

SPALDING CHAMBER SHOPWATCH /PUBWATCH REPORT

APRIL 2018

Number of Spalding members - 33
Number of Pubwatch members – 16
Number of Holbeach members - 11

Possibles: Waters Edge have decided not to join Pubwatch. No news from Homebase, Holland & Barrett or B&M.

Number excluded at Spalding at time of report: 55 for Shopwatch (4 of which are lifetime bans). Pubwatch has 17 excluded (4 of which are lifetime bans).

Number excluded at Holbeach at time of report: 4

Outlook: Continuous efforts are being made to boost both Spalding and Holbeach Shopwatch membership. I am still hopeful that Holbeach Tesco will rejoin but the remainder of the towns shops/stores are small independents who simply cannot afford the scheme. In Spalding it is understood that Homebase are tightening expenditure but I am hopeful of a positive response from Holland & Barrett.

Challenges:

The past 3 months or so have seen a considerable increase in shop theft offences reported to Shopwatch. In percentage terms a 60% increase. This is largely due the actions of a small number of repeat offenders. There has also been a noticeable increase in offences committed by Romanians most of which are undetected. I have been wholly dissatisfied by the way courts are dealing with repeat offenders and as a result have involved our local MP John Hayes. He has contacted the Justice Secretary and I have had a written response. I will discuss this at the next meeting I am present at. All issues with Lincs police involving information sharing etc now resolved.

Opportunities: None at this time

STUART BROTHERTON - BUSINESS WATCH COODINATOR