

Crime-busting residents get their reward

By Amanda Davidson

PUBLIC SPIRITED villagers who decided to fight against the tide of crime have won an award for their efforts.

In the past year Great Bowden residents have:

- Set up a video cam which caught a man vandalising expensive cars red-handed

- Been so eagle-eyed that their tip-off helped police nab a would-be burglar on the spot

- Taken positive action that has cut anti-social behaviour at the recreation ground.

Just before Christmas residents formed an offi-



● **Recognition...Assistant Chief Constable Mike Goodwin presents the award to Alistair Swatridge and David French .**

(Picture: Andrew Carpenter/001263-84)

cial Neighbourhood Watch group – and now their successes have earned them a gong at a Neighbourhood Watch awards ceremony at Leicester police HQ in Enderby.

There to receive the award was Bowden resi-

dent David French, who helped form the group, and district councillor Alistair Swatridge, who also lives in the village and has helped liaise with police, local councils and the press.

Cllr Swatridge confirmed one resident set

up a video cam when several expensive cars were slashed with a sharp instrument, leading to the culprit being caught red-handed.

On another occasion a tip-off saw police successfully swoop when a man tried to burgle the house of someone who had recently died.

But he said: "Overall I think our biggest success has been dealing with anti-social behaviour on the rec.

"It just shows what can be done when public-spirited residents get together. People here just felt enough is enough."

- Harborough Neighbourhood Watch stalwart Alan Wade also received an award and featured in our Citizen newspaper this week.