

NEWS RELEASE

21st April 2004

CRIME PREVENTION PANEL REACTS TO INCREASING TREND OF NUMBER PLATE THEFT

In order to combat the growing trend of number plate theft the Panel, in partnership with Tennants (UK) Ltd of Nottingham, has obtained some extremely strong double sided adhesive strips used by vehicle dealerships.

The strips can be used in addition to the usual screw fixing and once in place are extremely difficult to remove. Number plate theft is increasing in our area as plates are used for a variety of criminal activities which include display of false plates in connection with robberies, avoidance of congestion charges and speed cameras etc.

The adhesive strips are free of charge and, at the moment are only available from the Crime Prevention Panel's Exhibition Unit when it visits various venues throughout the Lichfield District. The Unit, manned by representatives of Staffordshire Police and Panel Members, will be visiting the following locations this summer when other important crime prevention advice will available. Other venues are being planned.

Friday 30 th April (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.)	Safeway, Chasetown
Saturday 8 th May (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.)	Colton
Saturday 24 th July	King's Bromley Show
Saturday 28 th August	Fradley Show

Alan Birch, Panel Chairman, says:

"The Panel is reacting to a new trend of number plate theft brought to our attention by Inspector Mike Kozam of Chasetown Police. The strips, once in position, would make it more time consuming and difficult for an attempted theft. The plate would probably have to be broken".