

Report to: Licensing Committee Meeting – 15 September 2022
 Director Lead: Matthew Finch, Director – Communities & Environment
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Report Summary	
Report Title	Promotion of the Pubwatch Scheme
Purpose of Report	To update Members on the Pubwatch schemes currently operating in Newark and Sherwood and to seek Members approval for the local initiatives being developed.
Recommendations	That Members support the initiatives set out below to promote and enhance the local Pubwatch schemes: (a) encouraging sign up to the newsletter; (b) using the evaluation tool to identify potential improvements; (c) promoting the free CitizenCard; and (d) working with Newark Pubwatch on Safer Streets
Reason for Recommendation	To promote and enhance the local Pubwatch Schemes.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Pubwatch is a voluntary organisation set up to promote best practice. Its aim is to achieve a safer drinking environment in all licensed premises throughout the UK. Each Pubwatch scheme is a standalone group but is supported by National Pubwatch
- 1.2 There have been Pubwatch schemes operating in the Newark & Sherwood area for many years. They are run by volunteers and are licence trade led, with local support from licensing officers. The Police are also key partners in the Pubwatch schemes.
- 1.3 In Newark & Sherwood, we now have four active Pubwatch schemes. They are based in Newark, Ollerton, Southwell and Rainworth & Blidworth. Each area meets once a month and discusses issues that affects them and helps the share of information such as problematic customers, licensing issues, previous incidents and how they were handled and up and coming events that may impact on licensed premises.

- 1.4 The fact that it is the licensed trade themselves that run Pubwatch can be both an advantage and disadvantage. There is a degree of ownership of the group that comes from this but equally the lack of formal organisation does mean that the success of the group relies very heavily on the secretary and chairman of each group.
- 1.5 The movement of personnel in the licensed trade is not uncommon and therefore each group has, over the past few years, had periods of poor attendance but also periods where the group has contributed positively.
- 1.6 The Licensing Committee has supported the local Pubwatch groups by promoting the Scheme link which is a mobile phone app which has been developed as a central point for easier data sharing of data and communication across Pubwatch for unifying online services for members, Police and councils. Two of the larger Pubwatch schemes are now using Schemelink extensively.

2.0 Proposal/Options Considered

- 2.1 In order to promote the Pubwatch schemes to a wider range of licensed premises and to encourage a wider membership a number of supporting and promotional activities are being proposed.
- 2.2 The national Pubwatch group produce advice and guidance information for both existing active groups and those that need additional help. It is proposed that all attendees of all the Pubwatch schemes are encouraged to sign up to the bi-monthly newsletter.
- 2.3 An evaluation tool to measure the success of local Pubwatch schemes has been developed by national Pubwatch in association with Leeds Beckett University. It is proposed that the Chair of each local scheme is encouraged to use the toolkit to measure the impact of the local scheme and to use it to identify any improvements. Help and assistance with the evaluation will be provided by licensing staff.
- 2.4 There are a number of proofs of age/identity cards available to young people. The CitizenCard which is a Proof of Age Standards Scheme approved card is being made available via a nationally to all Pubwatch schemes who will have the opportunity to provide free CitizenCards to anyone aged 18-24. The normal cost of obtaining a card is usually £15. It is proposed that the details of how the Newark & Sherwood Pubwatch schemes can take advantage of this will be made available to the local schemes.
- 2.5 Members may be aware that a recent bid to the Home Office for |Safer Streets funding has been successful. Part of the bid is centred around improving safety in the night-time economy. the individual elements of the bid are still being developed but it will include joint initiatives with Newark Pubwatch

3.0 Implications

- 3.1 In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations officers have considered the following implications; Data Protection, Digital and Cyber Security, Equality and Diversity, Financial, Human Resources, Human Rights, Legal, Safeguarding and Sustainability. No implications have been identified.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Nil