

Press Release

BID SUPPORTS NEWLY RELAUNCHED PUBWATCH

Date: 4th June 2019

The recently formed Andover BID is delighted to be supporting and working closely with local licensees to support the newly relaunched Pubwatch in the town. Andover Pubwatch scheme is a voluntary organisation established to support licensed premises aimed at helping reduce and prevent criminal behaviour and anti-social behaviour in order to create a safe and secure environment for everyone's benefit. It promotes best practice to achieve a safe drinking environment in all licensed premises. Working closely with the police licensing team and BID, Pubwatch enables licensees to take collective action to ban troublemakers, while promoting effective working relations between licensees, the police and local authorities. It has a small committee and meets monthly to discuss individuals or situations that have been causing problems in the town.



Chairman of Andover Pubwatch is Mark Leech from The White Hart Hotel, an experienced licensee who has managed The White Hart Hotel for almost 5 years and has been in the trade for 15-years. He says *"We want people to know that they can move around the town and go from place to place and receive the same treatment across the towns pubs and bars. The aim is to create a pleasant and safe*

enjoyable atmosphere for people to enjoy themselves in and be able to socialise. There are always going to be a small number of people in any town without respect and who cause anti-social behaviour and act inappropriately. The strong message to these few people is that Andover will not accept this kind of behaviour and a strong and effective Pubwatch scheme ensures that licensees are aware of who they are, with a ban effective across the Pubwatch area. The Andover Pubwatch regularly meet to discuss any issues which may have arisen in the last month. If any anti-social behaviour has taken place, collectively, with the help of the licensees, an offender can either be issued a warning letter or a temporary ban. This helps keep the local pubs, clubs, and hotels clear of any trouble, leaving people to enjoy a pleasurable evening without having to worry about any possible local troublemakers” We are delighted that the BID is now in place and is supporting Pubwatch”.

The Andover Pubwatch is following national Pubwatch guidelines with a set of policies and procedures including data protection which is underpinned by data training to members and a policy of how information is shared. It has been agreed that the Pubwatch area should primarily be the town centre but members from outside that area are welcome to become members as Pubwatch is inclusive.

Steve Godwin the BID Manager and part of the Pubwatch scheme says *“We fully support Pubwatch. Well-run pubs and bars play an important part in preventing alcohol-related disorder and keeping our town centres safe. The newly reformed Pubwatch is very active and allows premises to share information effectively and is invaluable in helping local businesses to work closely with the police and other agencies. Pubwatch is at the heart of our daytime, evening and late-night economy and along with the police, the BID, and local publicans, it helps to maintain Andover as the pleasant place it is today. The BID is currently looking at a new radio system, publicity and signage linking up licensed premises and retailers and promoting the scheme in the town. We are supporting Pubwatch administratively and financially as we fully recognize a national initiative but locally and voluntarily run with the best interests of the Public at heart”.*

Notes to editor:

Andover Business Improvement District (BID) is an arrangement whereby businesses come together as an ideal mechanism to form and develop a dynamic business environment and decide which improvements they feel could be made in their area. Andover BID has a 5-year term after which it will apply for renewal. Funded by over 250 businesses within Andover Town Centre paying a 2% levy based on their rateable value, businesses voted in favour of becoming a bid towards the end of 2018 and the BID came into operation in April of 2019. The BID is a not for profit company with a Board of up to 12 directors who are levy payers. They oversee the company and BID activities with funds of c£1,000,000 over five years.

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