



## **UPDATE MARCH 2007**

The first B:PubSafe Forum to be established is in Kempston and has been operational for 2 years. All pub and club licensees have signed up to the scheme and we are now extending the scheme to include off-licences - J Sainsbury, One-Stop, Best One and Divya Stores already having signed up to the scheme. The initiative includes the BAND – Bedford Against Night time Disorder – Banned from One Banned from All, scheme and Kempston Forum have banned four offenders from all premises to date. Many of the Kempston licensees have already attended drugs awareness training with further sessions to follow. A specific 'Zero Tolerance' plaque has been developed with input from B:PubSafe licensees for display in all licensed premises.

The North East Bedford B:PubSafe Forum is also now well established, covering premises in the Castle, Newnham, Goldington, Putnoe, Brickhill and De Parys wards of town. All premises in the area have been visited and the majority of premises have already signed up to the scheme, including a number of off-licenses. 2 people are currently on the BAND scheme for this area.

The next Forum to be established was the South Rural Bedford Forum covering premises based in the villages south of the borough: Wootton, Wilstead, Cople, Elstow, Harrowden, Cardington, Cotton End, Shortstown and Willington. One person has also been banned from premises in this area.

Then followed the Forum for the South Bedford Urban area and covers premises from Eastcotts, Fenlake to Amptill Road and Kempston Road. Again local off-license licensees have been encouraged to join the group. One person has also been banned from premises in this area.

The latest group to be established is the North West Group stretching from the edges of Harpur ward, through Biddenham and Bromham, out to Turvey.

All premises signed up to the scheme display both B:PubSafe and BAND window stickers.

In order to combat any requests for under-age sales of alcohol, all licensees are in agreement to challenge anyone appearing to be under the age of 21 and only accept photo ID with a legitimate PASS mark, passport or driving licence. Counterfeit detector key fobs have been distributed to premises to assist with checking. Bedfordshire police have taken delivery of a further supply of the

counterfeit detectors for delivery by PCSOs to all borough off-licences. All premises promoted responsible behaviour during the World Cup with posters – ‘Don’t Get a Red Card’ and handouts, including a text competition!

It is anticipated that in the forthcoming months forums will be established in the Northern Rural areas.

Bed:Safe, Licensing and B:PubSafe had a presence at last years very successful River Festival on the Embankment where the logo-bearing fans were very welcome in the sweltering heat! We were also present at the Freshers Fayres, promoting sensible drinking to the University of Bedfordshire and Bedford College students in the autumn.

The latest initiative under the Bed:Safe banner is the expansion of joint agency inspection visits, as have been carried out in the town centre for the last 3 years, into B:PubSafe areas. The unannounced visits have just commenced to premises by Police, Fire & Rescue, Trading Standards, Environmental Health & Licensing Officers ensuring standards and licence conditions are adhered to. These visits support the priorities of reducing violent crime, criminal damage, anti-social behaviour, zero tolerance on drugs misuse and quality in life in general, by reassuring the public and will take place on a quarterly basis.

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