

Lincoln BIG Report

Progress of the Lincoln BIG Security Group

Business Improvement District (BID) crime initiatives perform a valuable function as part of local community efforts to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour which effects businesses, their staff, customers, and the community.

Over the last year the Lincoln BIG Security Group has dramatically increased its activity and as a result its membership numbers.

We have increased membership by 38 since last year's report.

Lincoln BIG now has two wardens who are proactive in assisting the businesses with shop theft and ASB as well as cleaning up graffiti and a range of other street maintenance. Lincolnshire Police approached Lincoln BIG earlier this year to assist them in appointing a civilian evidence gatherer to be employed by Lincoln BIG, initially it was thought that a retired Police Person would be the solution, however on further consideration it was thought that using the current senior warden would be a better fit as he already had a good relationship with the businesses and already knew all the prolific offenders. This was agreed and as part of his warden role Danny started his extra duties on the 1st February 2024.

Danny is now taking responsibility for the initial evidence gathering on reports of shop theft to provide a complete package for the police to be able to use to bring those responsible to justice. This is available to all retail premises in the City Centre as well as the Retail Parks along Tritton Road. If there is an incident of shop theft the business must report on 101 or online and make a note of the crime reference number or incident number, they are given. Danny will then visit the store and gather initial complaint statements, facts including date and time and an inventory of what has been stolen and collect the CCTV footage. The Police then investigate, search for the suspect, carry out arrests, consult with CPS and where possible charge the offender. The evidence bundle is then used to support the court process when it comes to securing a conviction.

This new way of working which builds on an already strong relationship with Lincolnshire Police has significantly increased the number of charges brought on offenders and in the future will help reduce the numbers of shop thefts.

Since the 1st February 2024 Danny has:

- Dealt with 71 cases.
- Resulting in 51 court cases and 48 charges being brought.
- 12 have received prison sentences.
- 41 court case have been concluded and 10 are pending.

We are now a more active member of NABCP (National Association of Business Crime Partnerships) and successfully achieved accreditation this month.

As a result of submitting the Accreditation paperwork all the legal paperwork and Partnership Protocols for the Security Group have been updated as has the GDPR procedures. All staff that attend sensitive meetings and deal with sensitive data have now had their DBS checks updated and the insurance for the Security Group and the Pub Watch is now in place.

Lincoln BIG is still secretariat to the Lincoln Pubwatch scheme which hold regular meetings to discuss evening economy issues and scheme's such as the drink spiking scheme and the Ask Angela scheme. Our Hospitality Manager is currently working with Lincolnshire Police to launch the Hotel Watch Scheme and Ask Angela, CCTV, First Aid, Defibrillator and ACT (Action Counters Terrorism) training are still on going for venues.

- A Steering Group has been set up and sits quarterly with representatives from Lincolnshire Police and City of Lincoln Council as well as levy paying Evening Economy and Retail businesses.
- The Security Group Intelligence and Networking Meetings take place bimonthly at Central Library.
- We now have six individuals on the Security Group Exclusion Scheme they are banned from entering any premises which is a Security Group member.
- A bimonthly newsletter is created, and this includes KPI infographics as well as any other news.
- We have worked with partners to create an Important Contact List to distribute to all levy payers.
- The DISC Intelligence system is in the process of being upgraded.
- We now have #Shopkind literature with our logo on to distribute to businesses.
- We distributed personal alarms in autumn which were very popular so we will repeat this in autumn of this year

Proposed Future Activity

At the end of July, alongside the Summer of Fun launch, we will also be launching the Lost Child Safety Scheme we are hoping to have 20 distribution boards throughout the City Centre which will have information flyers and wristbands in them. We are also launching Op Portum at the same time which aims to provide Safe Spaces throughout the City Centre for any member of the public if they are feeling vulnerable for any reason. Training will be provided to the staff working in the businesses that sign up to be a Safe Space. A map showing the locations of both Scheme's will be printed and will also put on our website and across all our socials.

At the end of the year there will be another business survey conducted to help us plan for the Security Group activities for next year and to make sure we are doing as much as we can to assist the businesses.