PRESS RELEASE

Local Councillor Wins National Award

A dedicated local councillor has received a National Excellence Award for her significant contribution in driving an innovative local community partnership aimed at reducing underage drinking.

Councillor Linda Dunford of Midsomer Norton Town Council has chaired the local Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) since its launch in July 2012. The award has been received from the national Community Alcohol Partnerships organisation that oversees 50 CAP's throughout the country. CAPs bring together local retailers & licensees, trading standards, police, community safety, health services, education providers and other local stakeholders to tackle the problem of underage drinking and associated anti-social behaviour.

Miles Beale Chief Executive of Community Alcohol Partnerships said: "Linda has made a tremendous contribution to the success of the Midsomer Norton CAP. The time she has given up to support the multi-agency action plan, teaming up with frontline officers on night audits, visits to licensed premises, retailer training sessions and youth diversionary activities has really driven the success of the partnership"

"I am delighted she has won this Award, which gives both Linda and the group well-deserved national recognition for all the hard work that has been put in to help make Midsomer Norton a safer and more attractive place to live, work and socialise"

Receiving the award from Chief Superintendent Geoff Spicer, Cllr Dunford said 'All the CAP members work extremely hard and are focused and determined to achieve real positive change in our community. This award is the result of teamwork and I am very fortunate to be a part of it'.

The Midsomer Norton CAP continues to work on a wide range of initiatives including working towards achieving Purple Flag status for safety and diversity of the town's nighttime economy. If successful, the town's reputation and attractiveness to visitors and businesses will increase, building the local economy and encouraging investment in the future.

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