

REPORT TO: Safer Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 20th February 2018

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community & Resources

PORTFOLIO: Community Safety

SUBJECT: Night Time Economy

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To update the board on the positive work that is being carried out in partnership with the Police and Council to make Halton night time economy safer.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:

- 1) **the report be noted; and**
- 2) **the Board consider the information presented and raise any questions of interest or points of clarification following the presentation.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Enforcement Performance Activity:

Licensed premises input/visits = 212 Gambling venues = 9

3.2 Section 19 of the Licensing Act 2003 Formal and Informal Premises Closure Orders and Premises Issues

Reported below are the outcomes of undertaking activities under Section 19 of the Licensing Act 2003, with the Council and Policy working in partnership.

3.2.1 Turkish Kebab

The Premises License holder has been issued with a formal warning notice with regards the opening hours. On 4 occasions in the last three months the venue has stayed open past its permitted hours and been required to close by Police. The Personal License Holder (PLH) has been warned any future breach will result in the venues Premises

License being revoked. A letter has been received from the PLH stating he is no longer at the venue and has no responsibility. However, this is not sufficient to surrender the license. The Council wrote back to the PLH explaining the situation and that he is ultimately responsible until such time as he surrenders the license. The Premises License has now been surrendered and if no other parties come forward to transfer it will effectively cease on 7th February 2018

3.2.2 The Royal Runcorn

This venue after a recent refurbishment has now become the busiest venue (Pub) in Halton. At the weekend it has up to 250 – 300 customers at any one time. Unfortunately this is bringing its own problems, with steady increase in incidents.

To accommodate this increase in business a new door company “ELITE” has been employed and the venue now utilizes a floor walker to try and identify customers overindulging, before issues arise.

The new company Elite has already reduced incidents and is working hard with staff and management to identify and prevent future problems. The Licensing team has also met with Directors of Elite on 25th January to discuss the way forward.

The Council and Police will continue to work closely with staff management and owners to ensure a safe environment for the customers.

3.2.3 The Blundell Arms

The above venue was placed on an action plan after a large scale fight inside the venue. Although this was a domestic related incident which could have happened anywhere and was not alcohol related, it was thought that staff would benefit from additional training and support. At the Action Plan meeting the owners offered a new Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) who was fully SIA trained and had experience in a similar urban venue. We are pleased to report that since the Action Plan there have been no issues at all.

3.2.4 Volt (Pop Planet)

After many and varied issues, warnings and Action Plans the management of this venue decided that they were not experienced enough for a town centre venue and decided to leave. After a discussion with the Licensing Team they also surrendered the Premises License. This now means if anybody comes forward to take this venue again there will need to be a whole new application, conditions, etc.

It is also worth mentioning mention that there were two incidents at our major venues, Chambers and Establishment where Door Staff were applauded by Police for their professionalism and assistance in detaining offenders.

3.2.5 **Violent Crime in Public Spaces (Update)**

There has been a marked increase in knife crime in Halton with five offences noted where licensed premises have been involved. Due to the actions of staff and management three offenders have been arrested and charged with multiple offences. The main venues in the Borough have all been issued with or have obtained metal detectors and these are in use at entry.

3.2.6 **We have no Tier 1 venues in Halton**

3.2.7 **Tier 2 venues Widnes**

Establishment
Simms Cross
Corner House
Pop Planet (Closed Licence surrendered)

Tier 2 venues Runcorn

The Royal
Chambers
Bar Bananas (Now Closed) Alchemy
Barley Mow

These venues will remain as Tier 2 by the nature of their business, i.e., hours and customer base and not for reasons of increased incidents.

3.2.8 **Christmas Period**

We are pleased to report that we had a successful Christmas period with very few incidents at all and any minor issues being dealt with in the correct manner by the venues and management. Cheshire Constabulary reported that all our tier two venues on both sides of the water had seen a reduction in incidents compared with Christmas 2016. However, issues have been identified with several takeaways in regard to their compliance with their Licences and some conditions contained in those licenses. It is therefore our intention to give this area some attention in the current year. An area of concern is that over 70 IDs were seized over the period being used by siblings, friends etc. A press release is being organised and a purge in this area is intended. The ESTABLISHMENT is taking action and are looking at Biometric scanners.

3.2.9 **CCTV Commissioning Tests**

CCTV commissioning tests were completed at-

Mamma Mia Milton Road Widnes
British Legion Runcorn
Mill field Sports and Social Club
Turkish Kebab
Miami Pizza (Police have hard drive)

3.2.10 **Licensing visits**

Numerous visits have been undertaken with Immigration enforcement, Cheshire Special Constabulary, Cheshire Police Drugs Dog and Trading Standards and will continue to work closely with all departments.

The results from the above have resulted in five arrests for Immigration offences, two being deported and two arrested for drug related offences.

During these visits the licensing team collated several items of intelligence with regards to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) which have been past to Cheshire Police. A dedicated operation has now been set up with regards CSE around takeaways in both Widnes and Runcorn.

3.2.11 **Stryker Camera**

Our Licensing Enforcement officer has now taken responsibility of the Stryker Cameras and will be liaising with Police re the deployment.

Currently

Widnes Camera is on Cunningham Road.

Runcorn rear of now derelict Burma Star in Halton Brook

3.2.12 **Pub Watch**

Both Pub Watch groups have established numbers and it is unlikely that these numbers are going to change, however the New Closed Facebook Group is now flourishing with over 60 members either side of the water. This growth makes it so much easier to get information out to the venues and on a 24/7 basis.

We now actively promote the Facebook page to new and existing Premises, staff and management.

There were a total of 5 pub watch bans this quarter, 2 for possession of a bladed article.

We have recently had several complaints from venues and members of the Public with regards the lack of Taxis late at night. The licensees have thanked the Taxi Licensing Officer for attending Pub Watch and offering his advice and assistance.

In future meetings we have invited representatives from Immigration Enforcement, the Gambling Commission and the Inland Revenue to offer advice.

Pub Watch is a private association of licensees run by licensees for the mutual benefit of licensees. As such we have no authority to interfere, steer otherwise influence their proceedings. Their governance is based on National Pub Watch principle's and Police and other public bodies can only attend as invited guests. This has been supported by a high court decision and if it was not constituted this way Pub Watch would then be subject to the terms and restrictions of legislation such as Data Protection etc. which would effectively render it ineffective. Police are allowed to provide "logistical support" and cannot direct or influence meetings further.

3.2.13 **Club Watch**

The venues continue to share local and Police initiatives via advertising screens and have recently added campaigns re Domestic Abuse and becoming vulnerable when drinking alcohol. The venues have recently displayed and are using the training video offered by Liverpool City Council in their DLEM (Drink Less Enjoy More campaign)

3.2.14 **Gambling Returns**

We have made 9 Gambling visits this quarter with no issues

3.2.15 **Drinks Promotions**

We have lately been made aware of one or two drinks promotions in the town, such as a pound a pint, buy one get one free. Although we are not in a position to state categorically that these prices are irresponsible we have made our feeling know to the venues concerned and they have been warned that if there is any rise in incidents which can be directly attributed to excess alcohol, we will take action. The venues have also been requested to only advertise such promotions within the venue itself. We will continue to monitor this situation.

3.2.16 **Warning/Advice Letters/False Fake IDs**

There have been a total of 5 pub watch bans this quarter for offences of Assault and Drug taking. There have been 5 seizures of IDs being

used by a third party to enter Licensed Premises in Halton. This has resulted in formal warnings to the users together with their parents and all the Driving Licences being endorsed and returned to the DVLA accordingly.

We continue to promote a poster and Twitter campaign to try and reduce the problem of fake IDs. New poster attached.

Twitter account @haltonlicensing (please follow)

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None identified.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None identified.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

The Community Safety Service as a universal service impacts on the health, safety and well-being of young people.

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None identified.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

The Community Safety Service as a universal service impacts on the Health, safety and well-being of the residents of Halton.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

The Community Safety Service as a universal service impacts on the Health, safety and well-being of the residents of Halton.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 None identified.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 None identified.

**9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None under the meaning of the Act.