

# **'LETS TALK' – Police Community Messaging Service**

## ***What's it all about then?***

Community Messaging is a **free** messaging service, run by the police, that delivers information by telephone fax or Email to the public. The database totals 36,000+ recipients force-wide at present and this total is growing steadily.

Recipients can specify times of the day when they wish to receive calls and what type of calls they wish to receive. The type of information passed is targeted to the group the recipient has signed up to. These groups include Shops, Pubs, Neighbourhood Watch, Farms, and Accommodation. Individuals that do not fall within any category may still sign up as Members of the Public.

Emails are delivered immediately; phone-calls are delivered 60 at a time. Messages are targeted by Town, village, Police Beat Code or by type of recipient. We now can also target by mapping. A polygon or circle is drawn on an electronic map and recipients inside this receive the message. The system will leave a message on your answer-phone or phone back twice more at hourly intervals if you don't answer the first time you are called.

## ***What's the point?***

Using a Community Messaging Circulation the police can let the public know about crime that has happened in your local area or warn of suspicious activity nearby. The Police see this as a two way process and recipients may be asked to report sightings of persons or vehicles. Messages will contain a reference number and a telephone number to contact with any information.

Public responses from Community Messaging have assisted in numerous investigations and, in some cases, saved a lot of police time, at least one message saved a person's life. Results of previous messages can also be fed back to recipients as well as details of police events or initiatives that are planned in your community.

## ***So How Do I Join?***

All you have to do to receive these messages is to register and undertake to let us know if you can help with any of the messages that are sent. You have our assurance that your details are data protected and can only be used for specified purposes.

You can join by simply completing a '**LETS TALK**' Registration form. This can be obtained from your Police Neighbourhood Beat Manager, PCSO or at any Police Station. Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators can obtain supplies from their Forum or Police contacts. Those with Internet access can sign up by going to the Devon and Cornwall Police website [www.devon-cornwall.police.uk](http://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk) and following the link "Join Community Messaging"

Please be assured that we value the assistance of every person that helps us. If you would like more information the Community Messaging Co-ordinator, Gerry Davidson, can be contacted on 01271 335208. Alternatively you can e-mail Torrington's local Police Neighbourhood Beat Team at [Torrington@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Torrington@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk) or contact us through the normal channels.

**PC 3569 Dick Rowlands  
Torrington Neighbourhood Beat Team**