

PUBS BELIEVE SMOKING BAN IS GOOD FOR BUSINESS

Many businesses have reacted with dismay to the forthcoming smoking ban in workplaces, but pubs in Newbury have welcomed the news and insist it will be good for business.

A number of pubs in West Berkshire have decided to go smoke-free even before the July 1st enforcement date and proprietors say they have noticed a positive effect on trade.

Howard English, manager of the Blackbird Inn near Newbury, which is one of the latest pubs to ban smoking, said that customers love being able to go home without smelling of smoke.

“We also see more families coming in and, although a few regulars did leave initially, business soon picked up again and now we think it is a very good thing, especially for our staff who can work in a smoke-free environment,” he told the Newbury Weekly News.

Mr English said that he is looking forward to smoking being banned in all pubs and he is unlikely to be alone, as non-smokers reportedly outnumber smokers by around four to one in the Newbury area.



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