



MEDIA RELEASE  
4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2003

PARTNERSHIP AIMS TO DELIVER PRACTICAL APPROACH TO  
HADLEIGH CRIME REDUCTION

The Babergh Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership is set to work with local residents on a number of practical ways of reducing criminal damage and arson in a Suffolk town. The Partnership, made up of a number of local bodies including the Police, Suffolk Fire Service and Babergh District and Hadleigh Town Councils, is seeking funding for an information campaign later in the year.

“Although Babergh is one of the least crime affected districts in the country, there are a number of crime-related issues that need to be addressed. The Partnership is keen to work with the public in identifying practical ways whereby all of us can reduce incidences of criminal behaviour and increase its detection” said Inspector Lincoln Pratt, Sector Commander for Hadleigh.

In Hadleigh, the Partnership is addressing the issues of criminal damage and arson. “Hadleigh is a fine place to live with a great sense of civic pride. Most people love living in the town. We hope to harness that spirit by focusing upon the actions that ordinary people can take to help out” added Tim Mutum, Babergh’s Head of Community & Leisure Services.

These actions focus around three core areas: abandoned vehicles, child management and working with the town’s youth. To reduce the arson attacks on cars, the Partnership will encourage residents to inform Babergh as soon as they suspect a vehicle has been abandoned with Babergh ensuring that any vehicle that is confirmed as being abandoned will be removed in five working days.

Greater effort will also be put into getting parents to keep in more regular contact with their teenage children – especially at night. Support and advice will also be stepped up with the town’s already successful ‘Pubwatch’ scheme being extended to other outlets selling alcohol.

Finally, the Partnership is due to recruit a number of youth outreach workers whose role will be to work with young people to ensure that they can have a good and safe time, but without causing concern to others.

The Partnership is actively seeking funding from the Government to launch an information campaign to support these three initiatives. ENDS

For further information, please contact Paul Simon, Communications & PR Officer, Babergh District Council on (01473) 826634