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Town Centre PubWatch Scheme Has Power To Ban Repeat Offenders

Rugby BID and Warwickshire Police are working in conjunction with the PubWatch scheme to reduce crime and alcohol related violence in the town centre. A new process that has been introduced will enable members of PubWatch to ban someone who commits more than one alcohol related offence in the town centre. Warning letters are now being issued to first time offenders informing them that if they are in trouble again they could be banned from the town centre.

The scheme, which was introduced in May this year, has already seen 82 letters sent out to offenders and only one subsequently re-offending and being banned for 6 months. The process begins when an offender is arrested for an alcohol related crime within the town centre including acts of violence. A letter is sent to them stating that if they are arrested again they could be banned by PubWatch. If anyone is arrested within 6 months of receiving such a letter a committee will then review the anonymous offender's case study and decide an appropriate time scale for the ban.

Although PubWatch is independent from the Police they do work very closely with them, particularly on the new banning system. Each of the members of the scheme, including licensees and bar managers, has a direct link with the Rugby BID CCTV control room and members also attend quarterly meetings where they can share vital information that can help prevent crime and violence in the town centre.

Aftab Gaffar, Operations Director at Rugby BID and committee member, said, "The positive affect PubWatch is having on our town centre shows it is a worthwhile scheme that is making a real difference. One of the great benefits is that issues and concerns raised by individuals can be tackled effectively as a team."



Sergeant Kate Jackson, Safe Neighbourhood Team Sergeant for the town centre at Warwickshire Police concluded, "Keeping people safe and happy is our priority and that is one of the main reasons we support PubWatch and its many members. We believe by working together we can enable managers of licensed premises and their staff to create a safer environment for their customers and together we can reduce the levels of alcohol related crime in our town centre."