

Licensing News

July 2011



New mandatory licence conditions

You should be aware of the new mandatory conditions which were added to premises licences last year which cover matters such as drinks promotions and age verification policies. Licences are in the process of being updated and sent out; if you have not yet received your updated licence you can request details of the new conditions by emailing licence.all@bracknell-forest.gov.uk or calling us on 01344 352000.

Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill

Following the recent 'Rebalancing the Licensing Act' consultation by the Home Office, the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill is now going through the parliamentary stages. Part 2 of the Bill deals with reform of the Licensing Act 2003 and proposes a number of amendments, such as:

- Environmental Health will have the ability to object to a temporary event notice, and in limited circumstances licensing authorities will be able to impose conditions on a temporary event notice
- Provision for doubling the maximum fine for premises which persistently sell alcohol to those under 18, and increasing the period of suspensions which can be imposed on such premises
- Power to suspend a premises licence or club premises certificate for non-payment of an annual fee.

For further information visit <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/policerreformandsocialresponsibility.html>

SIA and Door Supervisors

Under the Private Security Act 2001, it is an offence to employ door supervisors who are not licensed by the SIA (Security Industry Authority). Licensing officers work with the SIA to check that door supervisors are properly licensed. It is your responsibility to keep a register of all door supervisors employed at your premises, with details of their SIA licence number and name with the dates and times they are on duty. You can check whether a door supervisor is licensed at <http://www.sia.homeoffice.gov.uk/Pages/licensing-rolh.aspx>.

Thames Valley Police: Time for change

I would like to introduce myself and update you to the changes within Thames Valley Police regarding licensing. There are now 8 Police Licensing Officers across Thames Valley Police and I am covering Bracknell and Wokingham. My responsibilities are to deal with new and variation premises licence applications and changes to designated premises supervisors. If you are considering a variation to your licence, I would be pleased to discuss it with you so that by the time you are ready to submit the application any potential crime and disorder issues will have been identified and agreement reached going forward.

All applications, including Temporary Event Notices, should be submitted to Licensing Dept, Block E, Thames Valley Police Headquarters South, Oxford Road, Kidlington, OX5 2NX.

I look forward to meeting with as many licensees as possible in the near future. I shall be based both at Wokingham and Bracknell Police Stations.

Steve Deane

Tel: 0118 9 36 5919 or steve.deane@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT)

Bracknell, RBWM and Slough DAATs have developed a basic training programme for those agencies that may engage with substance misusers but do not have a drug specific focus. The courses aim to provide a basic understanding and awareness of good practice when working with substance misusers. Although the training is aimed at those who refer into the services, staff at licensed premises who wish to broaden their own knowledge around substance misuse are welcome to attend. If people have any questions regarding the training programme or would like to know what courses are available then please contact Emma.mclean@bracknell-forest.gov.uk or call 01344 312360.

The DAAT are responsible for delivering the National Drug Strategy at a local level and ensuring the work of local agencies is brought together effectively. Bracknell Forest DAAT is committed to making sure that any resident of the Borough who has issues with substances can access local services when they need to. There are a number of services available in the Borough for adults and young people who are affected by substance misuse. Adult services are delivered out of New Hope, a multi-agency organisation which provides confidential services to residents experiencing issues relating to drugs or alcohol abuse. For more information please contact New.hope@bracknell-forest.gov.uk or call 01344 312360.

B.A.C.S Bracknell, Ascot, Crowthorne, Sandhurst Pub Watch

B.A.C.S. Mission Statement

“To eradicate violence, drug use and anti-social behaviour from licensed premises, to promote a responsible drinking culture and encourage a safe enjoyable social experience for all our customers within the borough”

Bracknell and Ascot Pub Watch has gone through some substantial changes this last year and all for the better. All the Borough sectors have joined together to form **B.A.C.S** and meetings are now held once a month. This has been a great move forward and I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome all the new pubs into the watch. I would like to thank the new committee of volunteers, with Debbie Marner taking the position of Vice Chair and Janet Lally as Secretary.

Licensees are now reaping the benefits of the Pub Watch. Attendance of meetings has increased and the sharing of information is more up to date and relevant to licensees and the Police. Our website www.pubanddrugwatch.co.uk is a useful source of information to members and the public. We have had great support from Thames Valley Police, with quick responses to bans and incidents.

Unfortunately there still is a minority of pubs that think they can benefit from the scheme without attending the meetings or providing support. This is unfair to those who do participate, so these premises will be sent a warning from Pub Watch advising they will be removed from scheme, which may affect their licence. A list of participating premises is issued with each ban so I'm sure banned persons will be happy with the knowledge that there are some pubs from which they are not banned.

Incidents of anti-social behaviour are down and I believe that the active members of **B.A.C.S.** have contributed to this by enforcing zero tolerance of anti-social behaviour and standing as one body against trouble makers.

Thanks again to all that have contributed
Simon Cottee **B.A.C.S.** Chairman

B.A.C.S. Pub Watch meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 15:00 at the Downshire Golf Complex, please contact Simon for further details. Contact details are available through www.pubanddrugwatch.co.uk

Trading Standards: Under Age Sales

Together with the Police, we routinely undertake test purchasing exercises across the Borough at both on and off licensed premises. A recent exercise at on-licensed premises showed a sales rate of **50%**. Enforcement action taken in respect of underage sales will depend on the strength of your systems. It is important that you consider the following:

Staff Training: Should be carried out at least twice a year, e.g. before Christmas and the start of the summer holidays. Training should cover the legal obligations regarding sale of alcohol, consequences of a sale for the seller and the premises, advice on how to refuse, the age policy (Think 25), what ID to accept (passport, driving licence, E+ Pass Card and awareness of proxy sales. Staff should sign to say they have read and understood the training. It is advisable to check their understanding by giving a short written test. As well as a record of individual staff training, the content of the training should also be made available for enforcement staff to view on request.

Refusals Log: A record of any refusals should be kept. It is recommended to use a day diary which can also be used as your incident log. The record should include: time, brief description of person refused and reason for refusal (no ID, drunk, etc). The member of staff refusing should sign the log. The DPS should review the record weekly to ensure that all staff are using the record appropriately and address any issues, and then sign to confirm the record has been checked.

Age Verification Policy: From October 2010 a new mandatory condition was added to all premises licences which authorise the sale of alcohol to state that the licence holder must have a policy relating to under age sales. This policy will be checked when your premises is inspected by Trading Standards and Licensing Officers.

If you would like further advice on the above, or if you would like me to review your current systems please contact me on 01344 351294 or email me at Hannah.Lumley@bracknell-forest.gov.uk.

Trading Standards: Joint work with HMRC

In the past year a number of operations have been carried out with HM Revenue and Customs. Checks have been carried out to ensure the goods stocked have had their duty paid and are not counterfeit. As a result of these visits a number of businesses have received fines from HMRC for non duty paid stock. A formal caution for selling counterfeit goods has also been issued. We are sure you will be aware of the recent publicity regarding Jacobs Creek Wine. However this is just one of many counterfeit products currently in circulation. A number of bottles have been found in the borough and an investigation is underway.

Trading Standards work closely with brand holders to identify and remove such stock as quickly as possible. If you are approached by anyone offering cheap goods and you are suspicious of their origin do not buy anything and notify us by calling 01344 352000 or email trading.standards@bracknell-forest.gov.uk.