

Sign up and help make a difference in Bath

Members of a scheme which encourages safer streets in Bath City Centre during busy evenings are asking more people to sign up.

The Street Marshals scheme has been operating in the city since 2005. It was initially set up by a number of local licensees to deal with busier crowds during the Christmas period, but due to its popularity, it now operates every weekend.

There are currently three marshals patrolling the streets every Friday and Saturday evening between 10pm and 3am. Two are trained door staff and the other is a paramedic. They help maintain order on the streets, dealing with a variety of situations.

Sergeant Rees from Avon and Somerset Police said: "We fully support the Street Marshals scheme, which has built on the success of the taxi marshals. They provide a high visible presence with links to the city's CCTV and police.

"Their foot patrols in key hot spot areas tackle anti-social behaviour and stop incidents from escalating. Their presence provides eyes and ears for the police and they are part of the overall strategy for policing the night time economy."

In order to increase the number of marshals patrolling the streets, the current scheme members are asking more pubs, bars, clubs and restaurants to sign up.

Alan Bartlett from Bath & North East Somerset Council's licensing team has helped maintain the programme.

He said: "We welcome this scheme and wish to place on record our wholehearted support. The original licensees should be applauded for their contribution to attempt to reduce crime and disorder and nuisance on the streets of Bath late at night.

"We would encourage more people to take this responsible attitude and work in partnership to keep this initiative alive. It seems very unfair that many licensees are benefiting from the Street Marshals without contributing.

"It would be an ideal situation if everyone worked as a team; pulled together and made a concerted effort to improve matters in the city centre. If this were the case then there could be a large number of marshals patrolling the streets which could only enhance people's perception of safety."

It is hoped that with additional support from other licensees, at least a further three marshals can be employed to patrol more areas of the City Centre.

Pricing bands have also been suggested to reflect the times that businesses will be making use of the service. These are:

- £25 per week for premises that are open until 12pm.
- £30 per week for premises that are open until 1am.
- £35 per week for premises that are open until 2pm.
- £40 per week for premises that are open after 2pm.
- £10 per week for restaurants, takeaways and off licences.

Cllr Vic Pritchard, Bath & North East Somerset Council's Executive Member for Community Safety and Housing, said: "The new Licensing Act encourages everyone to be innovative and creative about ways of promoting the licensing objectives. This is a prime example of licensees acknowledging that no matter how well they manage their premises, whether a pub, bar, club or restaurant, problems can occur on the surrounding streets when their customers leave."

The scheme also has strong support from the local Residents' Association who have said they are willing to contribute if more licensees sign up.

If you are a local licensee and you want to know more, or if you are interested in signing up to the scheme, please call Silas Freeman at Safe and Sound on 01225 774008 or email silas.f@safeandsoundgroup.com

ENDS

Notes to editors

Photograph available: Licensees from the Cork and Bottle, The Huntsman, The Raven and The Slug and Lettuce join Council licensing officers, a representative from Abbey Residents' Association and staff from Safe and Sound (who provide the Street Marshals) to discuss the future of the scheme.

The current pubs, bars and clubs signed up to the Street Marshals scheme are: Cadillacs, The Slug and Lettuce, St Christophers, Moles, Ha Ha, Revolution, Bodrum/Marmaris Takeaway, Flan O'Briens, O'Neils, Delfter Krug, Crystal Palace, Saracens, Metropolitan, Cork & Bottle, Lambrettas, The Huntsman, The Cube

For More Information Contact:

Alan Bartlett, Principal Licensing Officer, on 01225 477536 or email alan_bartlett@bathnes.gov.uk

For More Comment Contact:

Councillor Vic Pritchard, Executive Member for Community Safety and Housing, on 0275 333159