

**Edition 22**  
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# National Pubwatch

## Newsletter



25 years



RAISING STANDARDS IN LICENSED RETAIL

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## 2008 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Our fifth annual conference will be held on **Tuesday 12th February 2008** at the **Rookery Manor Hotel, near Weston-super-Mare, Somerset**. Please note your diary and let colleagues know.

Expect practical interactive sessions on topical issues, with the involvement of a theatre group. To book early, either Email or write to us for an application form or download direct from our website [www.nationalpubwatch.org.uk](http://www.nationalpubwatch.org.uk) and forward it to us.

### CHORLEY PUBWATCH

Publicans in Chorley, Lancashire, are getting tough on violent offenders by banning them from their premises for five years. The decision follows mounting anger over the lenient sentences being handed out to those committing violent assaults on licensed premises.

David Hamer, vice-chairman of Chorley Pubwatch, said the initiative had been introduced to curb the number of assaults on both customers and staff. Under the proposals the maximum five-year ban will be handed out to anyone who commits an act of violence towards licensees, staff or customers. People who use abusive behaviour or threaten violence will face bans of up to three years.

Chairman of Chorley Pubwatch, Peter Verhaege, was himself a victim of an attack inside his club some 13 months ago. One of his attackers was given a 12-month community order and 60 hours community service last week. He was disgusted by the paltry sentence. Peter is still receiving medical treatment on facial injuries sustained from the attack and was disgusted by this paltry sentence. These tough new measures had received unanimous backing.

**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.**

## OXFORDSHIRE NIGHTSAFE

Nightsafe was launched in Henley, where a search arch and drug testing machine are being deployed at pubs and clubs in the town. This is a local partnership involving police, South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC), South Oxfordshire Community Safety Partnership and the licensees. Members of Nightsafe with local licensees demonstrated the resources they have available to keep Henley safe and deter criminal activity.

The search arches ensure no one is carrying a weapon. The arches, similar to those used at airports, can be deployed if ever there is a problem with knife crime in the town. They were set up at The Slug and Lettuce, Rivers Nightclub and The White Lotus. No knives or any other offensive weapons were found.

The drug testing machine, which can detect traces of drugs on people's hands, was also deployed in some of the venues as a condition of entry. Ten people were found to have traces of cocaine on their hands and were refused entry. When searched, nine of the ten were not carrying any illegal drugs. One man was found to be in possession of a small amount of cannabis and given a police caution.

Sgt Martin Jubb said: "It was a successful and well-attended launch. I thank the licensees for their help and commitment to the initiative. The kit was used in their venues with their full support and cooperation. No one was found to be in possession of a knife or any other offensive weapon which is very good news. I hope we never have a need for the knife arches in the town, but the resources are there and they also act as a deterrent for anyone thinking of breaking the law, so they will be used from time to time.

"The same is true of the drug testing kit. Although ten people tested positive for traces of drugs, only one was found to be in possession of a small amount of cannabis and no one was found to be dealing drugs. This machine will act as a deterrent to anyone thinking of taking drugs into any venue in Henley. There will be more initiatives to come and I hope that they will make people feel safer and ensure that everyone has an enjoyable and safe night out in Henley."

### How to contact us

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*Please note the change of Email address and contact person above.*

## ZERO TOLERANCE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Patrick Smythe is the Police Licensing Inspector for Sandwell Borough Council, West Midlands, where the six towns each have their own Pubwatch. He explains that their chairs and deputies also sit as an executive known as Sandwell Pubwatch. The executive ratify all banning orders and hear appeals from individuals. Consequently, when someone is banned from one Pubwatch, the collective agreement now means that they will be banned from all.

Part of this officer's remit is to reduce all acts of anti-social behaviour and crime where the individual offender, at the time of committing the offence, had consumed alcohol. Members of each Pubwatch have agreed that they hold a position in the community offering leisure activities, and that people using their facilities must behave responsibly when returning to their homes. Nationally, 85% of domestic violence occurs when one or both of the persons involved had consumed alcohol. Sandwell Pubwatch has agreed that any person arrested for domestic violence, where it is found that he/she has consumed alcohol, they will be considered for a Pubwatch ban of up to 6 months. In fact, all persons arrested by the police in Sandwell, having consumed alcohol, are actually questioned on both where and when they last consumed their alcohol, and the quantity.

This initiative is seen as a major weapon in the fight against domestic violence, where only 10% of the offenders ever appear before a court. This is often due to retractions from victims or lack of sufficient evidence to secure a conviction.

Recently, two persons received bans ranging from one to six months for domestic violence, violence and drink drive. The 'All Offence Banning Protocol' now applies to drink drive, criminal damage, burglary and all incidents of violence and disorder.

Several funding bids have been submitted to the Home Office and to Neighbourhood Regeneration funds with the view to providing, free to all members, the 'Pubwatch Online' computer programme. They will also receive a corporate folder containing licensing issues and up-to-date photographs of all banned persons.

The implications of the forthcoming Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006, details of which will be covered in a future edition of this newsletter, are also being considered.

**Editor's Note:** We invite Pubwatches to consider whether they should include banning individuals for committing offences at locations other than in and in the vicinity of licensed premises. This includes domestic violence and drink drive. Pubwatch Online, created by Halton Pubwatch, Cheshire, gave a presentation at our annual conference in Coventry in February.

## SCHEME IN ABERFELDY, SCOTLAND

Aberfeldy licensees launched a new scheme to ensure a safe and enjoyable time can be had by both locals and visitors in the attractive Highland Perthshire town. Aberfeldy Pub and Off-Sales Watch not only involves publicans, but also includes off-sales premises such as supermarkets and even taxi services.

Sergeant John Watson of Tayside Police said, "Aberfeldy, like anywhere, from time to time experiences the actions of a few which can spoil things for others. Local licensees were determined to ensure a safe environment for their staff and customers and as a result they have formed this Watch. Every pub and off-sales outlet in the town has joined the scheme. Anyone in or near member premises who uses threatening or violent behaviour, causes deliberate damage or vandalism, is involved in the misuse of drugs or behaves in any way that is deemed to be unacceptable, is liable to be excluded from all licensed premises."

Steven McColl, who runs two pubs in the town, is delighted with the new scheme and sees it as a positive move. "All the locals are talking about the scheme and how it can only make the town more attractive for everyone. Notices in each pub and off-licence make it absolutely clear that we will not tolerate any nonsense. By sharing information and resources with the off-sales premises we can also help to prevent under-age drinking and dissuade those adults who might consider buying alcohol on behalf of youngsters."

Aberfeldy Co-op Store Manager Tom Neill said, "It can only be a positive thing for our customers." David MacDougall of Aberfeldy Taxis believes there are benefits for all, "Our customers are often on the way to or from licensed premises. Being part of the scheme can only be of benefit to our patrons and safer for our drivers."

**Editor's Note:** It is great to have Pubwatches in Scotland and, whilst the legislation there is different to that in England and Wales, the aims of Pubwatch remain the same.

## DEVON'S THINK SAFE/DRINK SAFE CAMPAIGN

A hard-hitting campaign was designed to show Devon's young drinkers how to enjoy the festive season without putting themselves at risk was launched prior to last year's Christmas run by the Safer Devon Partnership.

A series of posters were produced and widely displayed covering all aspects of social behaviour and situations and the dangers young people can face through irresponsible drinking. The campaign has the backing of Devon's licensees and nightclub owners. Speaking on behalf of the Safer Devon Partnership chairman, Alan Wooderson said: "It would be naïve to run a campaign telling young people not to drink at all, so this is aimed at keeping them safe while they enjoy themselves.

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“We are particularly focussed on wanting to reduce crime and its effects on individuals and the community and there are clear links between alcohol and crime. All the evidence shows that young people are starting to drink alcohol at a younger age”.

The campaign had the backing of the Devon & Cornwall Constabulary, South West Ambulance, Devon Fire & Rescue and the Devon Primary Care Trust and ties in with the agencies' work to promote sensible drinking.

Examples of the messages to support this campaign were:

- \* Friends – Make sure they get home safely
- \* Going back to their place? Tell somebody where you are going
- \* Come here often? Hospitals have regulars too
- \* Hungover? Can't work 9 to 5? You might just get your P45

A police spokesperson said: “Officers deal with people who have drunk to excess. The police are pleased to back this campaign which covers all aspects of safety, which will decrease the likelihood of these people becoming victims of crime.”

The owner of popular venue, Time Piece in Exeter, George Sloan Said, “We want young people to come to the club, enjoy themselves and, most importantly, keep themselves safe. We encourage sensible drinking and offer a wide range of soft drinks. Our younger customers are reminded that it is an offence to be drunk on licensed premises and that they will have their night out be prematurely cut short. We advise customers not to leave drinks unattended and not to accept drinks from strangers. We also encourage and assist our customers, especially females, to arrange a lift or pre- book a taxi and have notices to that effect.”

## NORTHANTS AND LOLLIPOPS

Lollipops are to be handed out to revellers in Daventry at the end of one night in a light-hearted initiative aimed at improving the atmosphere and reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.

As part of the ongoing Nightsafe scheme, to reduce alcohol-related crime and disorder, Police Officers are giving lollipops to licensed premises and encouraging staff to hand them out to customers at closing time.

The initiative is being led by PC Tam Dunn, the Licensing Officer for Daventry and South Northants, who heard about a similar lollipop hand-out in Mansfield which appeared to be successful in calming people down and distracting them from alcohol-fuelled brawls late at night and into the early hours.

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This coincided with research that showed that this weekend is traditionally the busiest for anti-social behaviour in Daventry town centre.

PC Dunn approached the Moot Hall Indian restaurant in Daventry, who generously gave him 3,000 lollipops to hand out.

PC Dunn said: "We hope this light-hearted initiative will help improve the atmosphere at the end of the night in Daventry and that the lollipops provide a distraction away from aggression and conflict. If successful, this could be continued.

"If the licensees have any lollipops left at the end of the evening on Saturday, I have suggested they may be able to hand them to smokers to distract them from nicotine when the smoking ban comes into Force on Sunday."

## FLEETSAFE

Fleetsafe is the name of the Pubwatch scheme in the Fleet area of north-east Hampshire. Police, licensees and Hart District Council are working together to reduce anti-social behaviour by sharing information to ban those who cause trouble in the district's licensed premises.

The licensees sign up to a protocol with the principle being 'banned from one premise, banned from all'. Anyone linked to violence, assault, public order or drugs is banned from all of the member premises. The scheme currently has 13 people banned.

Licensing Officer for Hart, PC Ruth Sealey, said: "The co-operation of the licensees through this scheme is invaluable for the area. Responsible licensees who join the scheme are demonstrating to local people their commitment to the community. A 'banned from one premises, banned from all' will send a message to troublemakers that they are not welcome in the area."

Fleetsafe is chaired by Matthew Webster, the licensee at Propaganda, Fleet Road. Matthew said: "Fleetsafe is committed to making Fleet town centre a safe and enjoyable experience during the night and day. Since Fleetsafe was started we have managed to reduce anti-social behaviour, which can only be a good thing for everybody!"

Members of Fleetsafe will soon be issued with a Fleetsafe logo to display at their premises indicating that they are members of the scheme and responsible licensees.