

## AlertBox comes to Bristol



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In the south west, it is the first pilot of its type and after a successful trial in Henbury, it is hoped that the scheme maybe extended into other areas in Bristol.

The AlertBox system creates a digital network, linking box owners, ensuring speedy communication and greater security in the event of any criminal or other suspicious activity. It has been successfully trialled in London. Crow Lane has been selected for the trial.

Each AlertBox is simply plugged into a mains supply after it is programmed with the owner's name, address and telephone number. The option of issuing a warning, by pressing an orange button - alerting neighbours, for example, to a bogus caller or any suspicious behaviour - or, by pressing another button, calling for assistance is given to each householder or trader.

The scheme is being led by the Safer Bristol Partnership with the support of Avon and Somerset police, the council's Community Cohesion team and the residents group SEARCH. It will run for an initial minimum of 6 months.

Spokesman for the Crow Lane residents group, John Brown said:

"Residents in Crow Lane are delighted that they have been chosen to take part in the first pilot project in Bristol. The scheme will help local residents in Crow Lane to keep in touch with each other and address issues, which may affect us all here. It will help reduce fear of crime and increase community safety. "

Chair of the Safer Bristol Partnership, Councillor Gary Hopkins said:

"Reducing fear of crime and empowering residents to tackle crime in their community are key aims for us and this scheme offers an additional tool.

He also said: "The AlertBox initiative has been trialled with considerable success elsewhere in the UK and I shall be following the progress of this pilot with great interest."

Community Safety, Bristol District, Inspector Phil Davis said: "This is a good example of technology being used to bring communities together.

He also said: "The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is very popular in Bristol and has proved extremely effective in reducing crime and the fear of crime. We hope this initiative will bring further benefits."