

WESTBURY AREA BOARD

Date: 11 February 2010

Anti social behaviour and street drinking, Westbury

Purpose of the Report

1. To update the Area Board on the action taken on anti social behaviour and street drinking

Background

The first meeting of the action group was convened in August 2009 to address two main issues of street drinkers and perceived alcohol related disorder in the Market Place. Agencies and departments involved to date are Wiltshire Police, Westbury Town Council, Wiltshire Council departments including the Safer Communities Team, Licensing and the Area Board.

Since the initial meeting nearly six months ago the group has met on a monthly basis and in addition has also had a public meeting. An action plan was soon implemented which has been constantly updated. Actions included the Police using S.27 direction to leave legislation and increasing officers patrolling Westbury at peak hotspot times. Log sheets were distributed to 135 residents of which 6 were returned and just one detailed alcohol related problems.

In November 2009 a public meeting was held by the group to which members of the public were invited but none attended. Councillor Jenkins also held an additional meeting in attempt to establish a Residents Group which in it s first meeting saw six members of the community in attendance but none attended thereafter. The establishment of the Residents Group shall be revisited again in June 2010.

Wiltshire Council Licensing and Wiltshire Police worked closely to restart the Westbury Pubwatch with great success and all but one licensed premises now a member. An early success for this new group was that all license holders were invited to a training event on drugs awareness in Trowbridge.

Since the first meeting was called in August the group has worked to deal with street drinkers within Westbury including interventions to tackle the root causes of the problem. Some of these individuals are still in the community because it is their life style choice, but all the necessary agencies are aware and work with them when required.

Main Considerations

All agencies have worked hard to develop a full and evidenced picture of problems and found little more to add to the official police reported incidents. The group has now ceased meeting but at the end of June will review if the current actions are still suitable and will meet again if required.

Financial Implications

There are no specific financial implications at this stage.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications.

HR Implications

There are no HR implications.

Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no E and D implications.

Recommendation

To note the report.

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