



# THE DIGITAL BEAT

## **The Canterbury Beat – Edition #16: The Gold Standard: Best Bar None**

As we move closer to the summer months, the city's evening economy is truly thriving. This week, I want to take a moment to pull back the curtain on how we ensure Canterbury remains one of the safest places in the country to enjoy a night out.

At the heart of this is the Best Bar None (BBN) scheme—a national initiative that we take very seriously here in the city.

### **What is "Best Bar None"?**

You may have noticed the gold and blue stickers on the windows of your favourite pubs, bars, and clubs. But BBN is much more than just a sticker; it is a rigorous accreditation process supported by the Home Office.

**The Criteria:** To be accredited, venues must prove excellence in four key areas: Prevention of Crime, Public Safety, Prevention of Nuisance, and Protection of Children.

**The Assessment:** Our team, alongside the Council and the BID, audits security protocols, staff training (including "Ask for Angela"), and vulnerability responses.

### **The 2026 Awards Ceremony**

This past week, the hard work of our local landlords and door staff was officially recognised at the Canterbury Best Bar None Awards Ceremony. It was a fantastic evening celebrating those who work behind the scenes while the rest of us are sleeping.

**Celebrating Excellence:** Awards were handed out for Best Pub, Best Late Night Venue, and the coveted Overall Winner.

**The "Safety First" Culture:** Local venues don't just compete; they collaborate. Through the Townlink Radio, every BBN venue stays connected to keep you safe.

**Why It Matters:** When you enter a BBN-accredited venue, you are in a space where staff are professionally trained to look out for your welfare.



The Canterbury CSU alongside The Licensing Team, proud to present awards at the Ceremony to celebrate the very best of Canterbury's hospitality industry.

**A Partnership for Peace**

Our relationship with these venues is vital. By working with businesses that hold themselves to this standard, we can focus our resources more effectively, knowing these managers are proactive in preventing incidents before they start.

Congratulations to all the winners—your commitment makes our city better.