



22 June 2006

Cambridgeshire's Chief Constable attends Huntingdon crime awards dinner

At the second annual dinner of Huntingdonshire Business Against Crime (HBAC), Cambridgeshire's Chief Constable, Julie Spence, congratulated HBAC on its achievements in reducing crime in Huntingdon over the past two years. Mrs Spence said, "Huntingdonshire Business Against Crime are great partners and epitomise what a proactive co-operative partnership can achieve - profitable businesses which enable safer vibrant communities to thrive." Since HBAC's launch in March 2004 it has targeted persistent offenders involved in business crime and anti-social behaviour within the town centre, resulting in a 27 per cent reduction in shop theft, which has been maintained year on year. Last year, as a result of the success of Huntingdon's HBAC programme, the scheme expanded district-wide to embrace St Ives and St Neots shops and businesses, who recognised the benefits of the scheme and joined HBAC in order to combat crime and anti social behaviour that had been displaced by the success of Huntingdon. HBAC has established an effective and powerful crime reduction partnership, which includes Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Huntingdonshire District Council, Huntingdon Town Council, Huntingdon Town Centre Partnership and over 80 business members.

Mike Fowler, HBAC's Chairman also welcomed the new HBAC Commercial members in the Stukeley Meadows 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 members in that area is currently underway and will provide an exciting challenge," said Mr Fowler.

The AGM awards dinner also recognised key supporters of HBAC who were presented with awards for their dedication to making Huntingdon a safer place. For the second year running, Sharron Lee, Manager of New Look, won 'Thief Catcher of the Year' Award for her support of HBAC and her all round involvement with HBAC and the partner organisations also for the second year running, PCSO Angie Wilson won 'HBAC Supporter of the Year' Award. Chief Constable Julie Spence presented both awards. Certificates were awarded to PCSO Anderson, St Ives, and PCSO Newman, St Neots, for their enthusiasm, dedication and hard work with the introduction of HBAC in their respective towns.