

Painting the Town Purple!

There can't be many occasions when a council manager is grateful for a 1am finish!

A Friday night in April saw the end of months of hard work by the project team which supported Worthing's Purple Flag application. Purple Flag is the national accreditation for the evening and night-time economy in much the same way that Green Flags are used to award excellence in parks and Blue Flags for the nation's beaches.

Following a presentation to our two Purple Flag guest assessors, in front of an audience including council members, community partners, Turning Tides, Worthing Neighbourhood Watch, Worthing Theatres, and council officers I led a small group of five into town for our mammoth eight hour assessment.



Visiting the best Worthing has to offer in retail, leisure, sporting activities, restaurants, cultural venues, bars and all of the town's night clubs, we ramped up the step count as the assessment progressed into the wee small hours.

Throughout the evening we were joined along the way by Sharon Clark - Worthing TCI, Vino Vijayakumar - Chair Worthing Pub/Club Watch and Ben Thompson - Owner of the popular Manuka bar and kitchen. The lengthy tour enabled the team the opportunity to talk to licensed door staff, Retail & Venue managers, Police Officers, PCSOs, Street Pastors and Taxi Marshalls. In addition our evening included tours of Splash Point, the Connaught Theatre, Lazer Wars, Molotov

and the Liquid Lounge (there is no easy way to rock an anorak and bobble hat in a night-club filled by twentysomethings!).

I truly believe that the evening and night-time economy will play an ever more important role in keeping our High Streets and visitor offer vibrant and sustainable. Purple Flag accreditation is notoriously difficult to attain but, Worthing, you absolutely rocked.

I couldn't have been prouder.

Fiona Burn

Photos:

- Top right: 'Selfie Rose Wall' in the Liquid Lounge, with the two assessors
- Middle left: Vino - Pub/Club Watch Chair showing the assessors the Pubwatch Disc Scheme App on his phone
- Bottom right: bar top fireworks at the Manuka bar, showing off their house special, hair raising cocktails



ATM
**Purple
Flag™**

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town purple**

Excellence in managing the
evening & night-time economy

