LICENSING COMMITTEE
14 JUNE 2018

COUNTY WIDE BEST BAR NONE SCHEME

1.0   Purpose of Report

1.1   To provide Members with a final year report on year three of the county wide Best Bar None Scheme.

2.0   Background

2.1   The Best Bar None (BBN) scheme rewards licensees who provide good management, a safe and enjoyable environment for customers, discourage binge drinking and prevent alcohol related crime. It therefore encourages licensees to act responsibly and take pride in their premises and surroundings and, in doing so, put something back into the town and local community.

2.2   The rewards for licensees include, the prestige of being part of the awards scheme, increased business within the area and lower insurance premiums resulting from the fact that they are running safer establishments. It also provides an opportunity for licensees to demonstrate to official agencies how well they manage their own business. It is an opportunity for positive dialogue between the two sides.

2.3   In order to be awarded with the Best Bar None accreditation, premises must be compliant with all aspects of the law. However, for premises to have the potential of winning "best in the category" they must offer much more than this and this is one of the ways the Best Bar None Scheme helps to raise the standards of licensed premises, by providing a competitive framework. Although the scheme is nationally recognised, it can be tailored to the local environment. As a result, the scheme will not focus primarily on the late night economy and instead will capture all types of licensed premises across the County.

3.0   The Scheme to Date

3.1   Year One 2015/16

Across the county interest was expressed from 259 venues with applications being received from 109 premises. Within the Newark and Sherwood District there were 8 applications. Seven of the application premises met the Best Bar None criteria with the eighth just falling short. However, at the time of assessment they committed to a programme of improvements and have since satisfied the criteria and have been awarded the Best Bar None accreditation.

3.2   Year Two 2016/17

Across the county there were 197 venues that expressed an interest in the scheme. Of these 82 venues have successfully been accredited. There were nine venues that failed the accreditation and these venues shave been provided with feedback to enable them to succeed the following year.

3.3   Within Newark and Sherwood there were seven premises that successfully achieved accreditation and of these seven five achieved either a distinction or a merit

3.4   Year Three 2017/18

The numbers of applications in year three was well below that experienced in previous years. This was seen both at county level and within Newark and Sherwood. In Newark and Sherwood ether were only 3 applications, however, all of these premises achieved accreditation with distinction. These were:

The Sir John Ardern
The Grove
The Old Post Office

4.0   The Future of the Scheme

4.1   The scheme has been funded for three years from both the Nottinghamshire County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

4.2   Discussions are taking place with potential funders to provide some sustainability for the scheme. The assessments and administration processes associated with the scheme have been developed and over the first two years and these are now well established and lean so as not to place a burden on either the venues that wish to take part or the local authorities.

4.3   Licensing Authorities have been requested to commit their support for the scheme in years four and five. There is no direct financial commitment required but some officer time will be required. It is not anticipated that this will have any detrimental impact on the other duties of the Licensing Team.

5.0   RECOMMENDATIONS that:

(a)   Members note the progress of the Nottinghamshire County Best Bar None Scheme; and

(b)   the scheme in years four and five be supported.

Background Papers

Nil

For further information please contact Alan Batty on Extension 5467.

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