



## Safe & Secure Homes

### Neighbourhood Renewal project leads to massive fall in house burglaries across Mansfield

House burglaries across areas in Mansfield have been slashed by almost **80 per cent** in some areas under the new 'Safe and Secure Homes' project that was launched in April this year.

The community-led initiative is one of the region's biggest ever crime reduction and home safety initiatives. The project aims to install 'SmartWater<sup>®</sup>', the latest synthetic DNA property-marking technology, wire free burglar alarms, smoke alarms, low energy light bulbs, hot water insulated cylinder jackets, loft insulation **FREE OF CHARGE** to approximately 5,500 homes in the district. The wardens employed on the project conduct a free home safety audit and link into other agencies to provide additional safety equipment where appropriate.

The aim of the £1million scheme is to cut burglaries by a quarter in the five Neighbourhood Renewal areas of West Titchfield, Bull farm, Ladybrook, Warsop and Northfield. The results after the first six months demonstrate an amazing reduction in all areas in offences of dwelling house burglary, the largest being almost **80 per cent**, with the average reduction being an astounding **40 per cent**, and across Mansfield it has cut burglaries by **11 per cent**.

The community led 'Neighbourhood Management Teams' have played a pivotal role in the scheme, which is also being supported by Mansfield District Council, Mansfield and

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Ashfield Police, Mansfield Partnership Against Crime, Mansfield Area Strategic Partnership, Nottinghamshire County Council, and Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue.

A team of uniformed wardens was recruited to deliver the scheme, who are carrying out the installation of the equipment and undertaking a full safety and security audit of the properties and recommending further safety measures where necessary.

Almost all the properties in the scheme have taken advantage of the opportunity to safeguard their possessions by having them permanently marked with their own unique synthetic DNA manufactured by 'SmartWater Technology's<sup>®</sup>' who are in partnership the Forensic Science Service. The details of property marked with 'SmartWater' are recorded on a national database available to all police forces instantly, making property likely to be stolen in a burglary permanently identifiable to the lawful owner.

More residents living within the five Neighbourhood Renewal areas who have not yet applied to have this FREE equipment fitted are being asked to come forward to put their name on the list as the project is currently expected to finish early in 2004! More than 3,000 homes have had alarms fitted since the scheme was launched in March, and the programme is expected to be complete in the five areas by March – although it is hoped the scheme could be expanded to other areas.

Residents within the five Neighbourhood Renewal areas who have not yet had an alarm fitted should contact the 'Safe and Secure Homes' team to arrange for one to be installed. (contact details below)

Steve Brookes, Home Office Director Government Office East Midlands said: "I warmly welcome these most encouraging early results. Burglary of people's homes is a crime that has an effect on its victims, which goes well beyond the economic loss. We know that burglary is the key priority in the County and I am therefore delighted with the significant reductions that the 'Safe and Secure Homes' initiative has had since April.

"Neighbourhood Renewal seeks to improve the quality of lives of those who live in some of the more depressed areas of the country and it is these homes that are often at risk of burglary. The fact that nearly half of all homes in the neighbourhood renewal areas have

been fitted with alarms together with the fact that crimes of burglary in those areas have reduced by a similar amount bears testament to its success.

“Government Office wishes this initiative continued success and we look forward to working with the teams in continuing this most encouraging trend.”

Chief Superintendent Ak Khan, Divisional Commander for Mansfield & Ashfield Division said:

“These are really impressive results and it is down to the true partnership of all the team members behind this scheme. It has involved working closely with the five communities, which has ensured its great success so early into the project. This is the largest crime reduction scheme of its type to take place in this county, and it is a testament to all those involved that it has had one of the greatest successes in crime reduction we have experienced and has had a substantial impact on peoples fear of crime in their communities.

“I am sure these results will be give reassurance to members of the public and we shall certainly be looking to promote this project across the district. We are aware we still have a long way to go and hope that these results will make the Government and communities to see the benefits of Neighbourhood Renewal Programmes in Mansfield.”

Richard Goad, Chairman of Mansfield Partnership Against Crime, and Chief Executive of Mansfield District Council said:

“I am delighted that this scheme is already proving such a great success. We are not even half way through the initiative yet, but already we have seen a remarkable reduction in burglaries not only in the Neighbour areas, but also right across Mansfield. It has certainly been worthwhile and if it continues to make such a significant difference then I hope this will become more widely available to other communities within our district.

“Feeling safe and secure in your own home is a basic human right and one that we should never loose sight of. The difference that this scheme has made to people's lives is incredible.”

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For more information log on to the website on [www.safeandsecurehomes.com](http://www.safeandsecurehomes.com) or residents wanting to check if they qualify for the free alarms can contact the Safe and Secure Homes team on (01623) 626868 or fax (01623) 421003 or email [admin@safeandsecurehomes.com](mailto:admin@safeandsecurehomes.com).

ENDS

CT. Safe and Secure Homes amazing success 14.11.03

### **PHOTOGRAPHIC AND FILMING OPPORTUNITY**

The media is invited to attend a property in the Bull Farm estate, Mansfield which has had an alarm fitted under the scheme. Bull Farm has recorded dramatic burglary reductions of almost 60 per cent. A Bull Farm resident had an alarm fitted in May 2003. The resident will be available to chat to reporters about the scheme. There will also be representatives from Nottinghamshire Police, MASP and the Safe and Secure Homes team.

**DATE/TIME:** Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2003, 10.00am

**LOCATION:** 16 Peel Crescent, Bull Farm estate, Mansfield



**For further information on this press release call Public Relations at Mansfield District Council on (01623) 463376 / 463021 or e-mail: [publicrelations@mansfield-dc.gov.uk](mailto:publicrelations@mansfield-dc.gov.uk)**