

My name is Nick Hall the West Mercia Police “We Don’t Buy Crime” coordinator based in Bridgnorth.

I may have contacted you previously, but I wanted to make you aware that our Smartwater scheme will continue throughout this next financial year, 25-26 should your parish have an interest.

I have attached a document that explains the process and a financial application form where you can work out costing for your parish.

We Don’t Buy Crime (WDBC) is a department within West Mercia Police tackling acquisitive crime throughout the Local Authority areas of Shropshire, Telford, Herefordshire and Worcestershire, with the support of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

We are aware that acquisitive crimes - those in which the offender receives a material gain - including burglary, robbery and theft harm our communities. A person’s home and possessions often carry an emotional attachment and when crime interferes with this, it can have a long-lasting impact on its victims so we use a forensic property marking product called SmartWater to protect your possessions.

You first need to decide what level of coverage that you require, i.e. how many residents that you would need to provide SmartWater kits for.

For the scheme the minimum coverage is 80% of the residents. This is the normal provision as there will always be empty houses and residents that have just moved in as well as those who do not wish to have a kit. If you can guarantee that you can cover 100% then you can have 100% but as I say this is often difficult to achieve and draws the project on.

In respect of cost each kit is provided through this scheme at £8.90 +vat (they are normally £59.00 each). The Police and Crime Commissioner will subsidise 25% of the kits. For example, If you have 100 residents that require a SmartWater kit you would pay for 75 of these kits, the PCC will supply the remaining 25 kits. The other benefit is that involvement in this scheme does not require a yearly registration fee. Kits purchased outside the scheme have a yearly registration fee.

You will see an excel spread sheet as one of the attachments, this calculates your costs and shows you how many kits you will pay for and how much.

Having purchased your SmartWater kits, as the coordinator, I will assist you in the delivery and contact from SmartWater and the initial registration of these kits and any problems that may arise. I can assist you with the rollout and the assistance of West Mercia police volunteers if required.

Once the SmartWater kits have been distributed and we have registered over 70% of your kits the PCC provides free signage to promote the fact that your area is protected by SmartWater.

I have also attached a copy of an image of the signs that we erect. You will see that the largest signs being A1 dimension have a space for the parish name to be printed. We cover the cost of this printing.

Feel free to contact me on the number below if you have any questions.

Nick Hall 40575, We Don’t Buy Crime Co-ordinator | West Mercia Police