



**WATFORD
BUSINESS
AGAINST
CRIME**





“Watford Business Against Crime is a great example of partnership work”

Chief Inspector Dempsey-Brench,
Hertfordshire Police

Watford Business Against Crime (WBAC) aims to reduce retail crime and anti-social behaviour throughout Watford town centre.

! 58% of businesses have been the victims of crime in the last 12 months

● Source: Chamber of Commerce Business Crime Survey 2008

! Of those, retailers have been victims of crime more than 15 times each

● Source: Chamber of Commerce Business Crime Survey 2008

“The information we receive at the monthly management meetings is invaluable to our staff”

Mark Sandiford, Store Services
Manager, Marks & Spencer

WBAC is led by a board of directors consisting of members of the Watford business community. A manager is responsible for the day to day running of the scheme.

In brief, WBAC operates an information sharing scheme which gathers information from members and the police. This information is then analysed to identify crime patterns and persistent retail offenders. WBAC then alerts members to counter any emerging crime patterns and also targets those offenders identified as ‘lifestyle criminals’.

This is complemented by a radio system which is central to WBAC. This ensures that members are in direct and constant contact with each other, the various CCTV centres in Watford and the WBAC manager.

“Watford Business Against Crime provides a vital link between businesses and the police in the fight against crime”

Rob Scott, Business Protection Manager, John Lewis

The average annual cost of crime per business is £12,200

Source: Chamber of Commerce Business Crime Survey 2008



Watford Business Against Crime is a member of Action Against Business Crime and is a holder of the Safer Business Award.

Benefits of WBAC include:

- Constant radio contact with the town's CCTV control centres, the police and other WBAC members.
- Participation in the Exclusion Order Scheme banning some repeat offenders from all member stores.
- Full membership of the Chamber of Commerce for all employees. This includes access to all member benefits and discounts at dozens of local businesses such as restaurants and health clubs.
- Exclusive access to intelligence about, and photos of convicted retail crime and fraud offenders.
- Links to Hertfordshire Police through nominated PCSOs and police officers who work in the town centre.

- Regular visits from WBAC manager and police staff.
- Monthly meetings to share intelligence. These are also attended by relevant guest speakers such as representatives from the police and the Crown Prosecution Service.
- Helps reduce stock loss.
- Free training sessions on a variety of topics including statement writing and correct use of the radios.
- Free signage, stickers and crime prevention material.
- Regular newsletters giving the latest news, crime trends and details of target criminals.

The annual WBAC membership subscription is calculated according to the size of your work force. For details of fees, please contact WBAC or the Watford and West Herts. Chamber of Commerce.

Business Crime in the UK costs £12.6 billion a year

Source: Chamber of Commerce Business Crime Survey 2008

“The Harlequin Shopping Centre supports Watford Business Against Crime and we would encourage all businesses in the town centre to join”

Michael Stevens, General Manager, The Harlequin, Watford



For more information about Watford Business Against Crime and how we can work with you to make Watford even safer for shoppers, visitors and businesses, contact:

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Watford Business Against Crime is supported by:

