



“To sustain a vibrant Bedford evening and night-time leisure-based economy that is safe and where people feel safe”

ISSUE 1

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2003

Bed:Safe was launched on the 7 March 2003 the key objectives are

- To reduce the number of alcohol related assaults and alcohol related crime in the Town Centre.
- To work in partnership with the licensed trade to improve the management of licensed premises
- Promote the provision of safer clubbing and support services for those who visit Bedford's pubs and clubs.
- Reduce the perception of drunkenness rowdiness and disorder
- Improvement of the movement of people around the Town Centre at night and thereby reduce the potential for nuisances to be caused and the opportunities for disorder.

Key measures for the BED:SAFe concept are :

- ✓ To reduce Violence against the person by 14%
- ✓ To reduce alcohol related incidents by 5%
- ✓ Reduce the availability and use of class A drugs within the Town Centre
- ✓ To improve the number of licensees and pub managers with national entertainment licensing certificates by 100%

- ✓ To maintain spending in Town Centre leisure based economy in real terms at 2002/ 03 levels.

WHATS HAPPENED SO FAR

Pub goers out in Bedford over the weekend of the launch of Bed:Safe saw a distinctly colourful hue, no it wasn't pink elephants but pub and club door staff wearing yellow fluorescent jackets, bar staff were also sporting T- shirts supporting the initiative, this along with free lollipops and sweets and credit card size information cards, and banners in Silver street and lurke street promoted the "Have fun be Safe "concept heralded the start of Bed:Safe .

The new policing plan for the Town centre sees more officers on foot and this coupled with the introduction of the nite net radio system has seen a reduction in violence against the person in the first month. We still have a long way to go.

31 establishments are now on the nite net scheme and another 4 will be joining in the next week or so.

This system is available for the first year free of charge, following funding by the Home Office and is part of the commitment of the Bed:Safe project to licensees, we have also already identified that in some establishments ear pieces

are needed and these are available from the town hall at the cost price of £20.

Door supervisors are still wearing their jackets and discussions are ongoing to possibly purchase a more fashionable alternative.

What's next?

Over the next couple of weeks all premises signed up the nite net scheme will receive a copy of the Bed:Safe charter which signs establishments up to the scheme and will enable each premises to display a " charter mark " outside their premises . This is a quality charter for premises within the town centre. *We aim to launch this charter on the 24 May.*

We will continue to meet with Door Supervisors and licensees as we need to know what the issues are for you.

We are also looking at introducing an exclusion scheme within these premises for persistent offenders, banded from one banned from all.

Key issues

The dispersal of revelers after the pubs and clubs close continues to be an issue and we will need to work with the Taxi and private hire trade to develop ways of dispersing people quicker, the location of Taxi's rank's will form part of this discussion and we will be investigating the feasibility of additional ranks closer to the high street within the next couple of months, this is one of the many options that may need to be trialed over a short period.

The ability for customers to get home quickly, once they leave premises is key to reducing the opportunity for flare ups.

Also the introduction of the new security industry authority (SIA) costs for

registration of Door Supervisors is a major concern, we need to retain our local knowledge base, it is right and proper that all staff should be trained but the costs indicated currently when this change takes place may result in Bedford losing experienced professional Door supervisors as the cost of registering and undertaking training will be prohibitive.

Key messages

Bedford has a thriving night time economy and we will continue to promote this, we are working with Bedford College to design posters and publicity material to promote the key messages

- ✓ Have fun be safe
- ✓ Pace yourself - pace your drinks stay out of trouble
- ✓ Hold onto your smile - walk away from trouble
- ✓ Plan to go out - plan to come home
- ✓ Don't lose your friends - stay together stay safe

Part of this is ensuring that people intent on causing trouble in Town at night , are made to feel as uncomfortable as possible , this is a town where if you are out to enjoy yourself you are very welcome , looking for trouble stay away .

Contact details

If you want to know more about Bed:Safe or comment on this newsletter and maybe contribute to the next issue then contact the Bed:Safe project manager Gill Anderson 01234 221942 or email ganderson@bedford.gov.uk