

PRESS RELEASE FROM THE MALL AT CRIBBS CAUSEWAY

4 September 2003

POLICING PARTNERSHIP AGREED FOR CRIBBS CAUSEWAY

Prudential and JT Baylis, the owners of The Mall, The Venue and The Retail Park at Cribbs Causeway, have agreed a Policing Partnership with Avon and Somerset Constabulary.

The Cribbs Causeway Policing Partnership will enable the police and security staff at all 150 businesses on the three sites to work more closely together to reduce crime and the opportunity for crime and maintain the safe and secure environment of the shopping and leisure complex.

Martin Stephens of The Mall says: "Although we have 250,000 shoppers visiting The Mall every week, crime at the centre has always been extremely low. We are a very safe and secure, family-friendly shopping centre and we intend to keep it that way.

"This Policing Partnership is an investment by us to deter anti-social behaviour and retail theft," he says.

Like many large retail centres, Cribbs Causeway could attract criminals like shoplifters. Police have regularly patrolled the centre since it opened five and a half years ago but could not guarantee to be on site throughout the main shopping hours.

This new Policing Partnership provides a guaranteed level of police service with one sergeant and two police constables on patrol across Cribbs Causeway between 10am and 10pm every day (outside these times, cover is provided by the local Filton Section). Sergeant Chris Sharp heads the team.

The Mall has also provided a base for the police within the centre, which enables them to carry out routine interviews of suspected shoplifters and witnesses.

Chief Inspector Mike Hems, commander of the South Gloucestershire Police District, says: “This developing partnership will maintain the visible police presence at the three sites at Cribbs Causeway and will help to deter crime and provide reassurance to the people working there and the thousands of shoppers who visit.

“Police officers have been based there since it opened. Funding through this new partnership means we can now offer staff and shoppers a guaranteed level of policing without compromising the service we offer elsewhere in the district.

“We will co-operate with the stores’ own security teams, making use of their intelligence to deliver a proactive service to the businesses on the site as well as the public.”

As well as patrolling the area, the police will provide enhanced training for retailers advising them on how to prevent retail theft and deception. They will also take part in The Mall’s regular evacuation rehearsals.

The Mall’s successful Retail Crime Operation, where retailers and on-site police collect and share information about crime using a radio network, will be rolled out to the other sites at Cribbs Causeway. All members of the Partnership will be encouraged to participate fully in this scheme.

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Photo caption:

Martin Stephens, compliance manager at The Mall with Sergeant Chris Sharp (centre) with Ja Jordan and Helen Brewster from The Mall’s Security Team and PCs Martin Roberts and Liz Roebuck.

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