



Report to: Licensing Committee Meeting – 30 November 2023
Director Lead: Matthew Finch, Director – Communities & Environment
Lead Officer: Damian Wilkins, Environmental Health & Licensing Manager

Report Summary	
Report Title	Update on Pubwatch Schemes currently in operation.
Purpose of Report	To provide Members with an update on Pubwatch Schemes currently operating in Newark & Sherwood.
Recommendation	That the report be noted.

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.
- 1.2 Pubwatch meetings consider issues such as problematic customers, licensing issues, previous incidents and how they were handled, plus up and coming events that may impact on licensed premises.
- 1.3 The Licensing Committee has previously supported the local Pubwatch groups by promoting Schemelink which is a mobile phone app developed as a central point for easier data sharing and communication across Pubwatch for unifying online services for members, the Police and Councils.
- 1.4 Features of Schemelink include:
 - Group chat
 - Incident logs, which once submitted are sent through to all members
 - Push notifications
 - Notice board, for sharing information for example, photos of counterfeit notes
 - Ability to poll about a ban rather than wait until the next meeting
 - Banned gallery – which includes individual watermarks for members, so if images were shared inappropriately it would be easy to discover who had shared them.

2.0 Report

- 2.1 In Newark & Sherwood, we now have four active Pubwatch Schemes. They are based in Newark; Blidworth & Rainworth; Ollerton, Boughton & Edwinstowe (OBE); and Southwell. Each area meets once a month and discusses issues that affects them and helps the share of information.

- 2.2 The meetings in Newark are well structured with good attendance with a lot of information shared within the group. The town centre Police Officer and civilian Police Licensing Officer attend every meeting along with myself and the Chair of the Licensing Committee has expressed a desire to attend the meetings which is always well received by the group.
- 2.3 The Pubwatch group has a positive effect on reducing town centre violence and disorder because of the banning system which varies from 3 months for minor indiscretions to 2 years for serious incidents. Our Licensing Enforcement Officers feel that this has a beneficial impact in keeping Newark a safer place for everyone to enjoy.
- 2.4 Since 2021 a new Pubwatch Scheme has been set up covering Blidworth & Rainworth. In general terms it has been well represented by most of the pubs and clubs from these two villages. Due to constant changes in staff and relatively few incidents they have struggled to embrace the Schemelink app but we continue to promote it as the best intelligence tool for the group. The main success really has been connecting pub managers and staff through Pubwatch and they now have regular contact with each other, not only to pass on useful intel but also to help out one another with their businesses.
- 2.5 With regards to Ollerton, Boughton & Edwinstowe (OBE) Pubwatch, over the last couple of years particularly we have had a strong Chair who also sits on the local OBE Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) and has been able to contribute towards some excellent results with partners in tackling underage drinking and ASB. This Pubwatch group has also become much better represented and has embraced the Schemelink app, and some serious incidents have been reported and offenders barred from all pubs in the area.
- 2.6 With regards to Southwell Pubwatch, there have been some challenges around representation at the meetings and finding a permanent Chair. We are working hard to get a consistent Chair in place and to encourage and support all local pubs to attend and contribute at the meetings. There are relatively few incidents and similar to the Blidworth & Rainworth Pubwatch, they have struggled to adopt the Schemelink app. More recently at the last 2 meetings there has been an improvement in attendance.

3.0 Proposal/Options Considered

- 3.1 In order to support the local Pubwatch scheme it is proposed that a number of standing agenda items are raised to provide structure to the meetings. However, Pubwatch meetings are not managed by NSDC officers and therefore the agenda items will need to be agreed by the Chair of each meeting.
- 3.2 Members should be aware of all the good work carried out by the Pubwatch Schemes running throughout the Newark & Sherwood area and help promote their activities.

4.0 Implications

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 and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

There are no implications arising from this report

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

For additional information only - [National Pubwatch](#) & [Schemelink](#)