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National Pubwatch

Newsletter



This edition comes to you courtesy of the British Institute of Innkeeping

AN APOLOGY - EDITION 23

It has come to our notice that several recipients of the last edition of our Newsletter (Edition 23) received the incorrect number of copies from the distributor. This was due to a technical glitch on our behalf for which we apologise. Whilst no further hard copies are available, this and all previous editions can be accessed on our web site.

PUBWATCH RELAUNCHED IN SUNDERLAND

Recently, the city centre re-launched its successful Pubwatch scheme, which aims to stamp out alcohol-related crime and disorder and make the city a safer place for people enjoying its nightlife. At the re-launch members agreed one troublemaker should be banned for five years and five troublemakers banned for two years.

Pubwatch was first launched in Sunderland in 1997. All members of the scheme meet regularly to discuss ways of improving safety for pub customers, staff and local communities. Members also share information about drunken disorder and rowdy customers. Anyone barred from a pub, club or restaurant in the city centre could find themselves barred from all pubs and clubs in the city centre Pubwatch scheme.

PC Paul Thomas, Neighbourhood Beat Manager, said: "Like most towns and cities, Sunderland has a vibrant nightlife. It's always the small minority who come to the attention of the police and now we are taking action against them. The scheme is about licensed premises sharing information and working together along with the police. It has helped to reduce anti-social behaviour, making Sunderland a safer city for everyone to enjoy."

If you are not the person to whom this was addressed or no longer wish to receive newsletters please let us know, one it saves money and two reduces unnecessary work. Our contact information is on page 2.

BRIEF RESUME OF CONFERENCE 2008

Our fifth national conference held in February 2008 near Weston-super-Mare, Somerset, was attended by over 200 people. Delegates heard from Bill Donne, Reading Pubwatch, who won the Morning Advertiser Responsible Drinks Retail Award Scheme 2007 for Best Pubwatch.

We then utilized the considerable skills of actors with the MOPA Theatre Company, who performed a play which included a drunken person on premises, sale to someone under age and showing a photograph of a banned person to a regular customer. This play was intended as a trigger for discussions in the three Workshops, of which delegates could attend two. These Workshops addressed Identification Issues, aided by the local Trading Standards and a member of the PASS Board, Enforcement Issues, aided by Poppleston Allen Licensing Solicitors and the Home Office Police and Partnership Standards Unit and Pubwatch Issues, aided by National Pubwatch and UK ICTS, the latter introducing the issue of premises having a policy on 'Drugs in the Workplace'.

The Panel Discussion included feedback from the Workshops, assisted by some of the actors. The whole event was filmed by the Sky Pub Channel.

Feedback from delegates was extremely positive and constructive. Many identified tasks that they intend to address and even implement locally. A full report of this conference will be available on our website in the near future.

Editor's Note: Choosing different geographic locations gives local licensees, partner agencies and others the opportunity to attend without having to travel too far. We always aim to include both national and local overviews, from which delegates can take or adapt ideas and compare with theirs.

THE LICENSED TRADE CHARITY - INVITATION

We are an organisation that provides support to Licensees and pub staff in times of need. Would you like one of our Volunteers to attend your Pubwatch meeting to show you how we may be able to help fellow colleagues in the trade?

If so, please call Linda Huntley on 01344 884440.

How to contact us

By E-mail at : admin@nationalpubwatch.org.uk

By Post at: **17 Chace Avenue, Potters Bar, Herts, EN6 5LX**

By Phone: **Malcolm Eidmans (Hon. Sec.) 01707 650095**
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Please note the change of Email address and contact person above.

MANAGING SAFETY IN BARS, PUBS AND CLUBS



The use of glass in licensed premises has been under close scrutiny recently with reports of some premises being threatened with review unless they switch to polycarbonates.

The BBPA is not against using plastic where there is evidence to suggest this is needed but it is opposed to any blanket introduction of polycarbonates. This view is shared by Government as set out in the revised Alcohol Strategy “Safe. Sensible. Social” launched in June 2007. The Strategy states:

“The Government will support local action to secure the replacement of glassware and bottles with safer alternatives in individual high-risk premises.”

It goes on to say ... “A pub or bar is not necessarily a high risk simply because it is in a town centre and open late, but neither is a premises low risk just because it is in the countryside and closes at 11pm. As well as location and operating hours, factors such as the type of venue, its customer make-up and the professionalism of its management can all have a bearing on whether a premises presents a risk of disorder and glass-related injury.”

The Government has established an “expert group”, comprising police, doctors, academics and representatives of the alcohol industry, to gather further evidence of where targeted interventions might produce benefits and agree how high-risk premises can be best identified.

In the meantime the BBPA and BEDA have launched a risk assessment guide “Managing Safety in Bars, Pubs and Clubs” in order to provide the industry with a standard approach to assessing the risk of violence in licensed premise. The guide is based on existing good practice and seeks to identify significant factors which might trigger violence in any venue and sets out some of the preventative measures that can be taken to minimise the risk.

The risk assessment should be reviewed on a regular basis, particularly in the light of any incidents that do occur, and in any event to ensure that the assessment is kept up to date. The guide may also be used when preparing an operating schedule for a licence application or variation.

Venues should complete the section “Assessing the Risk” to identify the level of risk associated with the individual premises. There is a perception amongst enforcers that any venue in a town centre or high street will automatically attract a young and disorderly crowd of “vertical drinkers”. This section seeks to highlight the diversity of the trade and the wide range of hospitality offered by individual premises. Having completed this section

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Continued from Page 3 the assessor is then required to indicate the “inherent” risk resulting from all the relevant factors.

In the “Solutions” section assessors are required to identify the measures that are already in place, together with any additional solutions which, in their opinion, might contribute further to a safer environment.

Finally, the “Summary” should record any further action deemed to be required to ensure the premises are managed as safely as possible. It is recognised that this process has already been undertaken in preparing a premises operating schedule but the importance of regular review should not be underestimated.

The guide can be downloaded from the BBPA website: www.beerandpub.com

NAMED & SHAMED POSTERS

Members of Northampton Pubwatch had always asked for ‘Named and Shamed’ posters to be made available for Public Display inside member’s premises. They did explore this when set up in 2001, but resisted this concept on the grounds of the increased risk to challenge of the scheme under ECHR legislation.

However, following the National Pubwatch conference in Chester in 2005, and speaking with colleagues in Birkenhead, Merseyside; the issue has now been revisited. On the basis that ECHR now tends to accept the ‘named & shamed’ philosophy so long as the reason for the display of names only - not photographs or any other personal details - is for the purpose of preventing crime and disorder, then this process can be adopted.

It will still present a risk of challenge, although this risk can be mitigated by showing that customers in Pubs and Clubs that adopt the scheme have brought to the attention of staff within the premises, that a barred person listed on the ‘named & shamed’ poster is present, which then resulted in that person being ejected or asked to leave.

However, it is important that a strict audit trail of the issue and change/collection of these posters is maintained (similar to that for the issue of Police photographs) and that the posters are displayed inside the premises where they cannot be read from passers-by in the street. They have made the display of the poster voluntary in premises, as not all licensees wanted to display it for fear it may cause friction. Notwithstanding that, most of their 156 members have displayed the poster.

Editor’s Note: This is yet another positive initiative on a sensitive issue from Northampton.

CITY WATCH LEICESTER

City Watch - Leicester Against Crime have launched a website - www.citywatch-leicester.org.uk to help their members of Leisure Watch to gather intelligence and submit sightings reports of known offenders that persistently offend against them. Licensee's are encouraged to submit any sightings or incidents that occur to help them provide due diligence should they need it at a licensing review. Their message to offenders is 'You are not welcome in this city'. Close contact is maintained with the local media to ensure this message is widely publicized.

City Watch Leicester against Crime encompasses both daytime and evening economies, have two full-time employees, a dedicated evening-time economy assistant and a Pubwatch coordinator. Thus, they help not only pubs and clubs, but also shops in a dual fight on crime in Leicester. They also work closely with street pastors, street wardens, door companies, the police and the CCTV control room. A Steering Group meets to decide on exclusion notices and ensure that members are adhering to data protection and the scheme's aims. An independent panel has also been created to hear appeals.

Funding was made available to use dogs to detect drugs on persons, which not only detected drugs but also helped in reducing the fear of crime. If further funding is made available, an ION track machine will be obtained to complement the use of these dogs. Additionally, personal attack alarms for all pub staff in the scheme are being considered, whereas further research has to be made regarding installing ID scanners in some 'hotspot' venues.

This scheme is being currently being measured in two ways, firstly with a customer satisfaction survey, and secondly by venues recording sighting reports of banned persons. This latter measure is intended to create a base-line of how effective the banning orders are.

For further information, contact James Bancroft on 0116 2628788 or james@citywatch-leicester.org.uk.

BUSHEY PUBWATCH

Bushey PubWatch is another recently formed scheme and is doing really well under the guidance of Alistair Carswell, its Chairman, who runs The Royal Oak. He was the force behind starting this PubWatch and has the support of, not only the pubs in the area, but also some off licences as well.

They are also very active on their social side and have arranged a 'Tug of War' between the public houses within the PubWatch with the proceeds going to a charity. They intend to make it a family day at the Metropolitan Police Sports Club in Bushey and intend to use this occasion to promote PubWatch as a very worthwhile cause!

MORECOMBE PUBWATCH

Morecombe Pubwatch recently celebrated its first anniversary. The majority of licensees in this resort are now part of the group, who meet monthly. They discuss problem customers, licensing issues and hand out banning orders and warnings. This led to 25 people being so banned.

Pubwatch chair, Colin Smith, said, “Before Pubwatch there was very little communication between the police and the pubs themselves. We now meet and talk regularly and it has helped licensees when dealing with problems. The banning orders have been particularly successful and are a valuable tool.”

PC Michael Bernhardt, licensing officer, is in agreement, and added “Pubwatch has enabled us to work together to reduce crime, disorder and drug misuse within licensed premises in the resort. Its success is a tribute to the support it has received from licensees in the area. This scheme demonstrates how the police are working with our partners in the community to effectively reduce crime and incidents of anti-social behaviour”.

The Pubwatch committee has also recently backed a similar Shopwatch scheme.

ROADE PUBWATCH, NORTHANTS

PC Tam Dunn, Daventry Police, has two new schemes which cover separate groups of villages and surrounding areas. The first, Roade Pubwatch, covers 9 premises with a further 6 being encouraged to join them. The second started with 14 member premises. The schemes are community-based crime prevention initiatives organised by Licensees, with the support of the Police, who will provide confidence, support and protection to them and their premises. This includes a message-passing link between each other, improved communication between the Police and the licensed trade, a Forum for discussion, together with solutions to problems relating to alcohol-related violence, crime and drugs.

Membership advantages include deterring trouble makers, reducing the risk of assaults on licensees, their staff and customers, reducing the risk of damage to property and increasing cooperation with the Police. Experience has shown that where the schemes are well administered, violent incidents associated with licensed premises have decreased.

The scheme will have an Exclusion Policy, and its “mission statement” is: ‘Barred from one, barred from all, barred for good’. With the help of the press, signage and a good communication network, the scheme should succeed. Alcohol-related incidents should decrease as the effect of the Exclusion Notices take effect and become publicised. Tam can be contacted on 01327 303129.