



People for Proper Policing in North Wales

Serious violence drops to zero during successful operation.

Incidents of serious violence late at night in **Llandudno** were reduced to **zero over the weekends** during one of the busiest periods of the year thanks to a **police initiative**. This story via the NWPF website.

From mid June until the end of August, Operation Filli ran in the town and it proved to be so successful that **local District Inspector Ian Verburg** has decided to continue with the work up to and including the Christmas period.

High visibility patrols by officers who would call in to every pub, club and bar in Llandudno was the key to its success. As were the actions of the same officers who were out and about, meeting door staff and also checking that all licensees were abiding by the particular conditions of their respective licences.

"The operation was all about reducing the number of incidents of serious violence" said Insp Verburg. "This is something that we are measured on and when I looked at previous figures I could see that we had a bit of a peak in the number of incidents. I also saw that the incidents were spread out from the top of town to Craig y Don."

"So we decided to have two officers on high visibility, one with a head camera, working every Friday and Saturday dedicated to Op Filli. They would work from 7pm until 3am," added Insp Verburg, who also gained funding for the operation. "Starting at the top of town, they would call in at every licensed premises and speak to door staff and licensees. The officers were very visible and everyone out for the evening could see that we were out on foot patrol."

As part of the same operation, the SIA trained door staff were given the mobile numbers of the officers so that they could get hold of them immediately should the need arise.

During the course of the operation a few minor licensing breaches were dealt with by police and resolved.

"In essence, it was trying to prevent any violence before it started," added Insp Verburg. "Before the operation started I was a bit wary and thought some licensees might not accept this. To my surprise they absolutely loved it."

Such was the success that a decision has been made to continue with the Operation **as and when resources allow** up to and including the Christmas period.

Sam Bridge is the manager of the Club 147 and is also secretary of the town's Pubwatch scheme. Speaking about Operation Filli, she said; *"It was great. It was nice to have personal interaction with the officers. The door staff really enjoyed getting in touch with the officers directly instead of going through many channels - that sort of speed was fantastic."*

Backing the extension of Op Filli, Sam added: *"It's great for us too as it means we have extra ways of spreading information around and getting everyone to work together."*

Chief Inspector for Operations for the Central Division, Andy Williams, said: *"There is no doubt that the increased concentration, by the police and our Local Authority partners, in and around licensed premises is of significant benefit to the public. The operation over the summer months in Llandudno has clearly demonstrated this. During the 12 weeks the activity was in operation, we received no reports of serious violence in the town and **both licensees and customers are clearly used to seeing uniformed officers out on foot patrol** in and around the various establishments within the locality. This will be the norm and the public can have confidence that we will now build upon this clearly successful operation with a view to making it part of our routine business throughout Conwy and Denbighshire. This goes hand in hand with our overall long term licensing strategy to make our night time economy a safe place to be'.*

The PPP comments ...**This story is about a classic piece of real PROACTIVE community policing that emphasises PREVENTION. It is approaching zero tolerance of all crime and antisocial behaviour from minor licencing infringements to serious violence. This is what the PPP have been campaigning for for 7 years and what every survey of public opinion has highlighted.**

We are still concerned about the use of terms such as *initiative* for what should be routine policing practice and *as and when resources allow* when a very significant improvement has been achieved for only 2 officers for 2 shifts/week. Throughout the central division the CBM's are also reporting on more real proactive policing activity on ASB issues such as littering, graffiti and antisocial parking. Whatever the limitations the recession puts on resources this aspect of policing must continue and the precept is more than adequate to pay for it. We expect to see this type of operation mirrored across North Wales.

We would like to see Chief Inspector Williams analyse and report the cost benefits of crime prevention in terms of man hours saved from paperwork, case preparation, transport to the cells in St Asaph etc. etc. We believe the 4 man shifts expended will be very good value! The latest stats (Aug.2010) for violent crime across central division are at

www.north-wales.police.uk/nwvpv2/globalimages/uploaded/05.%20MI%20Bulletin%20August%202010-11%20EXTERNAL.pdf