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National Pubwatch

Newsletter



25 years



BII

RAISING STANDARDS IN LICENSED RETAIL

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LIVERPOOL - FIRST PUB BANS FOR DRINK DRIVERS

Following the announcement of Pub Watch bans for drink drivers in Liverpool, the first two bans have been issued.

Joe Curran, Liverpool Chamber's Crime Reduction Manager for the Night Time Economy, said: "The Pub Watch bans are now in place for two drivers, both male and both under 25 years of age, found to be driving over the legal limit in Liverpool city centre since Monday. They have been banned from drinking all of the city centre pubs and bars in the City Centre Pub Watch area for three months."

"We are working very closely with Merseyside Police to send the clear message that there is a zero tolerance of alcohol fuelled anti-social behaviour in Liverpool city centre. This includes those irresponsible enough to drive a vehicle while over the limit."

DERBY PUBWATCH

PC Steve Dibble has secured funding through the local Crime and Disorder Partnership Neighbourhood Teams to send some local licensees on BIIAB certificated National Drugs awareness courses run by Taylor Hall Associates in Derby. This funding extends to sending local licensees and licensed shop staff on conflict management courses with the same trainers.

The first batch of 18 from the California Pubwatch, which is based around the Stockbrook Street area of the city, and houses a large student population have successfully completed the courses, with a second group from the Peartree area of the city attending the courses in March. A special thanks goes to the Neighbourhood Teams for their support on this project.

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.

PUBWATCH PLAN FOR BRAINTREE

A Pubwatch crime prevention scheme for Braintree is on the launch pad. Representatives from 16 of the town's licensed premises met at the invitation of police as a first step in forming the group. They were given a video briefing on how the scheme operates around the country, provided with information packs and encouraged to attend a subsequent formation meeting.

Groups are run by licensees with input from the police. They are tailored to meet their own needs and take decisions in line with county licensing objectives, such as introducing blanket bans on troublemakers. Police are on hand to provide intelligence and guidance on a wide range of topics, ranging from crime trends to new legislation.

Braintree district police commander Chief Insp Mark Schofield told the meeting: "You are key partners in making Braintree a safe district and we are keen to work in partnership with responsible licensees."

Police licensing officer, Stephen Sparrow, encouraged them to spread the word among other local licensees. At the formation meeting it is planned to elect officials and discuss aims and objectives. A key post will be that of co-ordinator, to act as a link between the member licensees, the police and other organisations.

Six similar schemes are already running in Essex, including Chelmsford, Colchester and Clacton. Once Braintree's Pubwatch is established, it is hoped to take the initiative to other parts of the district. Each group exists to promote the objectives of the 2003 Licensing Act, which are: prevention of crime and disorder; prevention of harm to children; prevention of public nuisance and upholding public safety.

SOUTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Pubwatch window / door stickers and lamppost signs are displaying an important message across the Gedling Borough Council area of South Nottinghamshire Division of Notts Police. Funded through Gedling Borough Council Community Safety Partnership, the signs are being erected in all the areas where Pubwatch operates.

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How to contact us

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The window stickers and lamppost signs are highly visible as a deterrent and send out an important message to customers of licensed premises. They bear a simple but effective message and have the National Pubwatch Logo on. They identify premises that are in the Pubwatch Schemes. There has been interest from both other Police Divisions in Notts and from Police Forces across the Country.

It is believed that these are the first type of sign to be produced across the Country depicting the National Pubwatch Logo.



Paul Horton Divisional Licensing Officer South Notts Division for Notts Police says, “This portrays true partnership working between the National Association. The Police and Pubwatch continue to work with our various partners as usual. We have all worked very well in partnership through the success of Pubwatch and we all look forward to the future.”

[NORTH YORKSHIRE](#)

The issue of terrorism in licensed premises is particularly relevant for one scheme as it covers all the licensed premises within Catterick Garrison, the biggest UK military base in Western Europe, serving both military and civilian customers alike.

Richmondshire LicenceWatch is a thriving scheme, revived after the start of the Licensing Act 2003. It includes pubs, clubs and licensed shops and supermarkets with some 60 members within Richmond, Catterick and Leyburn areas. The scheme actively promotes the ‘Banned from One, Banned from All’ across the area - currently 16 persons are excluded from all premises. As part of the banning policy the scheme has also adopted the ‘Yellow card warning’ letter policy. This warns offenders processed by the Police in Richmondshire for alcohol related anti-social behaviour and violent crime that they may face a ban if they re-offend within a specified period. The scheme also promotes the ‘Challenge 21’ policy across the membership, now including pubs as well as the off-trade.

A subject currently very much in the press, both national and trade, is the issue of fake IDs. Work is ongoing with Richmondshire LicenceWatch within the local secondary schools to educate local teenagers about alcohol abuse, including the use of fake IDs, as part of their citizenship curriculum.

PROPOSED PUBWATCH IN MALVERN

Karl Crangle and his security team from a Worcestershire bar want to start a pub watch scheme to reduce anti-social behaviour. The team believes a lack of communication between the pubs and the police has resulted in several incidents which could have been avoided.

The Vaults Bar, Malvern, has been forced to eject people who had already been thrown out of other pubs and Karl says that if he had known they were trouble-makers, he would never have let them in. The Vaults would like all the town's pubs to be connected to each other and with the police through radio, so if someone is causing a problem in one venue everyone is aware of it. "Forewarned is forearmed," he said.

Head door supervisor at the Vaults, Chris Francis, said: "People are leaving other pubs after disturbances and moving on to bars, resulting in the events from earlier recurring. Trouble-makers must be refused entry at the earliest possible time, which is easier than attempting to eject someone after they have gained entry and bought a drink."

Mr Francis said his security team had an excellent view of everything going on in town, making them added eyes and ears for police. Radios are already successfully used in Worcester. "The public are safe in the knowledge that if someone causes trouble it will result in their night coming to an end as they will be turned away from every bar," said Mr Francis.

Malvern police have a long history of working closely with licensees and this would be a practical extension of that enduring and effective relationship. "Anything that improves the early identification of real or potential incidents requiring police attendance has to be welcomed."

HM Revenue & Customs UK Duty Stamps Scheme

HMRC are publicising a new scheme which requires bottles of spirits of 30% abv or more to bear a duty stamp. The stamp will show that duty has been paid on the bottle. It is part of a Government strategy to combat alcohol fraud and, in particular, large scale fraudsters who source undutied alcohol from abroad and sell onto the UK black market.

From 1st January 2007, new offences came into force against licensees, publicans, bar owners, etc., who serve drinks from unstamped bottles. They have recently sent mail to publicans and bar owners advertising this scheme. For further information, contact:

Ruth Ryan, Tel: 0161 827 0337 Email: Ruth.Ryan1@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk

OPERATION NIGHTSAFE NORTHAMPTON

Police in Northampton are giving metal detecting wands to door staff at pubs and clubs in the town as part of Operation Nightsafe, the on-going crackdown on alcohol related violence and disorder. Additionally, police also use a drug-detecting dog around the town centre as a high-profile deterrent to check passers-by for signs of drug use and dealing.

Twenty hand held wands have been bought and are being offered to the busiest pubs and clubs in Northampton town centre. Sergeant Mark Worthington of the Northamptonshire West Community Safety Department, bought the wands using special funding made available through the Government Office of the East Midlands to help police across the region tackle violent crime. Door staff can simply run the wand over someone and if it detects metal, the door supervisor can ask them to turn out their pockets and can confiscate any items they find.

Sgt Worthington said: "This initiative is part of our on-going commitment to Operation Nightsafe and making our town centres safer. We do know that people carry weapons and this will enable licensees to make sure that no one can bring anything unacceptable into their premises. These wands are widely used around the country and the licensees we spoke to were very supportive of the idea, which has had a good reaction from everyone we have approached so far."

Police have also supplied door staff with fluorescent armbands in which they can display their Security Industry Authority accreditation to help them to be easily identifiable and increase their visibility.

This phase of extra activity saw police and partner agencies using a number of tactics to promote safe and responsible behaviour by both licensees and drinkers.

During the course of one evening, police carried out 27 stop searches as a result of drug 'sniffer' dogs' activities. No one was found to be in possession of drugs but everyone stopped acknowledged that they had either used drugs themselves or been with someone who had.

Said Sgt Worthington: "This one of a package of initiatives we will be using and passers-by were really supportive of what we were doing. We gained some valuable intelligence, which we will be acting on and I think we sent a warning to people who intend to bring drugs into the town centre."

ARTICLES FOR THIS NEWSLETTER

Should any of you have articles you consider appropriate for inclusion in this newsletter, please forward them, preferably by Email, to the address at the bottom of page 2.

BRIEF RESUME OF NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2007

Our fourth national conference was held in February in Coventry, again attended by over 250 people. Delegates heard about the terrorist threat to licensed premises from Jim Maietta, National Association for Counter Terrorism Security Office, and many seized the opportunity to widen their awareness by also attending a Workshop on this theme. The counter terrorism strategy includes an intention to reduce the threat and risk to, and the vulnerability of, premises. Its national initiative, ARGUS - Area Reinforcement Gained Using Simulations - is being gradually rolled out throughout the UK.

Ian Seville of Halton Pubwatch, Cheshire, attracted considerable interest through the comprehensive overview of 'Pubwatch On-Line', a communication channel website for Pubwatches, which includes the sharing of information between members.

Jeremy Allen and Suzanna Poppleston again shared their expert knowledge and particular views on a range of legal issues relating to licensing. They also explained that the number of Reviews are increasing. Additionally, more test purchases by persons under 18 are leading to prosecutions. They also wait with interest to read the outcome of the current consultation on the Licensing Act due to end in April 2007.

Geoff Makin gave an insight into the impact of the Licensing Act and developing issues for Coventry Licensing Authority and Trevor Peppar described how CV One manages Coventry City Centre, which includes the night-time economy. Both work closely with local Pubwatches.

Additional Workshops were held addressing the following topical issues:

- Pubwatch and civil litigation
- Young people and alcohol and
- Warnings, ABCs, ASBOs, Banning and Exclusion

Feedback on the whole day, from delegates, was very positive and constructive, with many taking tasks back to discuss, develop and even implement locally. A number of suggestions for inclusion in future conferences were also made.

We are very grateful to all the extra help given, particularly from local personnel, which made the running of this conference a smoother operation for the Committee members involved.

A full report of this conference, including issues raised in the Workshops, will be available on our website in the near future.