

## **LICENSING COMMITTEE**

**6 SEPTEMBER 2018**

### **SCHEMELINK FOR PUBWATCH**

#### **1.0 Purpose of Report**

1.1 To seek approval for the purchase of the Schemelink software for the members of Pubwatch within Newark & Sherwood.

#### **2.0 Background**

2.1 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.

2.2 In Newark & Sherwood, we have 3 Pubwatch schemes. They are based in Newark, Ollerton and Southwell. Each area meets once a month and discusses issues that affects them and helps the share of information. Newark Pubwatch is well attended with approximately 15 members, Ollerton and Southwell have approximately 11 members each.

2.3 Pubwatch meetings consider issues such as problematic customers, licensing issues, previous incidents and how they were handled and up and coming events that may impact on licensed premises.

2.4 Traditionally, members of Pubwatch have a book that contains the details of the banned members. These are kept on the licensed premise. Updating these books has been an issue faced by all of the schemes within our area due to data protection restrictions and information sharing.

2.5 Schemelink is an app which has been developed as a central point for easier data sharing of data and communication across scheme types for example pubwatch, shopwatch, unifying online services for members, police and councils.

2.6 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.
- Each member can appoint temporary access to others for a period of 24 hours, this would be used for SIA door staff.

2.7 Schemelink is used successfully in Bassetlaw areas of Retford and Worksop.

2.8 Officers have recently had a demonstration of the system and they are of the opinion that it would greatly enhance the working pubwatch across all Newark & Sherwood. As well as strengthening partnership working between the Licensing Authority, the Police and the trade.

### **3.0 Proposals**

3.1 It is proposed that the Council pay for active members of the Pubwatch schemes to have the Schemelink membership for 1 year. An active member being a venue that is represented at Pubwatch meeting at least 9 out of 12 meetings a year.

3.2 If a member fails to be active, the local authority will notify the Schemelink providers who will cancel their membership and issue the local authority with a voucher for the remaining period, which can be used by another organisation.

3.3 The price of the scheme for individuals is £35.99. If bulk bought the price per member would be £31 for 40 plus members and £28 for 50 plus members.

3.4 It is estimated that the purchase of 40 licences would be appropriate to actively support the 3 Pubwatch schemes.

3.5 It is anticipated that at the end of year one the members of Pubwatch will see the benefits from the system and will be willing to fund their own membership going forward.

### **4.0 Financial Implications**

4.1 The total price of providing 40 licences would be £1,240. This cost can be found from the existing licensing budget A10814 45101.

### **5.0 RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Committee consider the contents of the report and support the purchase of 40 annual licences for the Schemelink app at a cost of £1,240 for one year only.**

### **Reason for Recommendation**

To support Pubwatch and make the workings of Pubwatch more effective and efficient.

### **Background Papers**

Nil

For further information please contact Nicola Kellas on extension 5894

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