Aber's BOBB scheme praised by police

ABERYSTWYTH. Pub Watch's Be aware or be banned (BOBB) scheme has been praised by police, after vigilant staff at two public houses alerted police to drugs activity in their premises, writes Norman Williams.

Police seized cocaine and cannabis when they responded to information received from staff at the Court Royale and Inn on the Pier public houses.

Six people, all teenagers or in their early 20s - two from Aberystwyth, one from Machynlleth and three from North Wales - were later cautioned by police for possession of drugs.

Five people were arrested in Court Royale, and one at the Inn on the Pier on 16 June after staff at the premises noticed them acting suspiciously.

And having accepted formal police cautions, which can only be administered if an offence is accepted, all six will now face being banned from all public houses of members of the Pub Watch scheme.

The BOBB campaign, which comes under the auspices of the town's Pub Watch scheme, is aimed at reducing assaults and other violence at licensed premises, alcohol-related criminal damage, and the use and supply of drugs in licensed premises.

Pub Watch members have agreed that if an individual becomes the subject of a Banning Order, he/she will be from all premises involved in the scheme.

Pc Neil Thompson, a member of the Neighbourhood Police Team serving Aberystwyth, said: "This is a fine example of the partnership approach between licensees and the police in targeting drug users.

"And as a result of the information received from alert staff at both premises, police arrested six persons in all at around 11.30pm on the night in question. As well as receiving a formal caution, these persons will also be banned from all the premises in the Pub Watch Scheme."

"We thank the licensees and their staff for their assistance," Gareth Cartwright, licensee of the Court Royale, said: "We adopt a zero tolerance approach as far as drugs are concerned."

"And we are pleased that our security staff noticed this attempt to use drugs in our premises, and that we were able to alert police to the drugs activity."