



15 August 2005

New Huntingdon funding sees district-wide expansion in fight against crime

Huntingdon Business Against Crime (HBAC) has proved so successful in its bid to reduce crime in the town, that the scheme will be re-named Huntingdonshire Business Against Crime, with funding of £13,000 coming from Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership to facilitate the expansion.

Because of the success of HBAC, which launched in March 2004 and has targeted persistent offenders involved in business crime and anti-social behaviour within the town centre, much of this crime has been displaced to St Ives and St Neots. The aim of the new district-wide scheme is to share best practice and for all involved to gain the proven benefits.

In partnership with the Cambridgeshire Constabulary, HBAC has proved that team working 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.

Generous grant funding from Cambridgeshire Constabulary has allowed the appointment of a part time HBAC co-ordinator, who will assist the HBAC Scheme Manager in the implementation of the expansion throughout Huntingdonshire.

As an initiative of Huntingdon Town Centre Partnership, HBAC has been upheld as a scheme of 'best practice' both regionally and nationally. Its achievements include the Safer Business Award, a reduction in shop theft of 27 per cent, the highlighting of key offenders and the serving of seven Exclusion Notices on local criminals.

"I am extremely proud of the team effort that has made the scheme so successful.

HBAC members have embraced partnership working with the police and local authorities, and sharing 'best practice' with other towns in Huntingdonshire will guarantee greater rewards for everyone," said Mrs Katy Sismore, HBAC Scheme Manager.

Huntingdon will now share its sophisticated database system with other towns in order for them to achieve similar success. The long-term goal is to operate a database that will network with towns and cities around the UK, thereby making repeat crime even more difficult through information sharing of persistent offenders.

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