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St Neots brand new radio link is ‘loud and clear’

Funding from Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership (HCSP) has helped Huntingdonshire Business Against Crime (HBAC) in its aim to make the three towns of Huntingdon, St Ives and St Neots safer places to live, work and shop, with a grant of £15,000.

The work of HBAC is varied and brings many benefits to St Neots businesses, who are members of the HBAC scheme, not least the rewards from their new crystal clear radio link operating between St Neots and Huntingdonshire District Council’s CCTV. The two-way radios link HBAC members, police officers and PCSO’s, and the CCTV Control Room giving effective real time communication regarding shoplifting and other emergency situations such as lost children, bag dippers, anti social behaviour and criminal damage. Katy Sismore, HBAC Manager, and Frank Cannon, HDC CCTV Manager, in partnership with ShopSafe Radio, overcame initial problems to provide clear radio communication between St Neots and the CCTV Control Room by linking through ‘VOIP’ (Voice over Internet Protocol).

“Previous attempts to link the radios successfully have been hampered by the distance and technical glitches,” explained Katy Sismore, HBAC manager.

The end result, however, is a clear signal between all parties allowing the fight against crime to continue unhindered. Now all three towns have the same level of radio communication linked back to the ‘eyes in the sky’ at the CCTV Control Room.

HBAC has proved that partnership working, along with the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership and Cambridgeshire Constabulary, brings significant results in the battle to reduce crime and anti social behaviour. As an initiative of Huntingdon Town Centre Partnership, HBAC has been upheld as a scheme of ‘best practice’ both regionally and nationally.