

## Answers to questions raised regarding Pubwatch at The Licensing Committee meeting (11 Feb 08)

Greg Buxton, PARC Manager  
(Poole Against Retail Crime Initiative)

Questions raised:

“RESOLVED that the Report be noted and a further report be presented to the Committee to answer the following questions raised by Members;

- How long has the Poole Pubwatch Schemes been in existence?
- What was the original number of members?
- Is the present 36% of all licensed pubs an increase or reduction from the starting figure?
- Are you looking to expand the number of Pubwatch members?
- Do you intend to expand Pubwatch membership outside of the Town Centre Area?
- How do you intend to increase the number of members?
- Who will do this?”

**Question 1:** How long has the Poole Pubwatch Schemes been in existence?

**Ans:** The Poole Pubwatch scheme has been in existence since 2002. It appears to have been absorbed into Poole Town Centre Management (PTCM) under a single PTCM constitution in 2006.

Regarding Canford Heath Pubwatch, I do not currently have visibility of when it was set up and/or how it was absorbed into PTCM.

Ashley Cross/Lower Parkstone Pubwatch currently operates as an independent 'unincorporated association' and has no connection to PTCM.

**Question 2:** What was the original number of members?

**Ans:** I currently have no visibility of the actual starting numbers of the two schemes. However anecdotally I'm led to believe that both schemes have increased over the years.

**Question 3:** Is the present 36% of all licensed pubs an increase or reduction from the starting figure?

**Ans:** It is not possible to calculate this metric, as we do not have the data.

**Question 4:** Are you looking to expand the number of Pubwatch members?

**Ans:** Yes, once we have resolved the constitutional/legal status and operational/resource issues regarding the current schemes.

**Question 5:** Do you intend to expand Pubwatch membership outside of the Town Centre Area?

This is a good question and one for the PTCM Board (who's remit is the Town Centre as defined in the PTCM constitution) and whoever in the Borough has overall responsibility for crime reduction (with regard to licensed premises) from a strategic as opposed to tactical perspective.

**Question 6:** How do you intend to increase the number of members?

**Ans:** Visit non-members and demonstrate/evidence the benefits of joining the scheme.

**Question 7:** Who will do this?

**Ans:** This is part of my role as PARC Manager. However I'm currently focusing on resolving the issues in Ans 4 above, before expanding the membership base. It is essential that for the schemes to be effective we have to be sure they are constituted and operated in a way that is compliant with the regulations and acts that govern them.

Greg Buxton  
PARC Manager  
26<sup>th</sup> March 2008