

PCP **Serving licensees** **PORTSMOUTH** **CITY PUBWATCH**

Bulletin

www.portsmouthcitypubwatch.co.uk

Issue 1

Welcome...

.....to the first newsletter of Portsmouth City Pubwatch, the organisation where representatives from across Portsmouth's hospitality community come together and then meet with local authorities including the Police, Ambulance Service and Council to identify, discuss and manage the key issues affecting our local industry.

This newsletter has been created to compliment Pubwatch meetings in establishing the dialogue between members and public services that is fundamental to us all working well together.

In recent months, there has been great media focus and numerous public campaigns (both local and national) concerning issues of safety, crime and alcohol-induced violence surrounding the hospitality industry. Certain specific incidents in this city have been heavily reported and Pubwatch recognises the risk of this damaging public confidence, especially in such a close-knit community as Portsmouth.

What with these recent developments and the current economic situation, there has never been a more important time for Pubwatch to be the recognised voice of pubs, nightclubs and student venues in Portsmouth, making our views and concerns heard and providing balance to the public perception of our industry.

Pubwatch already has an impressive membership list, but we want every Portsmouth business in our industry to see the value its membership from independent pubs to nightclub chains and this will be one of our fundamental objectives for 2010.

Janet Hillier, Chair
Portsmouth City Pubwatch

Pubwatch Policies

We are proud to announce our formal policies for 2010. The members of Portsmouth Pubwatch are working collaboratively and in partnership to achieve:

- 1) **Zero Tolerance of Drugs**
- 2) **Safe Environments**
- 3) **Reduction of Crime**

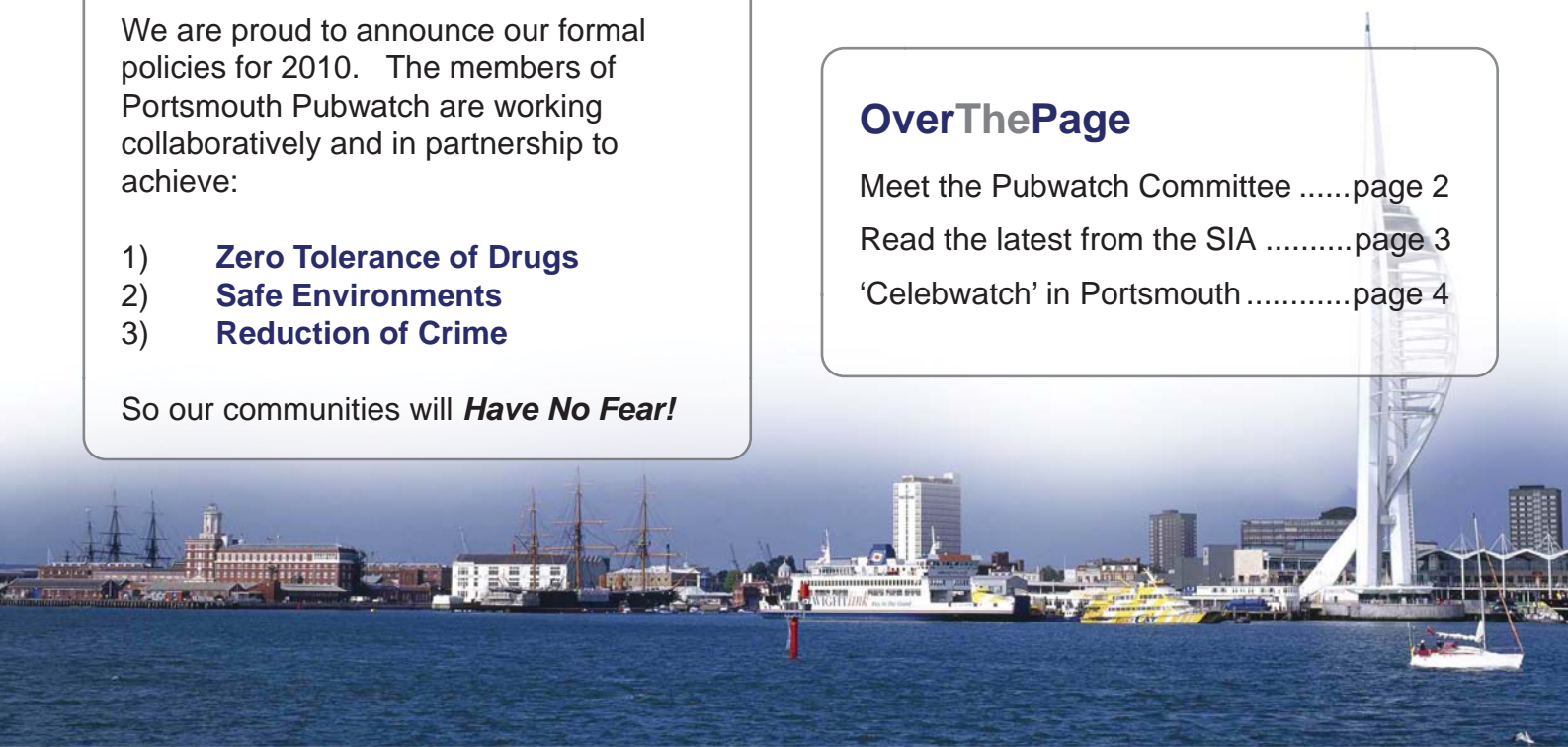
So our communities will ***Have No Fear!***

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MeetTheCommittee

Name: Janet Hillier

Job Title: Operations Manager of The Student Union

Company: University of Portsmouth

Position on Committee: Chair

How long have you been in the Hospitality Industry? Over 30 years

How did you get into it and why? After working part-time in a hotel whilst being a student, I worked in various function and event companies. 10 years ago I joined the University of Portsmouth to oversee the catering, security and management of its hospitality venues.

What do you enjoy about it and not like about it? I am very proud to be associated with Portsmouth's hospitality industry because it has some of the best run venues, pubs and restaurants I have ever seen. Because of that, I find it very frustrating when people put us down.

How long have you been working in Portsmouth? The 10 years I have been at the Uni.

Why do you feel Pubwatch is important? Working together enables members to share best practice, get advice and tackle any issues head on. By working as a team, there is consistency and support.

Can you give a specific example of how Pubwatch has helped you and/or your business? Pubwatch helped me develop links across the city which has been of great help to the students at the University. Issues such as licensing changes and the demands after the formation of the Security Industry Authority in 2003 were so much easier when we worked as a team to identify what these changes meant for our venues.



Janet Hillier



Jon Saunders

Name: Jonathan Saunders

Job Title: General Manager of Tiger Tiger

Company: Novus Leisure

Position on Pubwatch Committee: PR and Media Liaison

How long have you been in the Hospitality Industry? 13 years

How did you get into it and why? I started as a potwasher at 17 years old, working behind a bar at 18 and whilst studying at Cardiff University I worked as a bar tender in a bowling alley. After I graduated, I won a place on the Management Training Scheme for 'Bass PLC'. I worked in Swindon, returned to Cardiff and when the opportunity came up at Tiger Tiger, I jumped at it.

What do you enjoy about it and not like about it? What you think is going to be a simple day at work can often turn into a rollercoaster. It keeps me on my toes, but I love it. I suppose the hardest part is that you just can't please everyone all the time.

How long have you been working in Portsmouth? 2 years

Why do you feel Pubwatch is important? Our particular industry is constantly under scrutiny from the government, media and public, so I personally enjoy feeling that I and my business aren't alone out there.

Can you give a specific example of how Pubwatch has helped you and/or your business? When I first arrived in Portsmouth, it was a great way to meet people and it helped me integrate into the community. It was also an efficient and straightforward way to meet the key figures in the local authorities and public services.

Name: Darren Gaffney

Job Title: Venue Manager of Bar Risa/Jongleurs in Gunwharf

Company: Regent Inns

Position on Pubwatch Committee: Secretary

How long have you been in the Hospitality Industry? 10 years

How did you get into it and why? I started working in a bar and then gained experienced through working for different companies.

What do you enjoy about it and not like about it? I love the challenge and variety of each new day. I get great satisfaction out of working well with the police and local authorities, but people are very quick to judge us if there is ever an unfortunate situation.

How long have you been working in Portsmouth? 7 years

Why do you feel Pubwatch is important? It is no secret that internal communication is crucial to a venue's success. Pubwatch is an extension of that communication between venues and in the community. It is a chance for us to work together, support each other and learn from one another.

Can you give a specific example of how Pubwatch has helped you and/or your business? I have been able to provide training and support that I found out about through other venues and the police.



Darren Gaffney

Meet more members of the Committee
in the next edition of '**Bulletin**'

NewFocusForSIA



At its October meeting, Portsmouth City Pubwatch was updated on the latest developments of the Security Industry Authority, or SIA, by Regional Representative, Thomas Hill.

Founded six years ago, the SIA is responsible for regulating the private security industry in Great Britain through two main duties. One is the compulsory licensing of individuals undertaking designated activities within the private security industry; the other is to manage the voluntary 'Approved Contractor Scheme', which measures private security suppliers against independently assessed criteria.

Hill reported that the SIA has been so successful in its activities that there are no longer great issues of people working without a license, so the focus of the organisation is now having to change. Though the SIA is still working with security agencies to make sure they comply with the law, Hill said that most offenses were due to a lack of awareness than any deliberate malevolence.

Over the years, the SIA has proved itself to be a 'kitemark' that is of great value when a security firm is going out to tender in a competitive environment. Hill said that people work hard for their SIA badges, invest in them and so are justifiably proud, so this is something the organisation needs to constantly build on and improve.

The SIA is now under pressure to improve its training on issues such as 'conflict management'. The possibilities of courses regulated by the SIA and incentives for companies to undertake them are currently being discussed.

The importance of collaboration was also emphasized - police and door supervisors are encouraged by the SIA to work together which saves all parties a lot of time.

Finally, Hill informed Pubwatch members of the improvement on licensing timescales. Two years ago, the time taken for a license to come through could have been between nine and 16 weeks. This means that licenses often expired whilst a new application was being processed and people had to stop work. Now licenses are turned round in five to six weeks.

For more information visit <http://sia.homeoffice.gov.uk/home>



Pubs, Clubs and Bars Win The Right To Ban Unwanted Customers

On the 8th October 2009, the High Court ruled that organisations such as Pubwatch have the right to ban individuals from their venues without question. The ruling came after a judicial review was brought forward by builder, Francis Boyle, after members of Haverhill Pubwatch in Suffolk extended his ban by two years.

“ *individual licensees have an unrestricted right to exclude anyone* **”** JD Wetherspoon, acting as an interested party in the case, sought clarity over the rights of Pubwatches to issue bans. In particular, JDW wanted to know the degree to which police and local authorities can get involved in the scheme before it will be seen as performing a public function, which would put it under far greater scrutiny.

Judge Mackie held that individual licensees have an unrestricted right to exclude anyone, particularly those who they see as troublemakers from their premises. Similarly, individual licensees have the right to exclude those whom others have found to be troublemakers. Furthermore, Judge Mackie ruled that licencees are entitled to form groups and associations to pool and share information.

Freshers Fair Well In Portsmouth

Congratulations to all Pubwatch members on one of Portsmouth's most successful Fresher Weeks to date. At the last meeting, representatives from both the Police and Ambulance Service reported that the annual influx of new students passed by without any problem or incident, so let's keep this up as we head into Christmas!

Police Praise Guildhall Walk

Pubwatch was delighted with the piece in Portsmouth City Council's September's edition of Flagship in which Chief Superintendent, David Peacock (pictured) wrote that 'drink-fuelled attacks' in Guildhall Walk have been reduced by 30%. This statement from the police is testimony to all the hard work we are doing and initiatives such as 'Operation Drink Safe' we are supporting to reduce crime and alcohol related violence in what has been previously been perceived as a 'problem area.'



Flying Too Close For Comfort

Members of Portsmouth City Pubwatch were asked at the last meeting to keep an eye on promotions teams working on behalf of their venue. Though perhaps a result of over-enthusiasm and competitive drive, some members reported underhand tactics and abusive language being used by promoters delivering fliers. Pubwatch intends to monitor this situation and will welcome further discussion and feedback at future meetings.

“some members reported underhand tactics and abusive language being used by promoters”

Portsmouth 'Celebwatch'

Tiger Tiger has been leading the way with bringing the world of celebrity to Portsmouth over the past month. In addition to footballers and X Factor stars, the venue welcomed Big Brother winner Sophie Reade (aka 'Dogface'), local girl and Ultimo Model Katie Green and renowned ladies man, Calum Best (pictured here with the Tiger Tiger team).



Pubwatch would like to wish all its members a successful, safe and productive Christmas and a prosperous New Year in 2010!

