



2024 Bowness Street Support Officers Trial - Information Briefing V1 30.04.24

Windermere & Bowness Town Council have become increasingly concerned by a perceived increase in crime and antisocial behaviour connected to the nighttime economy in Bowness that has occurred in recent years. They have worked with partner organisations such as Westmorland & Furness Council licensing department, Cumbria Police and Windermere and Bowness Bar Watch to gather data and look at strategies which may assist in reducing incidents of public nuisance and help both residents and visitors to feel safe.

A grant from Westmorland & Furness Council has been awarded to fund a trial of Street Support Officers for central Bowness over the evenings of the busiest summer weekends during bank and school holidays this summer. The two experienced and professional support officers will be provided by Tactical Security, who worked successfully with the Town Council to provide Covid Marshalls during the pandemic. They will be there to help the public and will welcome the opportunity to engage with residents and visitors. Additionally, they will provide a deterrent to antisocial or illegal behaviour and provide a vital role in gathering data about the situation on the ground. Their aim will always be to de-escalate a situation however, they will be on hand to call in the support of the emergency services should it prove necessary.

The following shifts have been initially identified as a priority for the Street Support Officer operation: Fridays 7pm till 1am (6 hrs), Saturdays 5pm till 1am (8 hrs), Sundays at Bank holidays 6pm till 11pm (5 hrs). The initial period will be the two May Bank Holidays - 3,4 & 5 & 24, 25 & 26 May 2024 and the weekend at the end of the local half term break 31 May and 1 June 2024. After this a review will be held where initial results will be examined and any adjustments to the scheme made.

The Street Support operation will resume over the seven school summer holiday weekends - 19 & 20, 26&27 July, 2&3, 9&10, 16&17, 23&24, and 30&31 August (note: this does not currently include the Sunday of the August Bank holiday).

As a trial, the dates and times may vary slightly as we find out when they are most needed. More dates will be added should more funding become available. Any changes will be advertised on the Town Council Facebook page and website www.windermere-tc.gov.uk.

The Town Council would like to thank Westmorland & Furness Council for their financial support of this trial, additionally the Police for their advice and guidance. The Town Council recognises the important role that our local licensed premises play in our economy and welcome the opportunity to work with responsible businesses such as the Bar Watch members on this project. Finally, we would like to thank Tactical Security for helping to make this trial possible with the funding available.