



## People for Proper Policing in North Wales

### Outrage as vandals hit Wrexham shops March 2008

**POLICE and retailers in Wrexham have condemned** acts of "pure vandalism" after a number of town centre stores were hit in a late-night spree. Stores on the Island Green retail complex have had to replace large window panes and door panels after vandals smashed them during the attack.

Staff at Jessops and Poundland stores on the retail park discovered the damage when they arrived for work the following morning.

John Faville, assistant manager of camera store Jessops, told the Evening Leader: *"It was pure vandalism. Someone thought it would be clever to smash a few windows. It's unfortunate. It is a shame people feel they can vandalise things for fun."*

The incidents, which took place last Wednesday, have been reported to police who are looking into the incident and **are studying CCTV images**. Neither store has reported any goods missing but both have had to have the **expensive panes of glass replaced**.

**Wrexham Town Inspector, Chris Beasley**, condemned any act of vandalism. He said: *"The cost of shop windows is considerable and we would in all cases ask for compensation which could run into thousands of pounds on top of any fine"*.

**Meanwhile on the NWPF website DCC Wolfendale is describing a visit to Wrexham....!** *had a very enjoyable visit to Wrexham yesterday. After a brisk walk around Caia Park and visiting a few units in divisional HQ I went out to see our first mounted patrols. As anticipated, horse and riders were warmly greeted wherever they went and were a particular hit with children.*

Our Eastern Division members report that two police Officers on horses were posing outside the supermarkets and casually wandering aimlessly around the retail park.

**The PPP comments .... The cost of Policing in North Wales exceeds £140 million/annum or on average of £460/household. The contribution to rates and taxes by these retailers is many times greater than a single household. What do they get for their money? Nil protection for their property and the CCTV cameras were obviously not being monitored but MAY have been recording grainy images of hooded hooligans.**

The annual CCTV budget in Wrexham is around £430,000, officers wanted four more cameras and a capital funding bid of £100,000 for 2011-12 is planned to upgrade the central control system. All additional to police funding. No doubt all the retailers and many residents have invested in various security systems.

The horses and officers would have been tucked up in their stables and homes whilst this was going on.