



LAUREL
PUB COMPANY

Edition 17
June 2006

National Pubwatch

Newsletter



Conference 2006

Our national conference held in February at Chester racecourse was the most successful yet with over 250 people attending and whilst the weather was somewhat cold and wet the venue provided space and good facilities for the day. As ever some speakers introduced rather controversial issues but noticeably this time nearly all the speakers expressed the appreciation of the efforts and achievements of the delegates in their work with pubwatch.

The announcement from Dr Martin Rawlings MBE of the British Beer and Pubs Association that they were in the process of offering funding to National Pubwatch on behalf of their whole membership and to increase the amounts available was a high point for the Committee who have struggled to raise funding for the last seven years.

The presence of both Jeremy Allen and Susanna Poppleston ensured once again that the delegates could find some answers to some of the legal issues facing watches and licensees although once again a lack of time precluded them from covering every issue. However they have provided an article for the newsletter (see page 3) reinforcing the legal position with regard to a licensee's obligations.

Your response to our survey

So far we have only had limited responses to our survey but there are nevertheless some consistent features that arise from your replies. If you have not responded yet we would invite you to help us make your case by going to our website www.nationalpubwatch.org.uk and complete the one page questionnaire that you will find mentioned on the opening page. If you do not tell us what is happening we cannot fight your corner to get changes where they are needed and find solutions to your problems, to help you we need you to help us. More details of some of the results can be found on pages 4 & 5.

A full report of the conference and the issues that came from the workshops is available on our website but a synopsis is contained in this edition on page 7.

We are extremely grateful to all those individuals from pubwatches that assisted in running the workshops as well as the members of Chester Pubwatch, led by Frank Marnell and Joe Gildea who gave so much time and effort in helping to organise and run the event.

The evening's social event was slightly marred by the non attendance of a number of people but those that did had a very entertaining time and an excellent meal.

Whilst some money remains outstanding the side events managed to raise in excess of £500 for charity. That money will go to the organisation know as 'Young Carers in Cheshire' to help and support them continue with their education and provide respite days when possible.

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 page 3

Once again we must thank all those that supported this event either as sponsors, organisers and not least the delegates that took the time to attend and contribute.

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

NALHM steps forward with funding again

Funding as is mentioned on page 1 is always a problem but once again The National Association of Licensed House Managers (NALHM) has stepped forward as in the past and donated £5,000 to support the work of National Pubwatch. The current president of NALHM is David Daly, himself an active member of Blackpool's Pubwatch, and he provides below a brief insight into NALHM and why they support pubwatch.

"NALHM is an arm of the Transport and General Workers Union and has been in existence for over thirty years helping pub managers and manageresses and assistants to deal with some of the trade problems that affect them at work such as unfair dismissals, redundancies and disciplinary issues as well as their conditions of work. Our success in this field has resulted in millions of pounds in compensation and the rebuttal of unfounded disciplinary allegations. As a result we now have UK wide full time union representatives to support members and in the changing times we are setting out our stall on two key issues. They are the quality of life and the protection of personal licences of managers/esses from the impact of external agencies such as the police and councils and the internal pressures from pub companies and owners."

"I take this opportunity to thank National Pubwatch for its activities that have led to a phenomenal rise in the role and impact of pubwatch in the licensed trade. I am pleased to say that most of our members attend and are encouraged to attend pubwatch meetings in their areas. I consider that pubwatch is at the very heart of the UK's new licensing and I am extremely pleased that we in NALHM are able to support it both morally and financially."

"We hope that everybody in the licensing trade will get behind this great organisation, to our mind the sensible voice of the industry." **Dave Daly FBII NALHM.**

Editors note

If you are a manager, manageress or assistant in licensed premises somewhere and feel the benefits that NALHM has to offer may be of help more information can be obtained from NALHM Recruitment, T & G WU, Freepost, Salford, M50 3SG or go to their website at www.pubunion.org.uk

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 last two Conferences.

Midsomer Pubwatch as well as 'Midsomer Murders'

For those who watch Sunday TV the name Midsomer Norton reminds one of many murders all successfully investigated by DCI Barnaby, but in real life Midsomer Norton and Radstock now have an active and well supported pubwatch to reduce the demands on local policing. The Chair, Steve Hughes, recently invited a member of National Pubwatch to visit and see how they were doing. Trevor Pepper who was down that way at the time popped in to see them and found an impressive turnout supported by the area police inspector and two of the beat officers and he was impressed by the folder provided to each member.

The police commitment to support the watch was evident in that he had secured £12,000 funding for radio communications from the local authority that will complement the text and E message system that they currently use, covering the contract and base station costs for 1 year.

The members quizzed Trevor on a number of issues and it was clear that they are determined to make an impact on the problems they face in their locality.

As the watch was only started in December 2005 it looks as if they are well on the way to success. Our best wishes go to Steve and his colleagues.

Another success story

Gosport Pub/Club watch is yet another watch that has in a very short time established itself and now has a place on the Local Liquor Licence Action Group which seeks to tackle all the problems associated with licensing and as a result receives active support and financial help for some of its projects. Like many others they have achieved a measure of success in lowering alcohol related crime and disorder and as a result are positively viewed by the authorities and have a voice that is listened to when problems and solutions are discussed.

Well done Annette and the members of Gosport pub/club watch at least you will have an opportunity to influence the review of licensing policy when it takes place next year.

Will your watch be in the same strong position when your council's review takes place?

The Poppleston Allen Page

Once upon a time it was easy to identify who was responsible but things have changed and as there is no longer 'a licensee' in the previously accepted sense of the word we asked Jeremy Allen to outline who is now responsible for what in licensed premises.

Licensee's Rights

This is a rather more difficult issue under the new Licensing Act than it was under the old. For a start it depends on whether you are the holder of the premises licence, the designated premises supervisor, the holder of a personal licence or all three. For managed houses this is relatively straightforward as the premises licence will be held by the owning company and the personal licence by the manager. In the case of tenancies the position is much less clear. Some companies have decided to hold the premises licence even though they have let the premises on a long lease to a tenant. This involves them in extra cost but may also put them in a position where they could be liable for certain offences. It is possible to set up appropriate due diligence systems to combat this but there are difficulties. With this in mind another group of companies have decided that the tenant should hold the licence. This exempts them from liabilities under the Licensing Act but does mean that there are greater risks. The tenant who holds the licence could die or become insolvent which would leave the premises without a licence. He could also decide to surrender it either out of spite or in return for another licence. He could for example surrender a licence with long hours on the basis that he wishes to run a different type of premises. It may not be possible to get those hours back in the future particularly if the premises are within a cumulative impact area.



Poppleston Allen
LICENSING SOLICITORS

After all the
shake-ups....

....now's the time for
expert advice

LICENSING LAW & REGULATORY CRIME ADVICE,
PLUS QUALITY TRAINING

Poppleston Allen Licensing Solicitors www.popall.co.uk 0115 953 8500	Poppleston Allen Consultancy & Training www.pactltd.co.uk 0115 948 7400
---	--

Most Licensees will have acquired a personal licence. This may have been done during the reform process by simple conversion. Licensees may still wish to take a course because the law has changed and it makes sense to understand clearly what the new law says. Alternatively you need to take a course because you have not been a Licensee before. It may well be that a number of people will hold personal licences even though they may not immediately go into the licence trade.

A personal licence lasts for 10 years and can be simply renewed. It is worth remembering that, if you should be **accused** of any criminal offence, you must disclose the fact that you are a personal licence holder to the court on the first appearance. Failure to do this is in itself a criminal offence. You could therefore be acquitted of the main charge you face but still get a criminal record for failing to disclose the fact that you had a personal licence.

There are a large number of offences that can be committed by a personal licence holder. You should be aware of them all but it is worth mentioning one which is attracting a lot of publicity at the moment. It is an offence to sell alcohol to somebody who is under the age of 18. A number of police forces are sending 15 year olds in to see if they can obtain alcohol and taking action against premises where they can. In general this will be a

financial penalty levied against the person who sold the alcohol. Three offences would normally result in the premises being taken before the council on review. There is also a possibility that the holder of the premises licence could be prosecuted. Another area of difficulty for those who hold the premises licence.

It is worth remembering that a personal licence holder does not need to be on the premises at all times when alcohol is sold. The designated premises supervisor can also go on holiday. There are however some police forces that are taking action against premises without a personal licence holder. This is particularly true where husband and wife go away together and there is no other personal licence holder at the premises. It is quite possible to sell alcohol in these circumstances. However having a personal licence holder at the premises will get over the problem and in the long term would be cheaper.

How to contact us

By E-mail at : National.Pubwatch@btinternet.com

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

By Phone: Malcolm Eidmans 01707 650095
(Hon. Secretary)

Bill Stone 01303 241906
(Ops support)

Ways to tackle

The initial results from our survey show that 75% of pubwatches still view underage drinking as a significant problem in their area. So on these two pages we have set out some of the measures that a watch can take to address this issue.

Remember if you do introduce any of the measures, ensure you get publicity and display the appropriate posters or notices as to the scheme you are going to use and enforce. It is also essential that you train and brief your staff on the measure and the action they are to take, before you introduce it. This is especially so if you are using door staff, sometimes they are seen by your bar staff as having checked people but clearly in many cases that will not be so as they are operating your entry policy not your sales policy which are frequently different.

If the measure involves the production of proof of an age remember to stipulate what you will accept and these might include, passport, driving licence and any other identity card showing individuals age AND the PASS hologram.

PASS

This scheme was mentioned in a previous newsletter but to remind you it relates to a variety of age related identity cards currently in use. It is widely considered a vital tool in helping to combat underage sales.

PASS is the UK's national guarantee scheme for proof-of-age cards which is supported by the Government, the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and the Trading Standards Institute (TSI). PASS was launched in 2003 because fake proof-of-age cards were becoming a significant national problem. Given the large number of different card issuers, there was also confusion amongst those who sold age-restricted products, door supervisors and even those who were responsible for enforcing the law, over which proof-of-age cards were genuine.

The scheme provides a common standard and an easily recognisable identity, behind which lies a robust accreditation process to help protect retailers of age-related sales and their employees. The PASS hologram on a card is the hallmark indicating that the card issuer has passed a stringent and rigorous audit carried out by trading standards officers and that the card may be relied upon. Accredited card issuers must also pass an annual re-audit process to ensure that that the guidelines set by the PASS Board continue to be adhered to.

Establishing PASS as the national standard has made life easier for all those involved in age-restricted sales by giving them a single, recognisable logo which they can trust, even though in other respects, each card will have its own individual appearance. There are currently five different national and twelve regional card schemes issuing PASS accredited cards across the United Kingdom. Although the cards may look different they will all include the PASS logo and the following minimum information:-

- Full Name
- Date of Birth
- A photograph of the card holder
- The PASS hologram opposite
- A copy of the card holder's signature



It is vital for the success of the scheme that retailers, enforcers and door supervisors recognise that only cards bearing a PASS hologram should be accepted as a valid proof-of-age. The PASS Board maintains a vigilant approach to any attempted fraud, and fully expects that trading standards officers would vigorously pursue any systematic activity, but to date not one single example of an attempted forgery of the PASS hologram has been detected.

Now that virtually all card issuers are onboard and that almost every card in the country carries the PASS hologram, the key challenge for retailers and enforcers alike, is to give the scheme support.

Only by ensuring that every person selling age-restricted goods and those responsible for enforcing and administering the law knows about PASS, can recognise the hologram, and understands its significance, can the project really work.

Do your pubwatch know about PASS and recognise the hologram? Perhaps it is time for you to publicise that you will only accept these accredited cards, passports and driving licences as proof of age in all the watch premises. Their website is at www.pass-scheme.org.uk.

Underage Drinking

Challenge 21

If you have been to a major supermarket in recent months you will have been almost blinded by the notices at tills and other areas introducing customers to 'Challenge 21'. In many the till actually flags any product requiring proof of age at the point of sale.

The 'Challenge 21' initiative encourages sellers of alcohol to ask for official forms of identification from anyone that **appears to be under 21-years-old**. We note that some areas have increased this to 'Challenge 25' so this provides an even greater safety cushion against the possibility of serving someone underage. If a trader suspects someone is under those ages and they do not have the relevant identification, eg passport, photo driving licence or PASS approved identity card they will not be served.

The scheme was introduced because it can be very difficult to identify accurately whether someone is 17, 18, 19 or 20 but is usually easier to determine whether someone is 21. However if young people have official identification to prove they are over the age of 18 they will of course be served legally. It will create a level playing field for businesses that sell alcohol and at the same time will protect young people by ensuring that only those over 18 can buy alcohol.

It also means that young people all across the country will get the same clear message, if you cannot prove that you are 18 years of age, you cannot buy alcohol anywhere. It has the added benefit of protecting your staff to a greater degree from being prosecuted or issued with an £80 fixed penalty ticket for serving someone who is underage. It is a clear demonstration to the authorities that you are practising responsibility in your business as far as underage sales go.

Due diligence

If you are an owner or a lessee this phrase will probably be familiar to you but for others it is often not understood.

Due Diligence is about checks and confirmation that things are as they purport or should be. If you have a policy over underage drinking how do you know if it is effective or if it is working the way you expected it to. With something as crucial as this to your licence you need to be sure it is working the way it should and be able to prove that to others, such as police and licensing authorities and enforcement officers.

How do you do this? Normally by firstly having a policy i.e. Challenge 21 and then keeping records of staff training on the policy and procedure they are to use together with records of its application. By this we mean keeping records of the times you challenge and the outcome. Some companies actually include this on the till where a nominated key is used to record a refusal due to underage or due to drunkenness. An alternative recommended by Trading Standards is a refusal book where details of all challenges and also refusals arising from the challenge.

Such records will show a reduction in entries after time as customers become aware of the policy and its application as well as staff recognising customers previously challenged for whom they have seen adequate prove of age. But an early absence of entries may mean that staff are not applying the policy adequately and will enable you to monitor their activities to see that they do.

The ability to produce such records and the fact that the record has been regularly checked will normally satisfy the authorities that you are practising what you preach, i.e. exercising due diligence.

Other possible help measures

We know of one set of premises where the licensee makes a point of taking staff from local schools once they are old enough to work behind a bar and encourages them to identify to all staff those that are from the school and in the lower years.

A Derbyshire Police initiative aimed at combating the problems of under-age drinking in pubs and clubs has proved such a success it was rolled out in other towns. The under-21 wrist band scheme was piloted in a number of licensed premises in Ripley town-centre in conjunction with Ripley Pub Watch. During the time the scheme ran 190 young people were refused entry to venues and associated crime in the area dropped by 50%.

It operates whereby any person who looks under-21 is challenged by door staff to prove their age. Those that provide official ID, such as a passport, driving licence or Prove It card, are then issued with a wristband to prove they are over-18. The bands can then be shown that night at participating venues, saving customer's embarrassment and allowing them quicker entry.

If you have done all that you can think of why not invite trading standards to visit your next meeting and discuss the subject and see if there is something else that can be done.

Whatever you do don't forget to get in touch with the local papers and let them know so it can get publicity.

Conference 2006 synopsis

National Pubwatch wish to thank the sponsors, Government Office for the North West, for supporting this conference. Thanks also to Sky Pub Channel for filming the event, its highlights subsequently appearing on their programme, Chester Pubwatch for also similarly filming, the Publican for agreeing to allow Daniel Pearce, their Deputy Editor, to facilitate the Panel discussion and the speakers together with Workshop facilitators and contributors for giving up their valuable time.

Councillor Mike Jones, Lord Mayor of Chester, welcomed delegates to the historic city of Chester and gave strong support to the work of Pubwatches and wished all present to have an enjoyable conference.

Nigel Evans MP although he was not able to be present, as President of National Pubwatch, offered full support for this conference in a pre-recorded video.

Graeme Gerrard, Assistant Chief Constable of Cheshire Constabulary was the first speaker. He stated both his and ACPOs support for this conference, as it gives benefits to businesses, community safety and industry. Specifically, it improves liaison, establishes closer working relationships, develops good practice and improves standards. In reflecting on the Licensing Act 2003, he stated that it has also benefited from a targeted enforcement campaign. The extension of licensed hours in many premises has taken place but a decision on who pays for the additional enforcement responsibility has yet to be made. ACPO believe the next steps should include further developing Pubwatch, tackling the excessive drinking culture, encouraging a responsible drinks industry, having closer Police / Local Authority liaison, making greater use of enforcement powers, tackling under age sales and developing a co-ordinated approach.

He was followed by Andrew Cunningham from DCMS, who gave an overview of the development and implementation of the Licensing Act 2003, specifically its statutory licensing guidance, secondary legislation on procedures, centrally set fees and a communications strategy. He also referred to the media campaign during and after transition, predicting chaos, drunkenness and mayhem. At the same time, the publication of "Drinking Responsibly" took place, together with a raft of Government measures, which included drinking banning orders, Alcohol Disorder Zones, new closure power on persistent sales to children and Dispersal Orders. Once the commencement date had been reached Ministerial focus shifted to their national enforcement campaign over the pre-Xmas period. Test purchasing was stepped up, with particular concerns over supermarkets. Results indicated that all types of violent crime decreased during the campaigns held in both late 2004 and late 2005.

Ongoing tasks included a review of the statutory guidance work of the independent fees panel and of the guidance to applicants, residents and responsible authorities. Additionally, the House of Lords stages of the Violent Crime Reduction Bill continued, together with the development of a Central Licensing Register. Emerging benefits included Police, local authorities and industry brought closer together with a better understanding of each other's aims, and that the conditions of licences were now better suited to modern day problems, albeit that some inconsistencies and anomalies still needed to be ironed out.

He thanked everyone in local government, industry and the responsible authorities, including the police, who assisted during transition. He concluded that the coming years represent the chance to build on something that could really change society for the better.

Julian Sargeson, CE of Laurel Pub Company, then spoke on behalf of his Pub Company and its social responsibility, making particular reference to the media scum/campaign and the barrage of unwelcome publicity it attracted. The costs of, and the conditions attached to, licenses became real issues, yet such reform provided real opportunities, opened dialogue and compromised the existing hours and conditions of a number of licensed premises. This demanded investment to meet the agreed conditions that were required to meet the licensing objectives. Such investment included training, CCTV, restricted admittance of children, Challenge 21 and increased use of door supervisors. Another was the introduction a special button on tills which allow staff to 'log' instances, under a menu of reasons, when they have refused to serve customers. He also detailed the support his company gives to National Pubwatch, including sponsoring the annual Social Responsibility Award for Pubwatches. He concluded by posing the question 'Are We Working Together?' and outlined a number of points to ponder. These included inconsistencies between local authorities with big differences in relationships, a query as to who should fund Pubwatches, thereby raising their important role in providing a platform for dialogue and a desire to ensure that there will be strong evidence of success.

Dr Martin Rawlings MBE, of the BBPA then spoke on behalf of the national trade association on the theme 'Protecting Your Business'. He stated that Pubwatch helps protect a licensee through protecting their business and livelihood. It enables licensees to share information and ideas with fellow licensees, thus developing good practice. He encouraged licensees to not only join an existing Pubwatch, or set one up themselves, but to also encourage others to join. Under-age drinking is a recognised perennial problem for licensees. Government enforcement campaigns have found 29% of public houses failed the test purchases made, clearly indicating that all licensees need to become far more active in preventing such occurrences. In fact, an 'Under 21?' poster campaign undertaken with retailers and off-license premises led to a reduced failure rate of 17%.

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6 Other efforts included staff wearing badges, which explained that they need to ask for proof of age, and a 'refusal' book. These efforts were enhanced by providing licensees with such information, such as where any drunken person could be fined £80, the licensee on whose premises this occurred could lose their business. In relation to drinks promotions, licensees are not only encouraged to think very carefully, and over the long term, before introducing them, but also to obtain a copy of the relevant industry guidance beforehand. One such document is entitled 'Industry Standards on Responsible Drinking'.

In relation to the Licensing Act 2003, he encouraged licensees to fully understand their duties and obligations, to not assume anything, to obtain and read a copy of their local policy and to respond promptly to any revisions. He also explained that, whilst all policies must be reviewed before January 2008, some will be reviewed before then. He further encouraged licensees to pay their annual fee on time and not to be misled on these processes and procedures. He further explained that 'every sale must be authorised by a Personal Licence Holder'. Although this statement is not defined and there is no existing process, a contract of employment should be sufficient. It might also be worth considering having a separate written authorisation.

Frank Marnell and Joe Gildea, of Chester Pubwatch, then gave a delightfully entertaining presentation on the activities of their local very active Pubwatch. They gave an overview of the number of licensed premises throughout their county, together with the number of persons banned from each region. Amongst the benefits developed by the local scheme are liaison with the local police, local authority licensing officers and trading standards, the city centre manager and the local Member of Parliament. Some of the initiatives across the county include: Transport - travel safe and taxi management, Safe drinking campaign, Exclusion Orders from the courts, Life bans in extreme cases, under-age drinking – Under 21 initiative with Trading Standards and • Silent Students, Happy Hours (SSHH). Banning has clearly had a very positive impact, with the local media very supportive of the efforts of Pubwatch across this county.

They were followed by Jeremy Allen and Suzanna Poppleston, both are recognised legal experts in the field of licensing and gave a joint overview of their interpretation of the progress made and problems experienced throughout the transition and implementation of the Licensing Act 2003. Generally, their comments supported those of fellow speakers even if they were critical of some of the procedures and processes of Government.

Continued on page 8

Smart Solution to combat criminals



If you have got a theft problem at your premises or want to increase your protection here is a new way to do it that takes advantage of the advances of forensic science and replaces marker pens and dyes with some a little longer lasting.

Widely used by the UK police service as part of their covert operations, the SmartWater Index Spray System is a revolutionary security system that uses state-of-the-art forensic science to deter criminals and protect premises from burglary and robbery.

The system has previously been deployed within banks, schools, hospitals, defence establishments

and retail outlets, and is ideally suited to protect pubs, clubs and other licensed premises from criminal victimisation. SmartWater Index can be used to protect points of entry, cash offices, stock rooms, and other vulnerable areas, whilst avoiding contact with business assets or displayed stock. Police deployment of SmartWater Index has even seen the system used within fruit machines to protect them from raids!!

SmartWater Index contains a unique DNA-style chemical code, created exclusively for individual premises by SmartWater technicians - no two premises will have the same SmartWater code.

SmartWater Index will remain detectable on skin and hair for weeks and on clothing indefinitely. The solution is invisible to the naked eye but any traces will glow brightly under ultraviolet light. If a criminal is caught with SmartWater on them, the unique forensic code provides the police service with an irrefutable link back to the scene of the crime

By raising the risk of capture and conviction, SmartWater Index intensifies a criminal's fear of being caught - to the point where they will abandon their plans in search of a softer target. This makes SmartWater Index one of the most powerful and longstanding criminal deterrents available.



If you are interested and want to know more visit www.smartwater.com

Over 20 and still going strong

Newham Pubwatch was founded over 20 years ago and like many has had its ups and downs but at moment is on a long high. It illustrates the scope of achievement when a pubwatch has built up a rapport with both their police and local authority licensing officers.

At present they are addressing one the major factors that our survey revealed as a problem for pubwatches, underage drinking. The chair, Janet Dooner, got the local trading standards officer down to give a talk on 'Challenge 21' in February and last month it was the turn of the local police superintendent to talk about underage sales and ASBO's. As a result of which he approved the go ahead for the introduction of a folder for members focusing on problem areas. The folder developed by the watch, police and local authority contains sections dealing with refusals, door supervisors, staff training and a summary of the Licensing Act. The bonus is the police have actually provided some funding to produce it while the council funded a radio system for one year and have now agreed to provide funding for another year.

Janet also managed to get free training courses for the new hygiene requirements for nearly all the members and staff in the watch. She is now talking with her MP's to get them to attend a meeting and perhaps find out what really happens in Newham, she must be close to succeeding as one MP invited her to visit the Houses of Parliament and observe the smoking debate on 14th February 2006.

Our congratulations go out to Janet and Newham Pubwatch on their success and long may it continue.

Only 18, but catching up

Derby City Pub Watch was started 18 years ago, It went into decline during the early Nineties and David Lalor FBI was asked to run a pilot in the Castleward Area 10 years ago. It proved such a great success that 6 more unified watches were started within the city and its outskirts. They started with membership of 20 which has now risen to over 120. This was an uphill struggle but now that they have a multi-agency approach to solving their problems the effort seems worth while and the results have been invaluable in achieving success.

This involves working with Derby City Council, Derby Community Safety, Derby Business Crime Reduction Group, City Centre Management and most of all Derbyshire Constabulary and its Police Licensing team. So far they have 69 Civil Banning Orders from known violent offenders, 21 Exclusions Orders and 9 ASBO's in force within their membership. This resulted in a reduction in violent crime of 23% in the City Centre from January to August 2005 compared to crimes recorded for the same period in 2004. A further reduction of 11% was recorded over the Festive Season and New Year. This reduction may have been due to the Launch of the Night Safe Initiative on November 22 to coincide with the implementation of the New Licensing Act. David said, "All of this could not have been achieved without the support of the Public who recognise that all we are trying to do is make a safer and more relaxed environment for everyone in our community." The pubwatch also won the Morning Advertiser Award for the Central Region this year in the Social Responsibility & Pub Watch Category.

Well done Derby we hope your success continues.

Continued from page 7 There followed a panel session of questions and answers to the speakers. After lunch delegates attended one identical Workshop entitled 'Pubwatch: Strategies for Success'. They were asked to identify issues that work and/or are good practice, any contentious issues or dilemmas and any issues which they wish the National Pubwatch Committee to undertake. Some of the responses made by delegates, and delivered by Raoul de Vaux in his closing remarks, can be found under the following headings:

Issues that work/are good practice

- effective local partnership work between police, licensees and councils.
- enhanced local community relations leading to increased footfall.
- undertaking specific initiatives leading to local crime reduction.
- having effective communications systems between members.
- specific initiatives relating to banning individuals.
- effective process for sharing photographs of banned persons.

Contentious issues or dilemmas

- licensees within Pubwatch accepting offenders due to ignorance, intimidation or apathy.
- how to maintain regular attendance of members within Pubwatches.
- inconsistent interpretation of the sharing of photographs, nationally.
- how to deal with people standing outside venues making noise when they are not customers.
- linking Pubwatches with existing local community safety partnership schemes.
- how to maintain the correct administration of schemes, including the accurate recording of decisions at meetings.

More detailed information on the conference and the outcome of the workshops can be found at our website