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## Top cop impressed as retailers box clever

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A shopping district in Winchmore Hill received a high profile guest when borough commander Sharon Rowe paid a visit to view a new safety scheme that is taking place amongst retailers.

Chief Superintendent Rowe went down to Green Lanes to see how a new device called an Alert Box was helping to improve shopkeepers' safety at work.

The Alert Box is an electronic device that enables traders to warn other businesses if they are in trouble.

The boxes have been distributed to local retailers by the Enfield Business and Retailers Association (EBRA).

EBRA member and town centre manager Mark Rudling said: "The box gives shopkeepers peace of mind, and it's particularly useful to vulnerable workers such as lone women.

"If there's a problem the box is programmed with the name and address of the business concerned, and it tells their neighbours that they need assistance.

"The police recently made an arrest because of these boxes. A newsagent in Winchmore Hill had problems with youths and needed urgent assistance. The local businesses apprehended the youths, the police were called and the problem was solved."

The Alert Box scheme was pioneered by EBRA in Edmonton, last year, and has proved such a success it is now being expanded.

Chf Supt Rowe was particularly impressed by her tour of the newly equipped shops.

Mr Rudling said: "Sharon Rowe was there as we work closely with the Safer Neighbourhoods Team, and she wanted to see the boxes in operation for herself. She was very supportive and thought they were a great idea."

[http://www.enfieldindependent.co.uk/search/display.var.1192568.0.top\\_cop\\_impressed\\_as\\_retailer\\_s\\_box\\_clever.php](http://www.enfieldindependent.co.uk/search/display.var.1192568.0.top_cop_impressed_as_retailer_s_box_clever.php)



On alert: Borough Commander Sharon Rowe holding a shop 'alert box' with Sue and Olly Prigmore