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Success for Christmas Crackdown on Crime in Rugby

Rugby BID's campaign on security and safety in the town centre during the festive period was a success. Working in close partnership with Warwickshire Police various security initiatives and undercover operations delivered results that saw a reduction in public disorder offences, a reduction in shop theft and a much safer town.

Starting in November Rugby BID began to focus on supporting local retailers to combat crime. Security Training Workshops proved popular with local retailers where senior members of staff were able to learn how the control room works, how to handle an incident and working effectively with both the Rangers and the Police as well as how to identify potential problems. The courses saw over 30 managers and senior personnel from a variety of stores from the town centre attend.

Rugby Rangers, who are trained to identify hot spot areas within the town centre as well as potential targets, were engaged directly with retail security in the shops that were targeted by shoplifters. Their physical presence helped deter would-be thieves and gave additional security support to those shops during the busy times.

However, one of the biggest successes was the co-ordinated policing of the town centre. Rugby BID provided support through the CCTV control room in undercover operations and policing initiatives to combat expected crime. Also being invited to be part of Police briefings enabled CCTV Control Room Operators to assist Police Officers when and where they were needed. The night time economy benefitted particularly from this joint working and saw figures for public disorder offences down by 50% compared with the same time in 2008.

Inspector Paul Judson from Warwickshire Police, who is responsible for Town Centre policing, said, "I think this reduction in crime during the festive period was due to the extra officers on the streets who were being directed by CCTV Operators to potential trouble spots and flare ups. The reduction in public order offences is a testament to our effective partnership with Rugby BID and our joint aim to reduce harm to people using and visiting Rugby Town Centre."

Rugby BID staff also played a major role in assisting with a number of serious incidents at the end of last year including a stabbing, a smash and grab and an armed robbery. From Rangers preserving crime scenes and establishing witnesses through to CCTV Control Room operators identifying get away vehicles, support from the BID team was vital to the Police.

“We are extremely pleased that our Christmas crackdown has been such a success. Through our hard work and our joint working with both Warwickshire Police and the local businesses we have been able to continue tackling crime head on and help keep our town centre a safe place to be,” concluded Aftab Gaffar, Operations Director at Rugby BID Company.