



Bexleyheath Police Station
2 Arnsberg Way,
Bexleyheath
Kent DA7 4QS

15th September 2009

Dear Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator,

I apologise for the less than personal form of address but with over 300 of you I hope you will forgive me. Over time I will look for a solution to ensure letters are more personally addressed.

Since joining this borough I have been heartened by the support we the police receive from volunteers and other community spirited members of the public. I am grateful for you commitment, time and dedication.

The purpose of this letter is to invite you to participate in an initiative designed to better protect you and your neighbours from burglars. We have recently taken delivery of SmartWater technology and the product is available to NHW members to purchase at a reasonable cost.

SmartWater is an inert dye which can be used to mark property with no danger of causing damage. Each bottle of the product has a unique chemical code which enables recovered property to be traced back to its original owner if stolen. The product has a long life and is detected using UV lights. As well as marking electrical goods it can also be used to mark jewellery and fine arts without reducing their value. It is invisible in ordinary light.

I am not simply advocating you buy into a product. As a service we are not at liberty to recommend products. However I would like to invite you to a meeting to be held at **Bexleyheath School Tuesday 29 September 2009 at 7.30 pm**. There I will explain in detail what this product is, how it has proven effective in other parts of the country and how it fits into our overall burglary reduction strategy. We are currently running pilots on 2 wards in the borough using this product. We are also photographing difficult to describe property such as jewellery and listing serial numbers of electrical goods in those premises where the product is used.

This product is being explained to jewellers and pawnbrokers and others traders who might, in the course of their legitimate business, be duped into buying stolen goods. They will be able to check for this marking system. In addition if you participate in the scheme but are still unfortunate enough to be burgled we will circulate depersonalised details of the property stolen from our existing database to those traders. All this activity will be publicised and the criminal fraternity will be very aware that possessions marked with this product will be more difficult to sell on and that the chances of them being arrested and prosecuted will be increased.

This activity is taking place against a background of success. At present levels of burglary are almost 20% lower on this borough than at the same time last year. My aim is to reduce burglary on the borough to a five year low by October 2010.

I think you and your neighbours can help me to achieve this level of crime reduction at very little cost to yourselves. This product has been highlighted as a very strong deterrent to burglars in independent research and we have been provided with a variety of equipment to enhance our ability to detect the product both on property and on offenders.

I very much hope you will be able to make the meeting on Tuesday 29th September and look forward to meeting you then.

Yours sincerely



Glyn Jones
Superintendent
Bexley Borough