sharing of information is invaluable as more schemes become established.

**Web site** Finally we have launched the HBAC web site [www.hbac.org.uk](http://www.hbac.org.uk) and now consider this a valuable tool in sharing information with HBAC members and other business crime prevention schemes across the UK.

Team work is the key to our success. Thank you to everyone who has supported the work of HBAC. We look forward to 2006-7 and ensuring that HBAC has another great year.

Katy Sismore  
HBAC manager

## **HBAC Committees**

HBAC is a members organisation and operates through two main committees

**Board of Management** - which meets monthly.

**Steering Committee** - which meets quarterly.

It is due to the dedication and commitment of the members listed below that HBAC continues to operate smoothly and achieve success.

To all those named below - thank you for your time and expertise.

### **HBAC Board of Management**

Mike Fowler	Chairman	Sports & Fashions
<i>vacancy</i>	Vice Chair	
Sharron Lee	Treasurer	New Look
Emma Thornton		Huntingdon Town Centre Manager
Simon Gartside		St Ives Town Initiative (SITI) and Waitrose St Ives Cambridgeshire Constabulary
Angie Walters or Alan McKender-Lawrence		

### **HBAC Steering Committee**

Board of Management members plus

#### **Honorary members**

Angela Owen-Smith	Huntingdon Town Centre Partnership
Cllr John Sadler	Huntingdonshire District Council
Cllr Helen Mallet	Huntingdon Town Council
Inspector Pickles	Huntingdon Police Station

#### **Business members**

Christine Bellringer	Piggotts the Jewellers St Ives
Steve Cole	WH Smith Huntingdon
Donna Cockshott	Sainsbury's Huntingdon
Iris King	Wilkinson Huntingdon
Nicola Searles	M&S Simply Food Huntingdon
Brad Sharpheale	The Post Office Huntingdon
Douglas Watson	Meridian Audio Limited
Allan Pearce	The Territorial Huntingdon

## Key Performance Indicators

To prove that HBAC works Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) have been set to assess the success of the scheme. These are:

### Membership numbers 2005-6

Huntingdon	38	St Neots	18
St Ives	18	Commercial	8

### Cambridgeshire Constabulary statistics - Huntingdon, St Ives and St Neots

During the first year HBAC reduced reported shop theft to the police in Huntingdon by 27%, from 217 to 157 crimes. This was maintained in 2005-6 at 151 crimes. (Fig 1) (The figure for 2005-6 was boosted by an excellent store detective who accounted for more than 40 crimes as he arrested on every incident no matter of age or value!) Statistics are now being monitored for St Ives and St Neots (Fig 2)

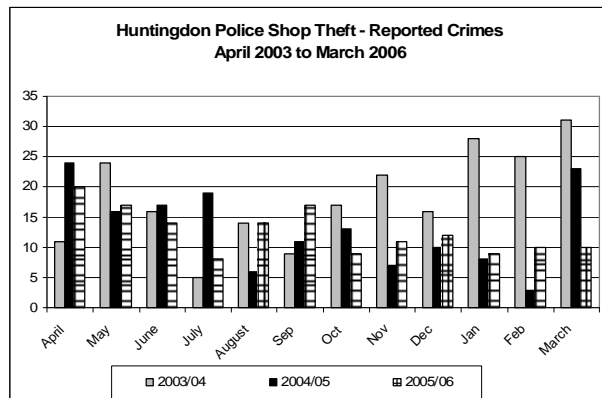


Figure 1



Figure 2

### Exclusion Notices

Exclusion Notices are used to target prolific persistent offenders and send out a strong message that these individuals are not welcome in any HBAC business premises. This has proved very successful in that offenders are no longer anonymous and when an individual breaks an Exclusion Notice it is logged on the crime database. This information is then used when considering further action with partner organisations.

One individual has adopted a new lifestyle and the Exclusion Notice was suspended. This is considered a huge success. When asked if the HBAC Exclusion Notice had made an impact the answer was **“Yes – I felt I had gone a step too far and the consequences were serious. I have worked hard to change my lifestyle”**

Exclusion Notices issued                      8                      Exclusion Notices suspended                      1

## **HBAC Members stock loss results**

Retail stock loss figures are usually quoted as a percentage of turnover with 1% and under being acceptable and over 4% being unacceptable.

HBAC members who are using the tools of the two way radio and police photographs in conjunction with the Exclusion Notices are reporting excellent results.



**Store B** Stock losses down from 3.7% to 0.7% Mar 05 to Sept 05

**Store C** Stock losses down from 3.6% to 1.1% Nov 04 to Apr 05

**Store D** Stock losses down from 2.9% to 2.5% Year to Apr 05

New members in St Ives have reported:

**Store E** Stock losses down from 0.80% to 0.28%

**Store F** Stock losses down from 3.6% to 1.5% in one year

## **Police photographs**

Police photographs of known offenders are shared with HBAC members. The photographs are updated and distributed by the HBAC team every 3 months.

Number of photographs - set one 12 Number of photographs – set nine 38

## **Information on the crime database provided by HICOM**

HBAC uses a crime database to log crimes and incidents of any nature from shop theft to anti social behaviour. Some of the entries would otherwise never be recorded as they would be considered too trivial for police reporting. The information is shared with our partner organisations for the prevention and detection of crime.

Crimes/incidents

600 Offenders

165

## **HBAC Newsletters**

HBAC newsletters are circulated with the photographs every three months. Interim newsletters are circulated in addition. In 2005-6 seven newsletters were issued.

## **Press releases**

There were more than 20 press articles in a variety of publications in 2005-6. Including

Hunts Post  
Town Crier  
Weekly News  
Partnership Works

Professional Security  
Cambridge Evening News  
District Wide  
Out Look – Go East

**Successful anti-crime  
scheme set to expand**

**TRADERS  
WINNING  
THE WAR  
ON CRIME**

**Shops win award  
for cutting theft**

## **Survey comments**

Huntingdon Town Centre Partnership (HTCP) was responsible for introducing HBAC in 2004, and the close relationship continues as the organisations are linked through membership. A survey of HTCP members who are also HBAC members gave the following comments.

**Would you recommend membership of HBAC?  
A resounding yes from all surveyed**

**"A united front on crime is good – far better collectively than individually."**

**"Being a member of HBAC is excellent value for money. Our stock loss is down significantly and people have been excluded".**

**"Sharing information, working together improves the town."**

## **Aims and Objectives for 2006-7**

1. Increase the membership in Huntingdon, St Ives and St Neots
2. Expand HBAC Commercial membership
3. Training for members – personal safety and statement taking
4. Continue to work with partners and expand the network of contacts
5. Engage with Crown Prosecution Service and Magistrates to promote HBAC
6. Reapply for the Safer Business Award
7. Consider upgrading crime database for national linked data

## Acknowledgements

The HBAC Board of Management, HBAC team and HBAC members gratefully acknowledge the help and support of the following sponsors, partners and agencies in the last year:

**Cambridgeshire Constabulary.** For the support of Cambridgeshire Constabulary office PCSO to Chief Superintendent in Huntingdonshire. Also for the very welcome grant fun allowed HBAC to expand district wide.



**Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership.** For the support of the team at HC the very generous grant funding which has allowed HBAC to be proactive in its work. Every penny is spent wisely.

**CCTV at Huntingdonshire District Council.** CCTV has makes an immense difference to the feeling of safety and security of the HBAC members. Frank Cannon and the CCT partners in our fight against crime and anti-social behaviour.



**Action Against Business Crime.** The Home Office backed national organisation v launched in November 2004 and has been extremely supportive of our work at HBA [www.businesscrime.org.uk](http://www.businesscrime.org.uk)



**Huntingdon Town Centre Partnership (HTCP).** HTCP was responsible for the introd HBAC. Link through membership the symbiotic relationship is beneficial to all members Huntingdon. Grant funding is also gratefully received.



**St Ives Town Initiative (SITI).** SITI have also been very supportive of HBAC in their cap managing the town centre in St Ives. We look forward to creating a long lasting working relationship.



**ShopSafe Radio.** The service provided to members is exceptional. Support has been received on all aspects of technical knowledge, provision of equipment and services.

**Clegg.** Our generous and comfortable office space , shared with HTCP, has been pr 2004 at very competitive rates by Clegg.



**Lloyds TSB.** For sponsorship monies received for the last two years.



**Colemans of Huntingdon and Huntingdon Regional College Print Services** For a friendly, professional and speedy printing service.

**Old Bridge Hotel.** Provision of a meeting room for the Steering Committee.

**Waitrose in Huntingdon St Ives and St Neots.** For a venue for HBAC members meet allowing valuable networking for members.



And to all the other partner organisations we have worked with this year – Youth Offending Team (Restorative Justice), Probation, Prolific Priority Offenders, HHP and the HHP Street Wardens, Dialdruglink, Big Issue Office.

*We welcome network links with any agencies where there is an opportunity to prevent crime and in doing so help individuals to work towards a new lifestyle.*

## HBAC Members in Huntingdon, St Ives and St Neots

June 2006

Antechs Computers - N	Olivers (Huntingdon) Ltd
Argos Huntingdon	Omni Security - H
Argos St Neots	Peacocks Huntingdon
Barretts - N	Peacocks St Ives
British Heart Foundation -H	Piggotts Ltd - I
Boots The Chemist Huntingdon	Post Office - Sharpheale Ltd - H
Boots The Chemist St Ives	QS - H
Boots The Chemist St Neots	Rosebys - N
BP Pace Petroleum - I	Sainsbury's - H
Bright Instruments Co Ltd - H	Silk and Silver - I
Bryants Cook Shop - I	Simply Music - H
Burtons Huntingdon	Somerfield - I
Burtons St Neots	Spar (Tate) Ltd - I
Cannon Shelly - H	Sports & Fashions - H
Cash Converters - H	St Ives Angling Centre
Cloud Nine - I	Superdrug Huntingdon
Colemans - H	Superdrug Huntingdon
Dorothy Perkins - N	Superdrug St Ives
Eaden Lilley - I	Superdrug St Neots
Flora Magna - H	Tesco - H
GIA Club & Street Wear - N	The Territorial - H
GIA - H	Timespace Technology Ltd - H
Grafton Projects -H	Toy Brokers Ltd - H
Huntingdon Housing Partnership	Travis Perkins - H
Huntingdon Trading Post	Union - H
Huntingdonshire Society for the Blind	Waitrose Huntingdon
Iceland - H	Waitrose St Ives
Lawsons - N	Waitrose St Neots
LEL club – I	Weldlogic Europe Ltd - H
Library St Neots	Westgate Department Store - N
Just Sharing - I	WH Smith - H
Mackays St Ives	Wilkinson - H
Mackays St Neots	Winter & Co Ltd - H
Marks & Spencer Simply Foods - H	Woolworth Huntingdon
Martins Newsagents - N	Woolworth St Ives
Meridian Audio Ltd - H	Woolworth St Neots
Millets - H	Yours - H
Music Zone - H	
New Look Huntingdon	
New Look St Ives	
New Look St Neots	