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New radio scheme helps St Ives fight business crime

As part of the new Huntingdonshire Business Against Crime (HBAC) initiative, St Ives has launched its new radio scheme, aimed at reducing business crime and anti-social behaviour within the town.

As a result of the success of Huntingdon's HBAC programme, which launched in March 2004, businesses in St Ives have joined the newly expanded Huntingdonshire Business Against Crime scheme in order to combat crime that has been displaced from Huntingdon. During 2004/5 shop theft in Huntingdon dropped by 27%, whilst the percentage of shoplifting arrests has significantly increased, thanks to partnership working. By launching HBAC in St Ives, the aim is to achieve similar results and to realise an increase in the number of offenders apprehended.

St Ives will now benefit from the new ShopSafe radio technology, which displays who is talking with the added benefit of allowing immediate information and real-time back up in an emergency situation. The system also links to the CCTV Control Room, run by Huntingdonshire District Council. This gives St Ives businesses increased confidence when dealing with all crime and anti-social behaviour.

Deni Darke, Town Centre Manager for St Ives Town Initiative (SITI), said, "Having seen the huge success of Huntingdon's Business Against Crime scheme and the immediate impact it had on crime levels there, I know this can only be a good thing for St Ives. I am looking forward to working with the local police and HBAC to ensure the scheme is just as successful here. The response from our members has been very positive and we are offering special SITI membership rates to members of HBAC during the launch period."

HBAC has proved that team working, along with the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership and Cambridgeshire Constabulary, brings significant results in the battle to reduce crime and make the region's towns a safer and more pleasant environment for people to shop and work.

As an initiative of Huntingdon Town Centre Partnership, HBAC has been upheld as a scheme of 'best practice' both regionally and nationally.