Drink-related crime rockets in town

Authorities warn that a hard-line strategy will be taken for ‘unacceptable’ behaviour.

Story: Norman Williams

A PUB Watch scheme has been re-launched in Aberystwyth because drink-related crime has rocketed. Residents are being warned that a hard-line strategy will be taken if their behaviour continues to be unacceptable.

And such behaviour will result in offenders being banned from all Pub Watch public houses.

Figures released by Ceredigion police reveal that, in January 2005, alcohol-related cases dealt with by the magistrates court included 62 assaults, two affrays, five common assaults, one grievous bodily harm, a threat to kill, and one harassment.

A Pub Watch meeting at Aberystwyth police station last week was attended by 36 licence holders.

And after being addressed by PC Par Jaycock, the police division’s community safety officer, PC John Evans (licensing officer) and PC Stuart Green (Schools Liaison Officer), the scheme was re-launched.

And MRSS Communications, representatives of the scheme, were in attendance to play an integral part in the scheme.

After meeting, PC Par Jaycock, of the drugs and alcohol safety department, said: “We were enthusiastic about the scheme aimed to deal with the small minority whose behaviour falls short of that expected. We are grateful to see Pub Watch to protect their staff as well as customers.”

Two volunteers came forward as scheme co-ordinators. Sara Dibden, manager of The Varsity, and PC Gary Davies, Mayor, Cllr Aled Davies and Sally Anne Wroblewski, manager of Bar Essential, also fully support the scheme.

The result is that offenders will be excluded from all licensed premises in the Pub Watch scheme if they are ‘unacceptable’行为, such as an assault, use threatening behaviour, damage property, or use drugs on the premises.

The scheme will serve Pub Watch premises using a radio to contact fellow customers to warn of potential trouble-shooters visiting licensed premises.

Police presence saw weekend ‘violence free’

ABERYSTWYTH town centre was virtually violence free at the weekend, as Ceredigion police implemented a high-visibility approach, with extra uniformed officers on the beat to deter and reduce the fear of crime.

And on a busy Saturday night which in recent weeks has seen Aberystwyth police station’s cells full after arrests for assault and violence, there were just four people in the cells and none of these was in relation to violence against a person.

And Inspector Alun Evans, who led the weekend’s Violent Crime Action Plan in Aberystwyth, has promised there will be more to come in Ceredigion’s towns.

On Friday night, police and Ceredigion Council’s licensing officers visited numerous licensed premises, including the town’s nightclubs.

Insp Evans said: “Two people were reported for wasting as security staff or premises with alcohol without being correctly-registrared doorkeepers. The licence will also be reported, and a further action taken.

A decision on further action will be made between the police and the Crown Prosecution Service in due course.”

On Saturday night, when one person was arrested for causing criminal damage, extra uniformed officers supplemented the high-visibility policing approach.

Insp Evans said: “We had extra officers in uniform to discourage and deter anti-social behaviour and violent crime.

And it was certainly a success in that there was a considerable reduction in the amount of disorder and number of crimes reported.

On Saturday night, there were four people in the cells in Aberystwyth - a stark contrast to some Saturday nights when there are 12 or 13 in custody. Just a few weekends ago, the cells were full to overflowing after incidents of violence and anti-social behaviour.

One person was in custody for criminal damage, one was arrested virtually at the crime scene by officers on patrol. Two were arrested for a breach of bail conditions, and the fourth was arrested after a minor incident.”

Insp Evans has promised that there will be a similar approach taken across Ceredigion in the coming months.

He said: “Roy dates will be discussed, and the Violent Crime Action Plan will be implemented in the coming weeks and months in towns across Ceredigion.”