

Crime and Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee 7th June 2005 Business Crime Report

Introduction

The lead for Police activity in respect of business crime is the Beating Business Crime programme lead by Warwickshire Police Community Safety team.

It works in four targeted areas:

- Providing a crime prevention advice and support service to business
- Police liaison with the Warwickshire Retail Crime Initiative
- Business Crime prevention Education
- Business Watch Schemes

Funding comes from Warwickshire Police, the Safer and Stronger Communities fund, Rugby Borough Council and the Warwickshire Retail Crime Initiative.

Performance

We have just come to the end of a 3-year Crime and Disorder Strategy period. The below table shows the performance in relation to recorded crime.

	Commercial Burglary		Shop Theft		Business Crime	
	Difference	% Change	Difference	% Change	Difference	% Change
North Warwickshire	-98	-31%	-16	-11%	-980	-40%
Nuneaton & Bedworth	+39	+ 10%**	-196	-25%	-5	0%
Rugby	-289	-49%	44	12%*	-299	-11%
Stratford	-64	-13%	-80	-23%	-242	-8%
Warwick	-17	-3%	-298	-37%	-754	-18%
Force	-429	-19%	-546	-22%	-2280	-14%

- Volume up, but detection level also up
- ** Increase halted and was 0% change 2004 – 2005, compared with 2003 – 2004.

The Business Crime Advisors have made 2,930 contacts with business in this period.

767 messages have been sent to business. There are now 2,4888 businesses in various Business Watch schemes.

Current New Activities or Developments of Interest

- New formal business groups set up at Hams Hall and Atherstone, initial meeting to set up a Group at The Shire, Leamington Spa.
- Warwickshire Retail Crime Initiative now restored
- Watch schemes expanding particularly Shops and Rural
- Holding Business Safety Exhibition on June 15th 2005 at The Hub, Bayton Road, Bedworth in conjunction with business, Warwickshire County Council and Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service who will launch a new Business arson reduction package at this event. Police and Fire Safety to then work closer in Partnership on business safety.
- PCSO at Henley has recently visited all Town businesses, signed them up into Watch schemes and delivered business crime prevention advice.
- Police have recently arrested major team of shop burglars

Conclusion

The Programme is seen as best practise by Government Office West Midlands and the Home Office. Warwickshire is the only Force with such a programme.

Business Crime is a specific theme in all the 5 District and borough Crime and Disorder Strategies in the County for the next 3 years.