



Suffolk Constabulary

PRESS RELEASE

Wednesday 26 January 2011

MEDIA INVITE:

SAFER SUFFOLK FOUNDATION LAUNCH MEMBERSHIP SCHEME

Suffolk Police and Suffolk Chamber of Commerce are encouraging businesses to sign up to the Safer Suffolk Foundation membership scheme and help improve the quality of life for people living and working in Suffolk.

Chief Constable Simon Ash will launch the membership scheme at the Chambers Business Networking Lunch held at Belstead Brook Hotel on Monday 31st January.

The lunch is hosted by Suffolk Chamber of Commerce and is a chance for local businesses to meet with representatives from Suffolk Constabulary and Suffolk Police Authority and discuss service priorities, crime and confidence issues.

At the lunch Mr Ash will take the opportunity to talk about the Safer Suffolk Foundation and the introduction of the membership scheme. The scheme is supported by the Suffolk Chamber of Commerce as part of the Chambers' themed year, 'Suffolk - A Shared Community', an initiative designed to inform and inspire local businesses about the benefits of community engagement.

The Safer Suffolk Foundation is Suffolk Constabulary's charitable arm, set up in 2009 to help manage the Constabulary's charitable donations by offering financial support to organisations, charities or community groups, which seek to improve the quality of life of those living and working in Suffolk.

The money for these grants is generated by the sale of lost or stolen items that, despite the Constabulary's best efforts, cannot be reunited with their rightful owner.

The membership scheme has been set up in an effort to allow businesses the chance to support the work of the Constabulary, through the Safer Suffolk Foundation. By signing up for the scheme a business will be recognised as the type of organisation that wishes to put something back into the local community, as their membership subscriptions will help support projects in Suffolk. To date the Safer Suffolk Foundation has supported over 45 organisations with grants of up to £2,000.

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Businesses will also benefit from free registration to Suffolk SAFEkey, the Constabulary's Keyholder service, promotion on the Safer Suffolk Foundation website, use of the Safer Suffolk Foundation logo and more.

Mr Ash said: "The Safer Suffolk Foundation membership scheme is an excellent example of community engagement in practise and we are pleased that it is something the Suffolk Chamber of Commerce are happy to support.

Local communities know the issues that affect them, which is why funding for grass roots projects that directly impact on the quality of life for those living and working in Suffolk is so important."

President of Suffolk Chamber of Commerce, Dr Peter Funnell said:

"Suffolk's businesses have always been at the heart of the community. The Safer Suffolk Foundation allows your business to support local projects that will have a direct impact on our community."

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors:

Media are invited to attend the launch at 1:45pm where there will be an opportunity for photographs and to speak with Chief Constable Simon Ash. If you wish to attend please contact Rowena Hughes at Suffolk Chamber of Commerce on 01473 694805.

Please find below details of some of the organisations given support by Safer Suffolk Foundation grants:

Ipswich Town Community Trust - £1,000 contributed towards the 'One Community Cup' football tournament.

Newmarket Community Partnership - £1,500 contributed towards the purchase and fitting out of a SOS bus.

Mpower – £750 funding for running two self-defence sessions for woman in Sudbury and Great Cornard.

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