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## GNR invest in local policing



More than 40 Portuguese and foreign residents from the small village of Campina near Boliqueime attended a meeting with the GNR at the Vale Silves Community Centre to register with the *Programa Residência Segura* (Safe Residence Programme - SRP) on April 27.

The GNR *Residência Segura* team, headed by Cabo Chefe Coutinho, gave a presentation in Portuguese and English on the scheme and described its operation.

Cabo Chefe Coutinho explained that since the programme started in January 2009, more than 1,100 households have been registered in the area. During this period, there had been a sharp decrease in serious violent crime in the area covered by the SRP.

He emphasised the need for residents to look out for one another and report to the GNR team any suspicious activities in their neighbourhood.

Jackie York, a resident of Campina who

undertook the preparatory work for the SRP including liaison with the GNR, said she was pleased with the turnout and the interest shown by residents in promoting crime prevention.

Residents said the meeting was a good opportunity for the GNR to come together with the community to help combat crime, while many local Portuguese said they were pleased with the new approach by the GNR through community policing which had provided reassurance to many villagers.

David Thomas, founder of *Safe Communities Algarve*, who attended the meeting, said the SRP had been a recognised success and said he hoped others residents in the Loulé and Faro areas would be willing to help the GNR further develop the programme.

■ Details on how to form the SRP can be found on the *Safe Communities Algarve* website. See article on page 22.

## Algarve region working to become corporate travel destination

A series of initiatives to promote the Algarve as a corporate travel destination were developed by the Algarve Tourism Association (ATA) in the UK last month.

Aware of the advantages of diversifying the Algarve tourist offer, the ATA organised events aimed at promoting the Meeting and Incentives (MI) segment to specialist British press, trade and the general public.

The ATA also participated in the Canary Wharf/London City Airport Travel Showcase, which was an opportunity to promote the *British Airways'* route, inaugurated in June last year,

linking that airport to Faro.

A spokesman for ATA said: "This route, connecting the centre of London and the Canary Wharf business district to the Algarve, is of great strategic importance to us, attracting not only leisure travellers but also the corporate segment."

*British Airways* currently flies from London City Airport to Faro three times a week and ATA hopes the route will prove popular enough to see it increase in frequency.

ATA also hopes the MI travel segment will serve to bolster trade links between the Algarve and the UK.

## ■ briefly

### JAFERS ROBBED

Two *Jafers* supermarkets, located in Quarteira and Vilamoura, were robbed at gunpoint last Friday night. Two masked individuals carrying rifles attempted to rob the Quarteira store first at around 8pm but when that failed, they moved on to the Vilamoura store, 3km away, where they got away with €5,000 in cash. The criminals threatened the employees as they were preparing to close the Vilamoura store, demanding they handed over the day's takings that were inside a briefcase, and then escaped in a car. Due to its central location near the marina, *Jafers Vilamoura* is popular with tourists in the area. The *Polícia Judiciária* are investigating the crime.