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National Pubwatch

Newsletter



**This edition comes to you courtesy
of the British Beer & Pubs
Association**



WHITEHAVEN PUBWATCH

Whitehaven Pubwatch, West Cumbria, is a good example of a community based partnership and crime prevention initiative. It provides greatly improved communication between Police, Licensees, Door Supervisors and CCTV Operators and also a forum for discussion and solutions to problems relating to the Night Time Economy.

One of their primary functions is to identify anyone involved in an incident either within or within the near vicinity of licensed premises where alcohol has been a significant factor. Dependent on the seriousness of the offence, these people face exclusions by members of this Pubwatch. Equally, the scheme is designed to provide warnings to those who commit less serious incidents of disorder. The introduction of the new licensing legislation provided the basis for Licensees, Bar Staff and Door Supervisors to become more responsible and accountable in relation to under-age drinking, binge drinking and disorder inside licensed premises. In the majority of cases, Licensees have accepted their responsibility and being a part of Pubwatch brings with it a sense of community justice.

The main benefit of this scheme has been the reduction of crime and anti-social behaviour linked to alcohol. It is designed to focus the minds of those people most at risk of being involved in such incidents and provides a means by which their behaviour can be influenced by the threat of exclusion. In recent times there has been an 18.5% reduction in violent crime, a 14.8% reduction in assaults with injury and a 24.5% reduction in alcohol-related violent crime, thus making Whitehaven a safer place to live and socialise. It is recognised that the efforts of this Pubwatch have contributed to these reductions.

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.

NEW MANDATORY CONDITIONS – KEY FACTS

Following the introduction of the Policing & Crime Act (one of the last enacted by the previous Government), the first set of Mandatory Conditions applicable to all premises licences has now come into effect. From April 2010 this includes a ban on irresponsible promotions, dispense of alcohol directly into the mouth (the so-called 'Dentist's Chair') and free tap water is to be provided to customers upon request.

The Home Office has now published their Guidance to the Mandatory Code, and it is available to download from the BBPA website www.beerandpub.com The Home Office Guidance defines what should be viewed as an 'irresponsible promotion' and therefore against the law – this includes speed drinking games, 'women drink free' or '£x all you can drink' promotions and a ban on flyers or posters glamourising drunkenness or excessive drinking. Another banned promotion to bear in mind are those based around sporting events (e.g. '£1 pint before the first goal scored'). However, happy hours are not banned by the new law, nor are activities such as, for example, giving a free round of drinks to the winning quiz/darts team. If you are looking to run a promotion and are unsure whether it may breach the new code, then we recommend checking the Guidance to ensure compliance – even though the Guidance is not as clear as could be hoped. If you are any doubt, it is also worth getting in contact with your licensing officer before running the promotion. With smaller alcohol servings, it should be noted that the new Code does not force licensees to stock 125ml wine glasses, merely that 125ml measures should be available.

The Association has received reports that some Licensing Authorities are sending out erroneous information on the Code to licensed premises, such as failing to make clear that only part of the conditions are mandatory from April rather than the entire set. Also, with the debate about minimum pricing consistently in the news, some local authorities or police may feel that a form of minimum price can be imposed on the back of this new Code. It should be noted that setting a minimum price across a specific area remain illegal and should not be introduced or suggested by anybody.

Further information can be obtained from Jim Cathcart, Policy Adviser, British Beer & Pub Association.

How to contact us

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'TEA AND A WEE'

Hackney Council, Shoreditch Pubwatch and the local Police clubbed together for a month-long campaign to encourage both licensed cabbies and customers to Shoreditch's marshalled taxi rank - close to the 333 Club - on Friday and Saturday Nights from 10pm-3am. This campaign was part of the Council's "Hackney Say Relax" initiative, run with Home Office funding and support from partners including Safer Neighbourhoods Police, Licensing Police, Transport for London (TFL) and Shoreditch bar managers and doormen.

The rank, which opened this last winter, is run by TFL and now attracts an average of 120 cabs and around 230 passengers on weekend nights. However, Hackney Council would like to urge more licensed cab drivers to this rank to offer lone women, who are out in Shoreditch, a safe ride home.

During the month of April, black cab drivers, who stop at the rank, were offered a free air freshener, and the chance to enjoy a free brew and use of the facilities at one of two taxi-friendly Shoreditch bars – The Old Blue Last and The Barley Mow pub. Lucy Palmer, Manager of the Barley Mow, said: "I offered "tea and a wee" for licensed cabbies because I know my customers benefit from taking a safe cab home rather than a lift with a random driver. Shoreditch's licensed cab drivers are crucial for

helping us to drive the message home to drinkers that it's worth the walk to the rank and not worth the risk of getting into an unlicensed vehicle."

A further 20-plus clubs and pubs in Shoreditch also supported the safety campaign by displaying posters promoting the marshalled taxi rank in the Ladies loos. Doormen at nearby bars also handed out business cards to customers and reminded them of where to find the marshalled cab rank. The four marshalls who work at the Shoreditch rank are also working London cab drivers and therefore understand the needs of cabbies as well as customers.

A Hackney Council spokesperson said: "The tea and a wee campaign was a great excuse for us to get in touch with cabbies and let them know about the marshalled taxi rank in Shoreditch.

This is now one of the buzziest and busiest ranks in London and there is a lot of repeat trade, so we're delighted that publicans were able to see the mutual benefits of taking part in Hackney Council's mini campaign. Shoreditch pubs and bars have also helped us to introduce the rank to



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Continued from Page 3 their customers, by displaying posters in washrooms, windows and doors, letting people know about the importance of getting a safe ride home sorted.”

FIRST AREA DRINK BANNING ORDER

Lancashire Constabulary’s Pennine Policing Division has joined forces with Pendle Borough Council to secure East Lancashire’s first Drinks Banning Order (DBO) on a Barnoldswick man. The order against 23-year-old Shane Crew was secured at Reedley Magistrates court and will prohibit him from all licensed premises in West Craven. It is the first Drink Banning Order to be secured in the Pennine Policing area which covers Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale and only the second in the county of Lancashire.

Drink Banning Orders are civil orders which came into force on 31st August 2009. They can be made against anyone over 16 who has behaved in a criminal or disorderly way while under the influence of alcohol. Using a DBO, a court may impose any exclusion on the individual which it considers necessary to protect others, including banning them from entering premises that sell alcohol.

They can be made either on application to the courts by the police or local authority, or on conviction of an alcohol related offence. Offenders who breach a DBO will be liable to a fine not exceeding £2,500. The Violent Crime Reduction Act also enables courts to offer a “Positive Behaviour Intervention” course - on a voluntary basis - to the subject of a DBO, as a means to address their alcohol misuse behaviour. These courses focus on educating individuals about the serious social and health impact of heavy alcohol consumption. Successful completion of the course may lead to a reduction in the length of the Order.

PC Karen Fitzpatrick from Pendle’s Multi Agency Problem Solving Team (MAPs) said: “Authorities in Pendle take crime and disorder very seriously and work in close partnership to tackle community concerns. We feel this DBO will sufficiently restrict this man’s behaviour and help significantly reduce the amount of nuisance and damage he has been causing to the local community.”

Mick Armfield, Pendle Council’s Licensing Enforcement Officer, added: “Banning problematic customers through the Borough’s three Pubwatch schemes has resulted in fewer alcohol-related crime and disorder incidents in and around licensed premises. The introduction of Drink Banning Orders will further help us to ensure that Pendle’s pubs and clubs are a safer environment for all. It will also send out the message to troublemakers that anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated.”

THE PROOF OF AGE STANDARDS SCHEME

The Proof of Age Standards Scheme (PASS) is the UK’s national guarantee

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Continued from Page 4 scheme for proof of age cards, endorsed by the Home Office (HO), the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and the Trading Standards Institute (TSI), which sets and maintains minimum criteria for proof of age card issuers to meet. The scheme delivers a common standard through its easily recognised logo, which is backed by a robust audit and accreditation process to help protect retailers of age restricted goods, and their employees, against being taken in by the many fake cards around.

The PASS scheme is actively encouraged and supported by all the major trade associations, including the British Beer and Pub Association (BBPA), the Wine and Spirit Trade Association (WSTA), the British Retail Consortium (BRC), the Association of Convenience Stores (ACS), the Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers (ALMR), the BII, NOCTIS and the National Pubwatch Scheme. Acceptance of PASS cards is furthermore promoted as part of the Challenge 21 and Challenge 25 schemes.



- STEP 1 – Check the PASS Hologram. Is it genuine? (as above)
- STEP 2 – Check the Photograph. Is it of the cardholder?
- STEP 3 – Check the Date of Birth.
- STEP 4 – Check the Card. Has it been tampered with?
- STEP 5 – Check the Person. Are you satisfied?

There is understandable concern about fake ID and novelty cards which can be easily purchased over the internet.

There are plenty of fake cards around but one thing they have in common is that they don't carry the PASS logo. The unique PASS hologram is forge-proof and is also trademark registered, which makes unauthorised use of the logo a criminal offence. To date PASS has not found any evidence of fake PASS cards.

Please reassure licensees and door staff in your force/BCU area that asking for and accepting PASS cards is due diligence, assuming that that necessary checks in respect of Date of Birth and photograph have been made. Please also follow HO and ACPO guidance, which is NOT to encourage licensees to expect young people to carry around valuable documents, such as passports, on a night out because of the security risk if lost.

Please contact Kate Winstanley, PASS Director/Administrator, on 07590 924710 or kate@pass-scheme.org.uk should you wish more information about this scheme, free copies of the sample PASS training cards and even attendance at Pubwatch meetings. Additionally, more information about PASS can be found at www.pass-scheme.org.uk



Editor's Note: In Edition 32 of this Newsletter, there was an article from Swansea outlining their efforts to deal with fraudulent IDs, specifically in relation to passports and driving licences. National Pubwatch wholeheartedly supports this PASS scheme.

SUCCESS IN LANCASHIRE

Violent crime has been cut by almost 50% across two Lancashire towns over the past four years thanks to a local Pubwatch scheme. Police and council licensing officers say the reduction is largely due to the work of the 43 member group operating at pubs in Barnoldswick and Earby.

The Pubwatch currently has a total of 46 banning orders in place, with 12 people subject to lifetime bans. Incidents have been cut from 217 recorded in 2005 to just 112 last year in these two towns, where every pub is now a member.

Licensing officer, Mick Armfield, said, "The scheme had been so effective thanks to a genuine partnership arrangement with police and licensing officers. Members of the scheme have demonstrated on numerous occasions that they are more than willing to go the extra mile".

ANY VOLUNTEERS? – RESPONSES RECEIVED

Following our request for volunteers from the licensing trade to work with us at a regional level, outlined in Edition 32, we have had an encouraging response and are currently considering these applications. Thank you to all of you who have shown an interest in this task.

STOP PRESS..... SAVE THE DATE

National Alcohol Conference – ‘New Rules, New Findings, New Solutions’ on 13th October 2010 at the O2 Arena, London, organised by Best Bar None and strategic partners.

This conference will bring together the full breadth of those interested in or concerned about this vital issue. Many Pubwatches are involved with Best Bar None throughout the UK. Please visit www.bestbarnone.com for further updates.

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