

# BUSINESS BRIEF



**SUFFOLK**  
POLICE AUTHORITY

## A NEW FORUM FOR BUSINESS

*By Simon Ash*  
**Chief Constable**

*Welcome to the first edition of Business Brief, our new electronic newsletter for Suffolk's business community.*

*Our vision as a Constabulary is to take pride in keeping our county safe, while ensuring all our communities value and trust what we do.*

*We want to strengthen links with businesses across the county – and, together, prevent business-related crime in our county.*

*This newsletter is part of the process. It will be a quarterly publication, providing news and useful information for businesses.*

*In this first edition, I am delighted to have some very good news to share with you.*

*Crime in Suffolk fell by 5.4% during the last financial year, compared to the previous 12 months. It now stands at its lowest level for at least seven years.*

*Included in this figures were falls in violent crime, vehicle crime, criminal damage and burglary.*

*At the same time, we solved an extra 271 crimes than in 2006/07, increasing our detection rate to 30.2%.*

*I would like to thank local people for all their support during the year. Clearly, our challenge now is to build on this performance in the year ahead.*

*You can find more information about our performance on our website at [www.suffolk.police.uk](http://www.suffolk.police.uk)*

*The website also contains a Business Crime Advice section, providing a range of crime reduction advice for the business community. This can be reached from the home page.*

*You can also look at our Three Year plan, which sets out our vision and priorities for policing Suffolk in the years ahead.*

*The Constabulary and Police Authority have been working together with Business*

*Associations following the Business Forum, which took place in October last year.*

*District Commanders across the county have been working with businesses and business associations to build on existing links as well as forging new links with Safer Neighbourhood Teams.*

*You can find out more information about your Safer Neighbourhood Teams by viewing their website at [www.safersuffolk.org.uk](http://www.safersuffolk.org.uk)*

*I hope you find this newsletter useful. To make it a success, it needs your input. We want local businesses to share and promote good practice through the newsletter.*

*We also want it to meet your needs – and so would welcome any feedback which may help us when planning future editions.*

*If you have a business-related query, please contact Chief Inspector Paul Sharp on 01473 613858 or e-mail [paul.sharp@suffolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:paul.sharp@suffolk.pnn.police.uk)*

## RIVERSIDE CRIMEBUSTERS



### **A new Marine Watch scheme was launched in Beccles earlier this year.**

The launch aims to involve local boat owners, businesses, clubs, agencies including the Broads Authority and other Neighbourhood Watch schemes which are in operation adjacent to the Beccles Quay and River Waveney.

In recent years a number of thefts from marine craft have occurred in Beccles and the scheme's aim is to reduce this type of offence by involving as many people as possible to watch out and report suspicious activity.

It is hoped this will include those who work for local boat firms, local residents living near the river and those using boats either to live on or for pleasure trips as well as the harbour master, Police officers, Police Community

Support officers, Special Constables, Broads Authority employees and local anglers and boat club members.

Those taking part or who wish to help are being encouraged to sign up for the Suffolk Constabulary Police Direct system which provides immediate alerts. This means if a crime is reported or suspicious activity is seen everyone that has signed up will promptly receive a text, telephone call or e-mail alert message.

Marine Watch also encourages boat owners to take basic crime prevention measures such as not leaving property on board and to have effective locking devices and to postcode mark all property on boats.

Our photograph shows police officers with members of the new Marine Watch scheme at its launch in February.

# NEW BID TO THWART SHOP RAIDERS

## An initiative to prevent raids on shops has been introduced to Suffolk.

Suffolk Constabulary are working in partnership with the Raid-control Trust, the East of England Cooperative Society and Suffolk Police Authority to introduce Raid-control, which aims to raise security standards in retail premises.

Raid-control aims to deter robbers from targeting stores as well as generating evidence to convict criminals if a raid does occur.

Originally introduced by the Metropolitan Police, Raid-control has been developed into a package of security measures to create a safer retail environment and reduce robbery in retail premises. Stores must comply with measures introduced under five criteria:

- **staff training**
- **minimising the amount of cash kept on the premises**
- **image capture systems including CCTV**
- **time delay safes**
- **installing indelible staining and note marking equipment**

Each business is inspected by a police crime reduction officer to ensure the criteria are met. Once met; the business receives Raid-control certification and is allowed to display the appropriate Raid-control signage.

Some of the costs of introducing these measures will be met by a grant from Suffolk Police Authority. The first 45 businesses that successfully meet Raid-control standard will be eligible for a £400 rebate, subject to conditions. So far, 14 businesses have taken up this offer.

At the launch of the initiative last year, Police Authority member Joanna Spicer said:

“Suffolk Police Authority recognises the importance of engaging with local businesses to reduce and prevent crime.

“The Authority hopes that by providing some funding to businesses, it will encourage them to adopt Raid-control providing a deterrent and reassurance to staff and customers alike.”

John Birkinshaw, chairman of Raid-control Trust, added: “Raid-control has been recognised as a best practice national standard for reducing retail robbery by the Association of Chief Police Officers. It has already had a major impact in other regions and we are confident that it will have the same positive effect in Suffolk.”

## PROTECTING SHOPPERS

**An innovative scheme is helping shoppers keep their purses secure when they visit their local supermarket.**

Bury-based Police Community Support Officer Andre de Jongh has set up an initiative to combat purse theft at the Sainsbury's store in the town.

The scheme is simple. Shoppers can pick up a small card, containing a bar code, from the customer services desk when they arrive at the store.

They then place this card in their purse while they shop.

If their purse is snatched and taken out of the store, the barcode card activates the entrance/exit alarms.

Once they have finished shopping, customers return the card to the desk.

## NEW FORUM

**A business watch forum has just been set up in Mildenhall.**

The group is looking at a variety of measures to reduce crime on the Mildenhall Industrial Estate.

Among the measures being discussed are the use of barriers to block off roads at night and CCTV.

# BUSINESSES SUPPORT OFFICERS

## Businesses across Suffolk are helping officers carry out their patrols – on two wheels instead of on foot.

Two Police Community Support Officers in the east of the county can now get around their beats more quickly, after local businesses helped them buy a bicycle each.

Halesworth-based PCSO Jackie Adams received her bicycle thanks to support from Halesworth Business Connections, Huggy's Bike Shop and EPS Transfers.

“The new bike means I can get around more quickly, and carry out cycle patrols, although I will still be out on foot too. It will allow me to travel around the town and hopefully

further improve the service provided to local people. It will also prove useful when carrying out cycle proficiency training with local schools.

Further north in the county, PCSO Susan Kershaw received her bicycle thanks to generous sponsorship donation from Warner Breaks.

The company, which runs the Corton Coastal Resort, near Lowestoft, gave a donation of £500 – and Wrentham-based Cedar Cycle supplied the bicycle at a discount.

Our photographs show Jackie and Susan receiving their bicycles from representatives of the businesses which helped buy them.



# FORGING LINKS WITH YOU

By **Gulshan Kayembe**

**Chair, Suffolk Police Authority**

Welcome to the first edition of Business Brief, our new electronic newsletter for Suffolk's business community.

Suffolk Police Authority is here to ensure an efficient and effective police service for Suffolk. It sets the budget for policing in Suffolk and sets the Constabulary's objectives and targets. It also seeks the views of local people on policing in Suffolk and makes sure that Suffolk Constabulary does all it can to improve policing for your community. Although Suffolk is one of the safest counties in the country, we recognise that we cannot afford to be complacent and, to keep Suffolk safe we need to understand the issues that are important to all our communities including businesses. We recognise that businesses are at the heart of the community. They boost the local economy and are the 'eyes and ears' of the local community by reporting crime and working together with the police to tackle local issues. Our new

Three Year Plan published in April 2008 includes a commitment to work with businesses to address the issues that businesses are concerned about. During the past twelve months we have been working with the Chief Constable and with business associations to improve our understanding of these issues and to identify ways of working with businesses to prevent business-related crime in Suffolk. Business Brief is just one of the initiatives we are working on over the coming months aimed at building stronger links with businesses and preventing business crime. This issue of Business Brief includes details of some of the other initiatives that we are working on and we will continue to work with businesses to identify other ways of addressing business concerns.

If you would like to know more about Suffolk Police Authority or have any views regarding policing in Suffolk please contact us on **01473 782773 (email: [spa@suffolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:spa@suffolk.pnn.police.uk) [www.suffolkpoliceauthority.org.uk](http://www.suffolkpoliceauthority.org.uk) )**.

## KEEPING YOU INFORMED

**The Authority has once again consulted business ratepayers about the budget for the year ahead.**

During January and February, Authority Chair Gulshan Kayembe and the Chief Constable Simon Ash attended three business events arranged by the Chamber of Commerce.

These were 'First Friday Club' at Bury St Edmunds', Suffolk Business Network Lunch and Waveney's Breakfast Club.

These sessions allowed the Authority and Constabulary to provide an update on issues relating to the budget, police performance and progress with the implementation of Safer Neighbourhood Teams. Those attending were also able to put their questions to the Chair and the Chief Constable.

The Authority is now arranging similar events for 2009. Details will be included in the next edition of Business Brief.

## BUSINESS FORUM – PART II

**Suffolk Police Authority is planning to hold a second Business Forum.**

Following on from the success of last year's event, the Authority will stage another forum in October.

It will aim to help us understand the effects of business crime on local businesses and what needs to be done to combat it more effectively.

Businesses will be given an opportunity to discuss the issues that are important to them with members of Suffolk Police Authority and Suffolk's Chief Constable, Simon Ash.

There will be workshop sessions where delegates can share innovative ideas about how business and policing can work together to prevent and detect crime and what businesses can expect from the police when a business crime is committed. The Police Authority will also provide an update on progress made since the last forum.

The event offers excellent networking opportunities – but places are limited. To register for more details, or to comment on the issues that are important to you, please contact Suffolk Police Authority on **(01473) 782774** or e-mail [spa@suffolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:spa@suffolk.pnn.police.uk)

## COPS POP IN

**Officers across Suffolk have been keeping in touch with their local post offices and late night stores to help prevent crime.**

During the autumn and winter last year, officer visited more than 260 post offices and 250 late night convenience stores, providing crime prevention advice and display materials to deter robbers.

## SHOPWATCH RE-LAUNCH

**A Shopwatch scheme in Bury St Edmunds has just been re-launched.**

The scheme aims to reduce incidents of shoplifting, encourage stores to work together and share best practice.

It is a joint initiative involving Bury Town Centre Management, Bury Chamber of Commerce and Industry, St Edmundsbury Borough Council and the Bury Central Safer Neighbourhood Team.

The scheme was re-launched in April – and all retailers in the town centre are being encouraged to join.