

LICENSING COMMITTEE
12 NOVEMBER 2020

PUBWATCH SCHEMES IN NEWARK AND SHERWOOD

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To update Members on the Pubwatch schemes currently operating in Newark & Sherwood District.

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.

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.

Newark Pubwatch

2.4 The Newark Pubwatch meeting takes place on the last Thursday of each month and approximately 15 premises are represented. The Police and licensing staff are normally in attendance along with trade representatives. There is an open invitation for the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Licensing Committee to attend. The meeting is always chaired by a local licensing trade representative.

2.5 The Licensing Committee has supported the Newark Pubwatch by promoting the Schemelink 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.

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 The Schemelink App has now been rolled out to the Pubwatch in Newark and has been well received. So far 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.
- 2.8 The App has also been used during the Covid-19 Pandemic to issue guidance and advice to Pubwatch members to support them in re-opening after lockdown and to re-engineer their offering in light of Tier 2 controls.
- 2.9 Overall the Newark Pubwatch is working reasonably well and it provides a useful forum.

Ollerton Pubwatch

- 2.10 The Ollerton Pubwatch is a smaller meeting than Newark as might be expected. It meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. The average attendance is around 10/12 local trade representatives with support from police and N&S licensing staff.
- 2.11 The attendance has been mixed over the years and is very dependent on the current cohort of DPS personnel and their commitment.

Blidworth and Rainworth

- 2.12 This Pubwatch group has been very inconsistent over the past few years and again the success of the group is very much dependent on the commitment of the local members. It restarted approximately 6 months ago. This group meets on the last Tuesday of every other month and has around 10 participants.

Southwell

- 2.13 This group has mixed history where support is very strong for a period of time but then wanes. It is currently meeting every 3 months and has around 12 representatives. The Council's licensing enforcement officer reports that this group is under performing and could be more useful.

3.0 Proposals

- 3.1 In order to support the local Pubwatch scheme it is proposed that a standing agenda is produced by the Council to provide structure to the meetings.
- 3.2 A diary of future meetings will be produced and promoted locally to the trade. Additionally the diary of meetings will be shared with the Chairman of the Licensing Committee

4.0 Financial Implications (FIN20-21/790)

- 4.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

5.0 Equalities implications

- 5.1 There are no equalities 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.

7.0 Digital Implications

7.1 None from this report

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that Members support the local Pubwatch groups by:

- (a) the Council producing a standard agenda for the meetings; and**
- (b) Officers promoting the benefits of the Scheme locally.**

Reason for Recommendations

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

Background Papers

Nil

For further information, please contact Alan Batty on extension 5467

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