



Two-Way Radio News

Tunbridge & Malling Borough Council has been involved in a multi agency approach to tackling local crime issues in Snodland, Kent. Neighbourhood Watch members have used Motorola two-way radios in crime “hot spots”. PC Mick Wright says, “The two-way radios were used as part of a pro-active crime reduction package, enabling the community and the police to work together to tackle vehicle crime, daytime burglary and theft from outbuildings. The information gathered has led to high profile arrests with up to 40% reduction in crime”.

A Neighbourhood Watch radio scheme in East Malling was recently highlighted on BBC Radio Kent. PC Mick Wright explained, “Co-ordinators with radios can talk to each other “real time”, identifying the movements of suspicious vehicles or people and keeping a very close eye on anti-social behaviour. They can make sure the police are kept up to date with real first-class quality information and intelligence”. In a particular estate in East Malling the radios are being used in conjunction with camcorders, which are covertly deployed by Neighbourhood Watch members, and information intelligence is enhanced on videotape. This is a unique way of using the radios as far as NNWA is aware. The reporter concluded that if he were a criminal in the area he wouldn't fancy his chances!

Kent Police recently apprehended three teenagers after they were seen smashing a shop window. A Neighbourhood Watch member witnessed the crime and was able to pass information to other NW radio users who, via radio, followed the direction of the teenagers and alerted the police to their whereabouts.

Warwickshire Police in Water Orton, Coleshill have issued two-way radios in troubled areas, following crime trends. NW co-ordinators use two-way radios as a deterrent. PC Wayne Cooke, Community Safety Officer, says “Not only are the radios effective to help fight crime but enable the community to keep an eye on vulnerable people”. They have also put signs up informing the public that radio surveillance operates in the area.

Newton Regis Neighbourhood Watch is using Motorola two-way radios to combat crime and anti social behaviour. The Newton Regis Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator says “We’ve found the radio system to be a very valuable asset and it has so far proved its worth on several occasions and we now have a very much reduced crime level. Fairly early on there was an incident with a suspicious door to door caller. Calls using the Motorola two-way radios quickly alerted members in the neighbourhood to keep an eye on him and eventually he was diplomatically approached and asked to leave the area”. There have been several other incidents in Newton Regis where the radios have been successfully used to pass on information including tracking suspects involved in car theft.

In Mackworth, Derbyshire, the Derbyshire Building Society sponsored the setting up of a radio scheme by purchasing Motorola two-way radios. Subsequently, the Derby Burglary Reduction Project organised funding from the local council to purchase further radios. The local NW co-ordinator said, “The Motorola radios were tested all over the estate (approximately one square mile) and were found to give a clear reception. They are simple to use and only require recharging from the mains so there’s no ongoing cost for new batteries. The two resident police officers also use the radios enabling them to talk directly to each other”.

For further information contact;
Motorola Neighbourhood Watch customer services on 0800 389 3632



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