



Edition 16
January 2006

National Pubwatch

Newsletter



Please help to keep the records up to date.

If the name and address to which this newsletter was sent is no longer correct or if you no longer wish to receive it please let us know of the change. Our contact details are on the back page

How successful are we in Pubwatch?

Since the inception of National Pubwatch we have encouraged Pubwatches to actively seek statistical information on the position before and after pubwatch. The reason for this is we live in an age when the 'feel good factor' and comment prefaced by "we think" or "we feel" are no longer accepted as proving the success or impact of something. By the same token money to fund activities is rarely forthcoming unless you can prove that something has actually been achieved. All this means that in order to show the effect of Pubwatch it is necessary to gather information and more specifically statistical information which can be used to prove the point. Normally such information is only held by the police so it is often a case of going cap in hand to them for information to prove a point. I regularly hear about the creation of pub-watches making significant reductions in crime and disorder offences or calls and sometimes we hear of large percentage reductions but they are rarely accompanied by supporting detail and when we ask for such detail it is rarely forthcoming.

The mere creation of a Pubwatch often give all concerned, watch members, police officers and local authority licensing officers a feeling that they are beginning to achieve things, this is natural when like minded groups start working together but sentimentality does not provide proof for politicians or bodies that provide funding. We have experienced the same problems at a National level with Government only prepared to fund research, often with significant sums of money, but not prepared to fund activities until they are proven to have an effect.

Has your scheme been successful? If your answer is yes please visit our website and fill out the questionnaire mentioned on the front page of the site. This will enable us to start to collect quality information and prove to Government and others that Pubwatch is the effective tool in tackling unacceptable behaviour in licensed premises that we all think it is. The details of our site address is shown on **page 2** and a visit to see what information is required first will enable completion of the short questionnaire within a few minutes. If you know of other watches that have been successful let them know about this. If, like some, you do not have internet access or are reluctant to use technology please get in touch and we will gladly send you a paper copy to fill out and return.

Remember we need you to tell us what is going on as our Chairman's crystal ball has misted over

**This newsletter comes to you courtesy of the
sponsor, the Laurel Pub Company**

Are drugs a problem in your area?

Perhaps it is time to get help to sniff the suppliers and users out!!



GIS is the 10 year established UK market leader in the provision of services for drug prevention, detection and drug awareness training to venue operators.



GIS supports the work carried out by National Pub Watch groups.

How Can GIS Support You & Your PubWatch ?

GIS is an Accredited Provider to (TVP) Thames Valley Police for the supply of Drug Dogs & Handlers and provide support to Police Operations and (CDRP'S) Crime & Disorder Partnerships throughout the UK.

In response to the Licensing Reform Act the GIS (LPP) Licence Protection Programme has been introduced to compliment current GIS services. This provides support and assistance in meeting the constraints and challenges of the new legislation for the licensed trade by providing a "hands on" service to assist operators on a daily basis meet the standards set out in their operating schedules scrutinised and monitored by the authorities. The GIS LPP delivers evidential proof of due diligence allowing the operator to confidently run the business with the support of this service.

GIS deliver courses as a BII Accredited Training Centre

To learn more about how **GIS** can provide useful support and assistance to you & your Pubwatch countering threat to your premises & personal licence.



Contact us now!
Tel: 0700 535 3235
e mail info@gis.org.uk



Editors comment:

If you are attending our conference on 23rd February 2006 at Chester you will have a first hand chance of meeting GIS and seeing what they can do to help.

The National Pubwatch website is at :- www.nationalpubwatch.org.uk

You can find back editions of the newsletter that are text searchable, news flashes of current issues, recently available information of interest to pubwatch and licensees, useful links to other sites with information and a synopsis of our 2005 Conference as well as details for the next Conference on 23rd February 2006 and our pubwatch questionnaire.

The Poppleston Allen Page

In our last edition we invited you to send in the issues that you would like the legal eagles at Poppleston and Allen to address that would help your pubwatch. We thought this was an offer too good to refuse but it seems we were wrong as no one has responded raising any legal issues of concern consequently there is nothing for them to write about on this page.

However once again we invite you raise any points that your watch might have with a legal connotation for a response in the next issue.

We are also pleased that, despite this lack of response, they will be speaking at our conference in February.

The danger of not keeping records of your pubwatch decisions

Recent events for one watch have graphically illustrated the dangers in not keeping minutes of meetings or records of decisions that the pubwatch makes about banning people. We are not identifying the watch, but they find themselves the subject of court action in relation to a case brought by the Commission for Racial Equality which may cost the members personally a lot of money as well as a number of other problems. The case arose from a decision to ban several people because of their behaviour. Subsequently one of those banned complained to the Commission that the decision to ban him was purely on the grounds of his race. Unfortunately the pubwatch ignored the initial correspondence from the Commission requiring them to provide details of their reasons and activities and the outcome was that the Commission has instituted proceedings against the watch which have a civil court penalty and other consequences.

In now trying to respond to the case the problem the watch faces is a lack of records and information about the incident that led to the ban and the way in which the Pubwatch came to the decision. The fact that no detailed records means that proving the decision was based not on race, which was not even mentioned in the pubwatch meeting, but the behaviour of the individual is proving extremely difficult, nigh impossible.

Does your pubwatch keep minutes of meetings and good records of the information on which you make decisions perhaps now it the time to review what you do and ensure that there is enough recorded information on your decisions to enable you to respond to allegations that may arise against your watch that their actions are such as to breach discrimination or other legislation. You need to ensure that all your decisions are made over an individual's behaviour or conduct are properly documented and based on facts and accurate information with details of witnesses so that in the unlikely event of some legal challenge arising you can properly defend your watches actions and avoid any legal consequence. When sending out the notification of a ban remember to keep the reasons to a minimum i.e. as a result of your behaviour on (*date and time*) at (*the location*). This reduces the scope for challenge about the accuracy or otherwise of the reason for the ban.

If you are challenged over your decisions by solicitors or other organisations do not ignore them, take some advice and make a response based on the advice. We have found that some responses actually generate additional problems so do take care with that response. Experience so far has shown that in response to a solicitors letter over allegations about breaches of Human Rights have been resolved simply by responding and asking them why they consider the watch to be a Public Authority as the legislation as it stands only applies to Public Authorities are normally considered to be national and local government related organisations.

As we go to print we find another case involving allegations of defamation of character and slander which appears to be generating a problem because the initial response failed to clearly respond to the key parts of the allegation and introduced other issues that need not have been raised. A limited response even seeking clarity about what is alleged will often enable a response, after advice, that can negate any further action and stop the matter escalating.

Remember the more successful your Pubwatch is the more the problem people will look for ways to defeat or get back at you so follow the Scouts motto and be prepared.

Kingston Pubwatch gets a result.

Kingston pubwatch members will have been relieved to see that Luke Selvey of Shepperton who was found guilty at Kingston Crown Court of a serious assault in a night club has been given a two year Exclusion Order by the Court. The order bans him from all the premises that are part of the Kingston Pubwatch so I expect those premises that are not members will be seriously thinking about joining so that they are included in the premises Selvey is banned from.

H.A.N.D got help from the police and Crimestoppers with a Christmas message for the troublemakers

A scheme run by licensees in Hereford city centre rolled out its festive campaign against alcohol related disorder in the run up to Christmas, with the backing of Crimestoppers and the police. H.A.N.D. (Herefordshire Against Night-time Disorder) teamed up with Crimestoppers to produce 100,000 beer mats promoting the scheme and encouraging people to drink sensibly over Christmas. They also contain the clear message to troublemakers: 'Banned from one, banned from all'. In total, 35 licensees have signed up to the H.A.N.D. scheme, which sees each sign up to a voluntary code of conduct and meet monthly to discuss licensing issues.

The members of H.A.N.D. are also encouraged to join the city centre radio network, which links all the bars and clubs to the city's CCTV control room and West Mercia Constabulary's mobile units. The great success of the scheme lies in enabling a close partnership between the licensees and the police to ensure that anyone banned from one participating licensed premises will automatically be banned from all those signed up to the scheme. Persistent troublemakers can find themselves barred from city centre pubs and clubs for three, six or even 12 months at a time. Photographs of those convicted of offences and issued with the banning orders are circulated to the H.A.N.D. members to ensure the bans can be enforced properly.

"The licensees want Hereford to continue to be a safe and enjoyable place and the H.A.N.D. scheme has proved it has an important part to play in that since its launch in October 2004," said Paul Neades, who chairs the H.A.N.D. committee. "The message is spelled out very clearly for the small minority of people who still seek to cause trouble – there will be a zero tolerance policy across the city at Christmas and alcohol related disorder will not be tolerated inside or outside our licensed venues. By excluding these troublemakers, we can make sure that everyone else can enjoy the best possible Christmas and make the most of the festive celebrations across the city."

Luke Conod, from the West Mercia Crimestoppers board, said: "We are delighted to be able to support the H.A.N.D. scheme in this way. Crimestoppers is all about trying to solve and prevent crime and this initiative fits in extremely well with that aim. As well as reinforcing the 'Banned from one, banned from all' message, the beer mats provide a useful reminder of the Crimestoppers number. We would urge anyone who has information about a crime or any sort of disorder this Christmas to contact the police or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111." Herefordshire Division's licensing officer, PC Steve Thomas, added: "Nobody wants to have their Christmas celebrations ruined by the thoughtless few who drink too much and whose behaviour gets out of control. The H.A.N.D. scheme, driven forward by the licensees, has helped to reduce alcohol-related disorder in the city and this latest campaign should act as a further deterrent to troublemakers. We urge people to drink responsibly, look out for their friends and have an enjoyable festive season."

Drink Detective – Further Safety Measures for Revellers in Poole

Poole Safe launched the Drink Detective – a small testing kit that can detect if a drink has been spiked. The kits will be handed out to pubs in Poole to be on hand in case of any reports of spiking within licensed premises. Customers will be able to request bar staff to test a drink following any suspicion that it has been tampered with. The idea is to enable swift action to be taken to protect customers and get the police involved at an early stage, if required. Police officers on the Poole Safe team launched the kits on the evening of Friday 2nd December, 2005, when they distributed them to pubs in Poole. The team has already successfully launched the Spikey, a device aimed at preventing spiking initially used in Essex.

Sergeant Ian Watkin of the Poole Safe team said: "The Drink Detective is seen as a second line of defence if there is a suspicion that other preventative measures have been side stepped. As well as being a useful deterrent, the kits will hopefully give us prompt warning of any illegal activity." The Drink Detective is the only kit test that tests for the three main groups of drugs commonly used in drink spiking at very low concentrations. The tests are simple to do and take about 30 seconds to complete giving instant results. It is the only self-test kit endorsed by the Roofie Foundation – Britain's only specialised agency dealing with the issues surrounding drug rape and sexual abuse.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE LAUNCH NIGHTSAFE

A comprehensive action plan to reduce alcohol-related crime and disorder across Northamptonshire has been publicly launched by Northamptonshire Police. The action plan – called Northamptonshire Nightsafe – includes a hard-hitting marketing/education campaign targeting 18 to 24 year olds, with adverts on buses, posters and beers mats, giving straight-talking advice about the consequences of binge drinking.

Senior Police Officers and Police Authority members joined licensees and local authority representatives as well as key people from other agencies, all determined to work in partnership to reduce alcohol-related crime and disorder across the county. The Nightsafe action plan has been drawn up by the Police Authority and the county Force in response to a steady increase in alcohol-related crime and disorder in town centres across Northamptonshire – a situation which mirrors a similar national trend.

In the 12 months September 2004 to August 2005, there were 5,913 recorded crimes related to alcohol and/or licensed premises in Northamptonshire, including 3,841 alcohol-related violence offences. Alcohol-related violence accounts for about a third of all violence offences recorded in the county, and the majority of that alcohol-related violence is committed by young people. The Police, Ambulance Service and others spend large amounts of time and resources, particularly at the weekend, dealing with alcohol-related crime and incidents, pulling them away from other areas.

Deputy Chief Constable, Davina Logan, said that alcohol-related crime and anti-social behaviour would not be tolerated. “The vast majority of people go out to enjoy themselves, drink responsibly and treat each other and their towns with respect, but there are some who abuse their rights, drink to extremes and act in an anti-social manner or commit crime.” Chairs of PubWatch groups across the county showed their support in numbers at today’s launch and Steve Foster, Chair of Northampton Pubwatch, summed up their views: “As a licensee, I am fully behind the Nightsafe initiative. It’s in everyone’s interest to encourage responsible drinking to make pubs and town centres safer for our customers and our staff,”

Key initiatives under Nightsafe will include:

EDUCATION

- * Hard-hitting adverts on backs, sides and insides of buses across the county
- * 200,000 beer mats and 4,000 posters for display in pubs and clubs across the county.
- * 10,000 tip cards with safety tips for men and women and useful contact numbers, which bar staff are being encouraged to hand out when people buy drinks:

Tips for the girls

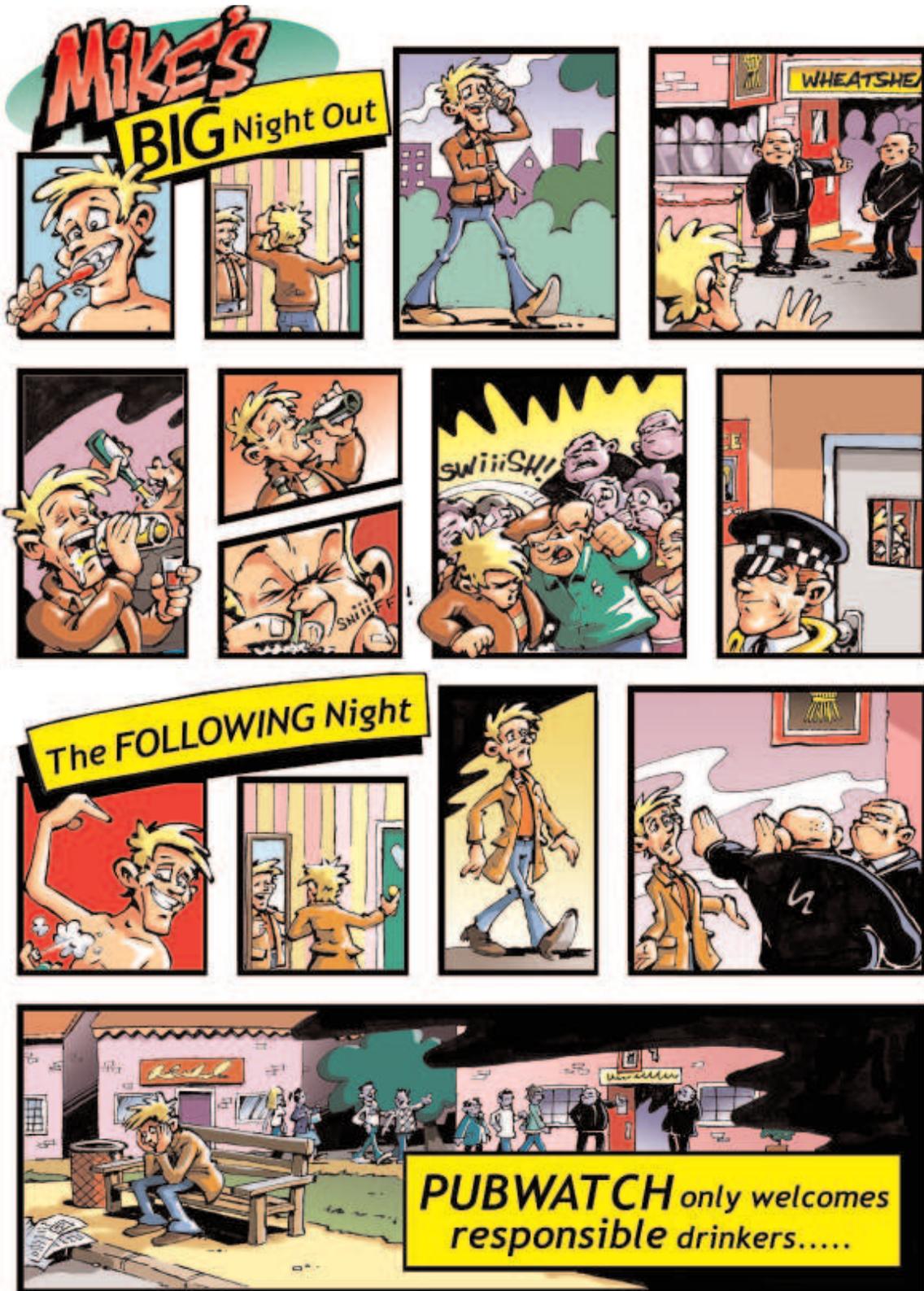
- 1) If he’s had too much to drink – he’ll lose the ability to think!
- 2) Drink to excess and you may end up in a mess
- 3) If he is seeing double try to keep him out of trouble
- 4) Drinking is not a race – it’s not sexy or fun being ‘off your face’
- 5) Know your limit, say No to any more

Tips for the boys

- 1) Have a laugh but stay safe
- 2) Nobody looks good wearing a kebab
- 3) If you stink of vomit, you’ve got no chance
- 4) If you want to sweep a girl off her feet it will help if you can still stand up
- 5) We all know our limit...so if someone offers you another drink...walk away

ENFORCEMENT

- * Ongoing work through Police Licensing Officers and PubWatch schemes across the county to encourage responsible licensees, avoiding happy hour-type ‘drink-as-much-as-you-like’ promotions
- * Partnership work between Police and Trading Standards, including test purchasing, to clamp down on licensees who are selling to underage drinkers, people who are drunk, and outside of their licensed hours
- * Effective use of CCTV as a preventative measure
- * Continued liaison with the Security Industry Authority to ensure door staff are properly registered
- * Action against offenders through dispersal orders, ASBOs, confiscation, fixed penalty notices and other measures



Aylesbury is at it again!!

Over the years Aylesbury Pubwatch has featured both as a runner up and winner in Pubwatch competitions but they have not sat back on their laurels as they continue to look for more innovative ways to get their message across.

This year has been no different as the cartoon strip above was their way of sending their problem clientele a Christmas message.

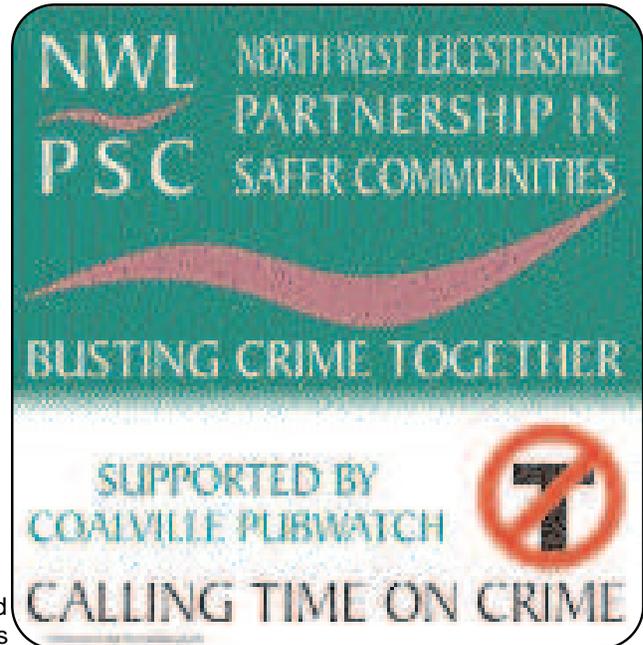
Looking for Beermats to send a message

We often get phone calls regarding who to get in touch with in order to get beermats and up until now we have struggled to find a source but a recent campaign in Leicestershire drew to our attention a company that supplies them.

GETTING PERSONAL WITH CRIMINALS- CALLING TIME ON CRIME

OVER 2.6 MILLION PEOPLE REACHED OVER CHRISTMAS A NEW STRING TO YOUR MARKETING BOW! BEERMATS!!!

Reaching people has now never been easier! Helping you keep the public safe and better informed. Community Media UK Ltd (the beermat publisher) teamed up with many of the Pubwatch schemes and Police Forces in the UK. It was great to see all the agencies working so well together.



The benefits of the beermats were clear and obvious. All purchasers of beermats benefited from extreme low cost as they were all produced together. Community Media even did the design work with the simplest copy and logos supplied.

The Crime Reduction Officer from North West Leicestershire Police Area, comments "The five main themes involved in our initiative: Drink Driving, Vehicle Crime Reduction, Burglary Crime Reduction and reducing violent crime in the towns of Coalville and Ashby. The initiative formed an integral part of our actions within the partnership approach. We used a theme "CALLING TIME ON CRIME" This is exactly what these beer mats were designed to impact upon. We were also sending out a message that if you were banned from one pub for fighting you were banned from all over the area. Therefore we were GETTING PERSONAL with criminals. Anyway the initiative was very well received and was distributed to 65

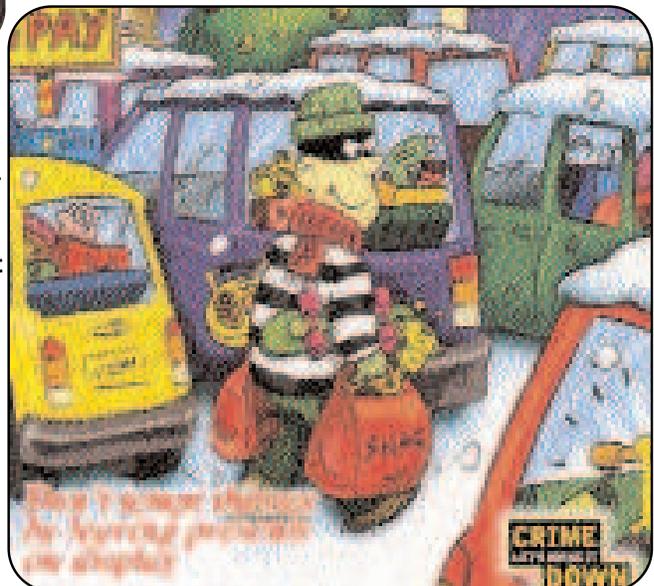
public houses in the 2 Pubwatch schemes"

Community Media will be running the press at monthly intervals with exceptional prices from around 2p each.

The Community Media contact is Colin on 0116 2519005. To see more designs and in detail visit their website at

<http://www.communitymedia.co.uk/indexpromo.htm> and look at items under category E.

If funding is an issue for your pubwatch maybe you should take a leaf out of the book used by H.A.N.D.who managed to get Crime stoppers to help (see story on page 4) or your local Crime and Disorder Partnership who may be prepared to help out..



Norma & Miles Vaughan MBII of Prestatyn Pubwatch have been in touch and on behalf of their watch would like your opinion on the BBC Wales News article of 22nd December 2005 reproduced below. They have asked if we could do a poll of pubwatches which is not feasible however we do invite you to send your comments to us on this somewhat provocative view..

Call to allow teen pub drinking

A North Wales Police inspector has called for 16-year-olds to be allowed to drink in pubs in a bid to reduce problems caused by underage drinking. Inspector Roly Schwarz said controlled drinking in pubs would allow teenagers' alcohol consumption to be monitored.

A survey of 2,000 teenagers by North Wales Police found 88% of girls and 79% of boys aged 16 have been drunk. North Wales Police said the views were the inspector's personal opinion and not those of the force. Insp Schwarz said: "Young people are going to drink alcohol, but they must be shown how to enjoy it." North Wales Police said a recent operation in north Denbighshire found that 39 licensed premises sold alcohol to underage drinkers. Better monitored Police research also found that children in the force area have spent more than £75,000 on alcohol this year. Insp Schwarz, whose beat covers the seaside towns of Rhyl and Prestatyn, said children should be allowed into pubs when they are 16, but it should remain illegal for teenagers under 18 to drink alcohol outside licensed premises. Controlled drinking in licensed premises would allow alcohol consumption by youngsters to be better monitored, he said. Insp Schwarz added: "80% of children between the ages of 11 and 17 are given alcohol by their parents, but what their parents don't realise is that they are also drinking at other times."

The police survey revealed that of the 2,000 youngsters interviewed, 88% of 16-year-old girls had been drunk and 68% said that alcohol has caused them some form of harm. Of boys the same age, 79% said they had been drunk and 42% had been injured or made ill through alcohol.

However, Miles Vaughan, chairman of the Rhyl and District Licensed Victuallers' Association said he opposed the idea of allowing 16 year olds to drink inside pubs. "In principle I don't believe it's a licensee's position to supervise underage drinkers. I wouldn't be interested in letting 16 year olds into my premises," he said. Mr Vaughan, also the Welsh chairman of the British Institute of Innkeeping added: "If we allow 16 year olds in we'll automatically get the 14 and 15 year olds coming in." With 32 years in the pub industry, the landlord of the Royal Victoria in Prestatyn said it should not be up to him to educate teenagers about drinking alcohol. "I think a lot of education through drink should begin at home. I think it's far too easy for parents to ignore what their children are getting up to," he added.

A spokesman for Alcohol Concern also dismissed the idea. He said: "Research shows that for people under the age of 18 and still growing up there is no amount of alcohol which can be drunk safely. "On average, 13 people aged under 18 are admitted to hospital A&E departments for having drunk too much every night. We know a lot of under 18s already drink illegally in pubs and we need to rethink the way bars monitor all people who consume alcohol".

How to contact us

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(Hon. Secretary)

Bill Stone 01303 241906

(Ops support)

We are pleased to report three more corporate sponsors since the last newsletter, their logos are shown below. If you are in their estate our services are discounted.

