

Bedford Borough Council Press Release



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DON'T GET A RED CARD DURING EURO 2004 WARNS BED:SAFE

Football fans are being warned not to get banned during the Euro 2004 football tournament.

Anyone arrested for drunken behaviour in Bedford faces a year-long ban from all the town centre pubs and clubs which form part of the town centre safety initiative Bed:Safe's BAND scheme.

And police have this week warned football fans that they plan to get tough on rowdiness during the Euro 2004 campaign.

To highlight the risks, BAND posters will be on display in all Bed:Safe pubs and clubs. The eye-catching posters feature a referee holding a red card and warn fans of the penalties they face.

Under Bed:Safe's BAND scheme anyone arrested by Bedfordshire police for offences involving violence, drug taking or supply of drugs or for causing criminal damage are immediately given an interim ban from all Bedford town centre pubs and clubs.

Licensees meet once a month to consider these bans and have the right, under licensing legislation, to issue a 12-month ban which is enforced by police. Licensees, bar staff and door supervisors have photos of all people on 12-month or interim bans and exclude them from town centre licensed premises.

The scheme, launched earlier this year, is proving to be a great success and local police statistics indicate town centre violence has dropped by more than 6% already.

Gill Anderson, Bed:Safe project manager, said: "A lot of people will want to gather in town centre pubs to watch the Euro 2004 matches. We hope there is a great atmosphere and that people enjoy themselves. Our posters aim to make sure fans think of the consequences of their actions and realise that one drunken moment of madness could mean they are on the touchline for the rest of the summer and even over Christmas and New Year."

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Notes to editors:

- BAND stands for Bedford Against Night-time Disorder
- Since its launch in January this year, 33 people have received 12-month bans and two more are in receipt of an interim ban.

For further information please contact:

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