

Testimonials

from South Staffordshire Community Safety Partnership and their traders

In November 2005, South Staffordshire Community Safety Partnership established AlertBox networks in the shopping parades of their borough for the benefit of traders and shoppers.

To follow are quotes from the key project members and the traders who are part of the AlertBox network.



Community Safety Partnership

The Community Safety Partnership recognises the need to build relations with the business community, after feedback from the Crime Audit indicated a lack of confidence in the Criminal Justice System. The AlertBox is therefore one of the initiatives the Community Safety Partnership is putting into place to build a rapport with small businesses in the district, which will help to reassure them by having a deterrent device close at hand, and will also encourage them to build a relationship with their neighbouring traders, enabling a type of "business watch" scheme to evolve.

Maggie Quinn & Linda England
South Staffs Community Safety Partnership
South Staffordshire Council

Councillor

AlertBox is just the thing for small traders in village centres. It brings the local trading community together, and is a deterrent to would-be thieves, but most of all, it offers a degree of security both to the business owners and shop assistants; plus it offers reassurance to the local community visiting the shops.

The feedback from the business communities has been very positive and although we are still in the pilot stage of rolling out the AlertBox, we would like to see it eventually being placed around the whole of the South Staffordshire district.

Brian Edwards
Councillor
South Staffordshire Council

Police:

I am delighted that South Staffordshire Community Safety Partnership has taken up this worthwhile project. I have personally seen the great effect that this product has had on reducing the fear of crime in other parts of the country and see this as an important tool in the fight against crime and anti-social behaviour in the South Staffordshire area.

PC Andy Heaton
Crime Reduction Officer
Staffordshire Police

Produced in January 2006

Members of the network



"It's so nice to know that someone will come if I needed some assistance – I feel more secure now, especially as I am sometimes here on my own."

Sue Wiggins
Showroom Assistant
Panache Furniture



"AlertBox has made us more aware of other shops. Now we communicate by name."

Angela Jones
Manager
Compton Hospice



"It has brought the shops together. It's a good deterrent and we don't feel so isolated."

Darren Bradburn
Manager
Bradsports



"I have seen six people running next door to help with an incident. I know that if I pressed my AlertBox, someone would come and help us."

Mr Jabriel
Shop Manager
Fish Bar



"Tremendous response – it's great. AlertBox has brought the shopping community together."

Laurence Walker-Kukan
Manager
Cobblers



"If we'd had an AlertBox a couple of months ago, we would have alerted others that there were people out the back trying to break in. Now the teenagers know we have AlertBox, I can threaten them with pressing the button – this works every time. A lot of customers have commented on what a good idea AlertBox is."

Pam Coast
Shop Assistant
Bakers



"It's great to have the reassurance of back-up support from your neighbours. It gives peace of mind in the event of an emergency. We have had excellent follow up support from project staff."

Louise Rose
Manager
Flower Shop

Produced in January 2006