

Pub Watch Meeting Minutes – 10/04/19

Safer WestEnd Update

- Emerging crime trends: theft of person (pickpocketing) and counterfeit currency.
- Safer WestEnd presented information around prolific individuals active in the area for businesses to be aware of. Businesses are encouraged to submit intelligence via the DISC platform.
- Businesses were provided with leaflets and handouts on how to spot a counterfeit Scottish and Irish banknotes following reports of an increase in the use of the notes in the area.
- Keeva from Safer WestEnd introduced Phillipe who has joined the umbrella company Safer Business Network.
- Phillipe's role will be around raising the standard of licensing across London. This will involve training events and working with door staff/security to make the evening and night time economy safer.

Police update

- Current ward priorities include theft of person and table-surfing.
- Businesses have been recommended to encourage customers to use and store their personal belongings in the cloakrooms where applicable to reduce the amount of theft offences.
- PC Paul and PC Sharp went through hotspot maps outlining some of the main crimes occurring across the patch. Businesses were made aware that robberies are on the rise. please be aware of individuals tailgating members of staff into venues attempting to gain access to goods.
- Increase in the amount of drug use and anti-social behaviour on Hunt's Court and outside of Zoo Bar.
- Businesses are encouraged to write an impact statement if issues in the LSQ/Piccadilly Circus area continue.

Heart of London update

- Congratulations from the BID to those that took part in the Best Bar None scheme. The next awards ceremony will be taking place in November. The accreditation process is expected to start in May where businesses will be assessed and put on an action plan to improve where needed.
- If you are interested in taking part this year, please contact Rico. This is an opportunity to share best practice and promote safe venues.
- My Local Bobby (MLB) started working in the LSQ/Piccadilly Circus footprint on 1st April. MLB are a private security company who will be carrying the HOLBA radios. They patrol 7 days a week.
- Businesses are encouraged to have the radio on and switched to the right channel (channel 3) to share intelligence among each other.
- MLB have 2 security officers on at once and are SIA trained.

Member Discussion

- A business mentioned the bollards that are now in place at Leicester Square. Heart of London are working with Westminster City Council to improve the appearance of the bollards.