

Police hope dog walkers can provide them with leads...

'Long arm of the paw' to tackle crime

by Tom Foster

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AN army of dog walkers could be unleashed across Dacorum to help sniff out crime.

A new scheme is encouraging walkers to sign up and report crimes or anything suspicious they may come across while out walking their dogs.

Police would like to see the scheme, called Dogwatch, rolled out across the borough.

So far the initiative has been put into practice around Ashridge, and officers are currently looking to set up another around Bovington and Kings Langley.

If walkers see anything, they are encouraged to wait until they are in a safe area before reporting it to the police.

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CALL K-999: Sergeant Jamie Bartlett, Chip, walker Mrs Humphries, PCSO Chris Baker and PCSO Kim Ashworth at the Ashridge launch

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Long arm of the paw could help tackle crime

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Hanne Grice of Berkhamsted-based company Walk the Dog said: "I think the scheme is a really good idea.

"By their very nature dog walkers are often off the beaten track and can act as eyes and ears.

"I can't see why it can't be

rolled out across Dacorum. It's a benefit to the community and I fully support it."

Ashridge Dogwatch launched on July 3 and has already garnered support from hundreds of dog walkers.

Officers from the Kings Langley and Bovington Neighbourhood Teams are

currently gathering support and asking parish councils for some funding to help set up a new Dogwatch scheme for the area.

Bovington parish councillor Diana Smart, who regularly walks with her dog Toby, also supports the initiative.

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