LICENSING COMMITTEE
6 SEPTEMBER 2018

SCHEMELINK FOR PUBWATCH

1.0   Purpose of Report

1.1   To update members on the use 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   In November 2108 the Licensing Committee agreed the following minute:

AGREED   (unanimously) that the purchase of 40 annual licences for the SchemeLink App, at a cost of £1,240 for one year only, be supported and approved.

2.8 The Schemelink App has now been rolled out to the Pub Watch in Newark and has been well received. So far are there are 20 establishments that have either signed up to use the App or are in the process of activating it. The App has proved really useful in identifying individuals that are breaching Pubwatch and more importantly Criminal Behaviour Orders.

2.9 The Pubwatch for Ollerton are now in the process of adopting the use of the Schemelink App.

3.0 Proposals

3.1 It is proposed to monitor the uptake and use of the app. One of the difficulties encountered has been the quality of the photographs. This is currently being addressed.

3.2 The Council's administrator can access usage data and regular checks are being made to assess the use and where the app is not being seen to be used the premises will be encouraged to make more use of it.

4.0 Financial Implications (FIN19-20/8481)

4.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

5.0 Equalities implications

5.1 There are no equities implications arising from this report.

6.0 Community Plan – Alignment to Objectives

6.1 ***Objective 2: Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, and increase feelings of safety in our communities:*** Some licensed premises serving to people on PubWatch have been the source of anti-social behaviour.

6.2 ***Objective 5: Increase visits to Newark and Sherwood and the use of visitor attractions by local residents***: Vibrant centres with a well-controlled licensed will increase visitors.

6.3 ***Objective 7: Enhance and sustain Newark Town Centre:*** reducing anti-social behaviour will enhance the town centre

7.0 RECOMMENDATION

That Members note the update of the Scheme Link App and support the proposal to roll the App out to Ollerton Pub watch

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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