



Working together for a safer London

NEWS RELEASE

Brent Business Watch Helps Reduce Crime in Harlesden High Street

Brent Business Watch is a scheme run by the Brent Safer Neighbourhoods (SN) Teams, which aims to make the borough's retail areas safer for those who live, work or visit Brent. As part of Business Watch, Alertbox, an early warning system for retailers to warn neighbouring shops of crime or anti-social behaviour was introduced to Harlesden High Street on 22nd March.

Figures from the Brent Police Intelligence Unit have shown that there has been a reduction in the number of crime reports received in the area since the introduction of Alert Box.

Please see below crime figures relating to Harlesden High Street during the period of 23/03/2007– 01/06/2007 compared to the same period last year (23/03/2006-01/06/2006).

Time Period 1: 23/03/2006 – 31/05/2006

Offence	Harlesden High Street
Assault, GBH, ABH	14
Streetcrime	9
Public Order Offences	2

Time Period 2: 23/03/2007 – 31/05/2007

Offence	Harlesden High Street
Assault, GBH, ABH	4
Streetcrime	4
Public Order Offences	2

Each Safer Neighbourhoods Team has a dedicated Business Watch PCSO who is responsible for the retailers' involvement with Business Watch on their ward. The designated PCSO visits their retailers regularly providing crime prevention advice on how to keep their businesses safer.

Insp Harry Hussain, Safer Neighbourhoods South, said: "I think the figures demonstrate that by working together the local businesses can reduce the level of crime and anti-social behaviour incidents in Harlesden High Street. We have received very positive feedback from the retailers and hope that we can continue to make Brent a safer place for our businesses and residents.

"Of course, Alert Box is another crime prevention tool, not a replacement for police officers. It brings retailers together in those vital minutes before the emergency services arrive. The likelihood of a situation escalating is reduced once the individuals concerned are aware that neighbouring retailers are observing them. Even seeing the box on the wall may help to deter criminals."

Ends

Notes to Editors

About Alert Box

A new early warning system for retailers launched in Harlesden in March to warn neighbouring shops of crime or anti-social behaviour. Alert Box is a sophisticated electronic device that attaches firmly to the wall and connects to similar boxes in the surrounding area.

The Metropolitan Police Safer Neighbourhoods Teams and Brent Council's Neighbourhood Renewal Team for Harlesden and Stonebridge have purchased 100 devices for retailers as an additional way to fight crime and promote safer communities. The 'warning' setting lets traders know if there is a situation causing concern and they can then either support their neighbours or call for assistance. The more serious 'help' alert means that emergency services should be called or medical assistance is required.

For further information please contact Brent Police Press Office on 0208 733 3061/3085.