

LICENSING COMMITTEE

13 JUNE 2019

COUNTY WIDE BEST BAR NONE SCHEME FOR 2019

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To update Members with the proposals for the 2019/20 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 & 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 197, 82 venues have successfully been accredited. There were 9 venues that failed the accreditation and these venues have been provided with feedback to enable them to succeed the following year.

3.3 Within Newark & Sherwood there were 7 premises that successfully achieved accreditation and of these 7, 5 achieved either a distinction or a merit

3.4 Year Three 2017/18

The numbers of applications in year 3 was well below that experienced in previous years. This was seen both at county level and within Newark & Sherwood. In Newark & Sherwood there were only 3 applications

4.0 The Future of the Scheme

4.1 The scheme has been funded for 3 years from both the Nottinghamshire County Council and the Police & Crime Commissioner.

5.2 Discussions have now concluded with the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner and they have confirmed that they will fund the scheme for 2019/20. However, the level of funding is reduced and therefore work is taking place to both redesign and reinvigorate the scheme so as to make it better value for money but also to attract more applicants.

5.3 Licensing Authorities have been requested to commit their support for the scheme in the coming year. This will be in the form of officer time to promote the scheme and to undertake the assessments of those premises that apply. 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.

5.4 The Licensing Staff have been working hard through Pub Watch and through other initiatives to build a positive relationship with the licensing trade. It is hoped that these improved relations will encourage more premises to take part in the 2019/20 Best Bar None Scheme.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that:

- (a) the progress of the Nottinghamshire County Best Bar None Scheme be noted; and,**
- (b) support be given to the Scheme in 2019/20.**

Background Papers

Nil

For further information please contact Alan Batty on Extension 5467.

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