

Press information is available from ...
Derek White Tel: 01296 631898 Fax: 01296 630321
Email: nnwa@hopkinson-white.co.uk

Press Release

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Residents Tackle Anti-Social Behaviour with Two-Way Radios

Neighbourhood Watch two-way radios are being used by residents of The Somer Community Housing Trust to improve safety and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in the Whiteway area of Bath. The burning of cars and motor bikes, vandalism and general anti-social behaviour had been a severe problem in the local park and, following a £95,000 refurbishment of the park, residents decided to set up a "Park Watch".

The Trust first heard about Neighbourhood Watch two-way radios when residents asked if they could use them in the park. To fund the purchase of the radios the residents applied to the Trust's 'Community Initiative Grant' which supports residents' groups and community safety initiatives.

The two-way radios enable key members of the Park Watch group to communicate with each other. Park Watch co-ordinator, Caz Snell, said "The radios ensure effective monitoring of the park, providing a safe place for children to play". By using the radios, members can exchange information and summon the appropriate response more quickly.

Somer Community Housing Trust provides 9,700 affordable homes across the Bath, Somerset, Wiltshire and Bristol area, employing more than 250 people. The Trust's Community Investment Manager, Cathy McMahon, said "The radios have been an enormous help, improving management of the park and reducing anti-social behaviour. The two-way radio scheme works in partnership with the Trust and the police, sending out a clear message that residents are not going to tolerate anti-social behaviour".

She said she would also recommend two-way radios to other housing trusts if residents wanted to take ownership of a problem in their area. Neighbourhood Watch two-way radios are used successfully across the UK in various ways in the community helping in both the reduction of crime and anti-social behaviour and by addressing the fear of crime.

Neighbourhood Watch offers exclusively the Motorola Talkabout™ T5432 NW two-way radio and is available to NW members and similar responsible groups such as tenants' and residents' associations and others involved in community safety. The special price of £34.99 including VAT includes an earbud with 'push to talk' microphone, rechargeable battery and mains charger. There are no running costs, no contracts, line rental or call charges. As the radios operate on PMR 446 frequencies, no licence is required.

The radios are a cost effective and easy to use tool which help groups of people contact each other at the touch of a button. They can be used in either local urban or rural neighbourhoods and have a range of up to two miles. To find out more about Neighbourhood Watch Two-Way Radios and for advice about setting up a two-way radio scheme, please call the Neighbourhood Watch Two-Way Radio Helpline on 01296 632758 or visit www.neighbourhoodwatch.net

Contact details for Somer Community Housing Trust; River Place, The Maltings, Lower Bristol Road, Bath BA2 1EP. Tel: 01225 366000 www.somer.org.uk

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J peg image is available and can emailed upon request.

Press Contact :

Derek White - Hopkinson White

Tel: 01296 631898 Fax: 01296 630321

Email: nnwa@hopkinson-white.co.uk



