



20 June 2005

Huntingdon award recognises 27 per cent fall in shop lifting offences

At the first ever AGM and annual dinner of Huntingdon Business Against Crime (HBAC), the prestigious 'Safer Business Award' was presented in recognition of HBAC's success in all operational activities to reduce crime in Huntingdon.

Awarded by Action Against Business Crime, the national organisation for business crime reduction partnerships, which works in conjunction with the British Retail Consortium and the Home Office, the award recognises the dedicated work by HBAC and Huntingdon Town Centre Partnership. Since HBAC's launch in March last year, it has targeted persistent offenders involved in business crime and anti-social behaviour within the town centre.

HBAC has established an effective and powerful crime reduction partnership within Huntingdon, which includes Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Huntingdonshire District Council, Huntingdon Town Council and over 40 business members.

Mike Fowler, HBAC's Chairman said, "We have seen shop lifting offences fall by 27 per cent in the year to April 2005. Huntingdonshire District Council's CCTV has recorded 74 arrests for shoplifting, with 64 of those in Huntingdon. This is a great achievement and an accolade to the tremendous commitment from the Scheme Manager and local businesses that have joined the Scheme and supported the fight against crime in Huntingdon, making it a safer environment for everyone. Managers and staff feel safer and businesses are saving thousands of pounds in stock losses."

HBAC also recognised its key supporters who were presented with awards for their dedication to making Huntingdon a safer place. Sharron Lee, Manager of New Look, won 'Thief Catcher of the Year' Award for her outstanding success in apprehending shop lifters and PCSO Angie Wilson won 'Best Supporter of HBAC' Award. Chief Superintendent Simon Edens presented both awards and was the main speaker at the AGM dinner.

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