Village in bomb scare

A huge security alert was sparked in New Quay on Monday as residents found themselves in the midst of a bomb scare.

Police reported that two "devices" had been found in the village — one through the letter box of the local branch of the Nat West Bank and the other in public toilets.

Deputies removed the village, the area was cordoned off, families and workers were evacuated and the bomb squad were summoned.

Eventually, local people were relieved to be informed that the "devices" were, in fact, only commercial fireworks.

Police are now trying to find the people responsible for the scare — but say the important thing is that no-one was injured and there was no extensive fire damage.

The drams unfolded after an employee of Nat West tried to open their bank door in South Quay Street, on Monday morning, only to find it would not open properly. She then discovered that the letter box and glass place had been fire damaged and she alerted the police.

The police cordoned the area off, and then during enquiries found another device in the public toilets near the Memorial Hall.

Police confirmed yesterday morning (Tuesday) that both of the "devices" were in fact commercial fireworks.

Laura Jarvis, who lives near the bank, said: "It was probably just kids messing about with fireworks. It sounded like fireworks, not a bomb.

One local resident, who lives behind the bank, said: "I heard a bang at about 11:45 and so did my wife, we wondered what was going on."

A local shopkeeper, who did not want to be named, said: "I heard people saying it was some cheeky kids letting off fireworks but New Quay now has been put on the map." Another local resident said: "It was bound to be kids. I don't think it was too bad, but the police were here quickly and took it very seriously like they should."

David O'Halloran, a Nat West spokesman, said: "When our staff arrived they found there was damage to the letterbox and front door, and they alerted the police. We're not assuming anything, we're leaving it in the hands of the police. The branch should be open again on Friday as usual."

A police spokesman said: "The main thing here is that no-one was injured and that there was no extensive fire damage caused to the premises involved.

"The persons who placed the fireworks were however totally irresponsible and have caused concern and inconvenience in New Quay as well as wasting a awful lot of time for the emergency services who had to respond."

The device in the toilets caused no damage, but police are keen to find out where the device came from. Anyone with information should contact Aberystwyth Police Station on 01978 832761, or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.