



## NORTH NOTTS BID

### Driving down crime, encouraging engagement, and supporting GDPR compliance

**North Notts Business Improvement District was the first BID to cover an entire area instead of just a town- or city-centre, or a specific industrial estate. Today it is driving down business crime right across the district, with the help of Disc SC**

Driving down business-related crime and anti-social behaviour was a priority in the BID's first term from 2017 to 2022 and continues to be in its current term, to 2027.

Project Coordinator for the BID is Jeanne Meggs: "The North Notts Business Crime Reduction Partnership (NNBCRP) was formed in June 2019, and we implemented Disc at the start of the following year to support our Pubwatch and Shopwatch schemes in Worksop and Retford.

#### Building on success

While Disc helped the BID to reduce low-level crime and ASB in Worksop's and Retford's retail and hospitality sectors, the BID wanted to support the many other business sectors represented across the wider area.

"Using Disc has supported the fight against crime throughout the region" says Jeanne.

"However, because we have such a large area and so many different Watch schemes, it was

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very clear that we needed to segregate our data if we wanted people to really engage with the system.”

In 2022 the BID upgraded to Disc ‘SC’ (for ‘segregated content’) which enables information-sharing and reporting across any number of separate schemes, so that members of different schemes are provided with access to only the specific information – including the personal information of offenders – which is relevant to them.

Says Jeanne: “So we’ve now got separate Pubwatches for Worksop and Retford, and separate Shopwatches for both towns. We’ve also set up IndustrialWatch to help improve security on industrial estates across the area, and signed up for TruckPol which provides alerts and so on for anyone in the logistics field.

“Our members don’t want to receive alerts that aren’t relevant to them. It’s vital that a truck driver knows if someone is slashing lorry curtains locally, but they don’t need to know who’s banned from the local pubs. Segregating the data in Disc means it’s more relevant and useful for different types of businesses, and the more useful the information shared in Disc is, the more businesses use it.”

Segregating content so that members only receive, and access, information relevant to them not only increases ‘engagement’. Perhaps just as important, separating data in this way helps ensure the BID complies tightly with Data Protection law and GDPR, which in turn helps deliver compliance with the terms of Information Sharing Agreements in place between the BID and Nottinghamshire Police.

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the fight against crime  
throughout the region”**

*Jeanne Meggs,  
Project Co-ordinator*



Jeanne has found that it’s almost as easy to run multiple systems through Disc SC as it is to run one. Nevertheless the BID has two people administrating its system, meaning that when a member reports an incident or identifies an offender through Disc, that information is quickly processed and published in Disc and quickly made available to other members.

“We’ve got about 350 members, which is very good, and access to Disc is free of charge to all our levy-payers. If a business isn’t a BID member, they still have the option to use Disc for a small fee, which then makes them a part of the NNBCRP; having Disc has actually increased the membership of NNBCRP.”

## Maximising participation – essential to success

Maximising member-participation is essential for successful crime reduction schemes, and BID Ambassadors have been crucial, talking to businesses face-to-face and explaining how the NNBCRP is helping to drive down low-level crime and anti-social behaviour.

“We use Disc not just to report thefts and anti-social behaviour” says Jeanne. “If someone has come out of prison, for example, we can use Disc to warn people that they’re in a certain town. But of course offenders move between towns, so we can use Disc to alert people across our area.

Likewise, we can send an alert with information about a travelling gang, with a registration number if we have it, so people can keep an eye out.

“In December 2022 alone we had over two thousand logins into Disc, and we have already had 1,400 logins in the first two weeks of March. It’s fantastic to see that level of engagement. Everyone’s pulling together to make the area safer. It’s great to be a part of that.”

“Disc is so useful because we can collate data against specific offenders, so reports are easily linked to the right individual. An offender may not be convicted for one shoplifting offence, or for one instance of criminal damage – but if the police can see a build-up of multiple crimes, together with details and dates, it all acts as evidence so we can build a case and get a conviction.

“Another helpful way Disc is used is at our regular meetings. Members have the App open in front of them while they discuss excluding people from their premises, or taking them off an exclusion list, or extending their bans. This is so much better – and of course, far more secure – than having printed photos passed around.

“The police are really on board with Disc which is a huge help to us both – it’s great for our levy-payers to see how involved the police actually are. And we love to share success stories – when someone has been convicted and we know they’re out of the area for six months, we’ll send an alert to everyone, so they see that reporting incidents in Disc really does help their businesses!”



**Hallcroft Industrial Estate near Retford; North Notts BID has used Disc to extend its crime reduction activities to cover industrial areas**