

Amesbury Community Area Plan: Crime & Community Safety Panel

Summary of meeting 22.08.13

A meeting of the Amesbury Community Area Plan: Crime & Community Safety Panel called by Councillor John Noeken was held on Thursday 22nd August. Representatives from the Area Board, Town Council, Chamber of Trade, Police, Licensed Trade, Local Residents and Wiltshire Council came together to discuss the problems arising from the "Night Time Economy" in Amesbury Town Centre, including noise levels, anti-social behaviour, criminal activities and aspects of alcohol misuse.

The meeting was extremely positive and all groups represented plan to work together to improve the current unacceptable situation in the Town Centre late on Friday and Saturday nights. It was agreed that there is an urgent need to reduce the disproportionate use of police resources by managing the situation differently, police resources can then be used more effectively to protect vulnerable people.

The meeting resulted in some agreed and achievable actions:

Town Councillors and the Mayor will be taking up the invitation of Inspector Lange to patrol the streets at problem times to see the problems at first hand.

The Chamber of Trade is to provide administrative support (agendas/minutes etc) to help support the Pubwatch initiative. All licensees, management companies must attend in order to make it work.

The licensed trade are to consider the introduction of staggered 'end times' at late night venues for a 6 month trial period and to report back to the next meeting with their decision about how to proceed to improve the unacceptable current situation. Door staff at licensed venues could take a more proactive role in asking people to leave clubs quietly. The implementation of Taxi wardens funded by the clubs is to be considered. Police will be more proactive in the issuing of fines for anti-social behaviour.

A follow up meeting will be set up for late September/early October to discuss the actions and proposed solutions. Representatives of the Bulford, Larkhill and Tidworth garrisons and taxi owners will be invited to attend this next meeting.