

MINUTE

of

EAST RENFREWSHIRE LOCAL LICENSING FORUM

Minute of meeting held at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock, on 20 March 2018.

Present:Local Residents

Caroline Church
Ken Hunter
Frank McGee
Helena Shanks
Bruce Tulloch

Health/Social Work

Janice Thomson

Licensees

Onker Singh

Licensing Standards Officer

Dominic McMahon

Strathclyde Police

Constable Jacqueline Petrie

Attending:

Eamonn Daly, Clerk to the Forum; and Jacqui McCusker, Senior Solicitor.

ACTION BY**1. APPOINTMENT OF CONVENER**

Mr Daly explained that as this was the first meeting of the forum this calendar year, in terms of the legislation it fell to the forum to reconsider the appointment of the Convener for the coming year.

Mr Daly called for nominations and Mr McMahon was nominated.

There being no further nominations Mr McMahon was reappointed Convener.

Mr McMahon took the Chair at this stage.

2. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The meeting considered and approved the Minute of the meeting held on 12 December 2017, subject to the following amendments:-

Item 1 – That “2017” be amended to “2016”;

Item 4 – Paragraph 4 – That “confirmed” be amended to “confirmed,”;

Item 5 – Paragraph 4 – That “once” be amended to “one”;

Item 5 – Paragraph 7 – That “was 10th” be amended to “was 10th,”;

Item 5 – Paragraph 9 – That “areas on” be amended to “areas of”.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Responding to Mr McGee’s enquiry from the previous meeting about the number of campus cops, Constable Petrie explained that there were a total of 3; 2 operating in the Eastwood side of the authority and the third operating in the Lavern Valley side of the authority.

She explained that the service provided by the campus cops was highly valued by all and that there were no plans to reduce the numbers.

With regards to internet alcohol sales by Amazon from their warehouse premises, Mr McMahon reported that he had contacted both Inverclyde and Fife licensing boards and confirmed that provisional licences had been granted for the warehouses in both areas. He explained that there were a number of compliances to be obtained from various council departments before a full licence application could be considered, and that applications for full licences would be considered by both licensing boards in due course.

With the implications for the licensed trade generally, he suggested that the forum may wish to monitor developments in this area. This was agreed by the forum LSO

With regards to training for forum members Mr McMahon explained that following the previous meeting, which had been attended by Mr McCollum from Alcohol Focus Scotland (AFS), Mr McMahon and Ms Thomson had met with officers from AFS when the issue of training for forum members had again been raised.

Mr McMahon explained that he had advised AFS that the East Renfrewshire forum would be happy to be involved in any pilot project to test out training materials being developed by AFS. Further information was awaited, but Mr McMahon confirmed he would continue to pursue this with AFS.

Commenting on minimum pricing, Mr McMahon confirmed this was now going ahead from 1 May. The Scottish Government hoped to have guidance ready the end of March. However due to the absence of

guidance to date, Licensing Standards Officers across the country had already started to develop plans for their own areas. With regards to East Renfrewshire, Mr McMahon explained that it was hoped to be able to make visits to all those premises considered to be “high risk” prior to 1 May just to ensure licensees were clear on the new legislation and its implications. He highlighted that in the past when new legislation had been introduced there had been “grace” period. However this was not the case with minimum pricing and so it was important licensees were aware of the requirements and the potential implications for non-compliance.

In response to further questions, Mr McMahon explained how compliance would be monitored in East Renfrewshire. He further explained that in the event of a breach of the regulations a compliance notice would be issued. This could lead to a licensee being brought before the licensing board for a licence review.

The forum noted the information.

4. PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL LICENSING FORUM

The forum considered a letter received from the Convener of the East Ayrshire Local Licensing Forum, seeking support for the creation of a national forum, and asking local licensing forums around the country to contact their local MSPs in this regard.

In the course of discussion Mr McGee suggested that anything which broadened information and interaction between local licensing forums was a welcome development.

Thereafter, the forum agreed to support the request from East Ayrshire Licensing Forum, and that the Clerk write to Jackson Carlaw MSP seeking his support. ED

5. EAST RENFREWSHIRE LICENSING BOARD - LICENSING POLICY CONSULTATION

The forum considered a report by the Clerk advising of the start of the consultation exercise being carried out by the Clerk to the Licensing Board as part of the development of a new Statement of Licensing Policy.

The report explained that the Licensing Board was required to prepare and agree a new Statement of Licensing Policy by the end of 2018 and as part of that process the Board must carry out a consultation exercise. The consultation exercise had started and the Board was now seeking views on the existing policy and on what changes should be made.

The report further explained that at the end of the consultation period the Board would consider all responses received and would thereafter consider holding evidence sessions on specific policy topics, before consulting on the terms of a new draft policy in mid-2018.

A copy of the current Statement of Licensing Policy accompanied the report.

Following discussion on the terms of the current policy during which numerous suggestions were made to be fed in as part of the forum's response, the forum agreed that the Clerk liaise with Mr McMahon and prepare a response on behalf of the forum for submission to the Clerk to the Licensing Board. ED/LSO

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 12 June 2018 at 7pm in the Council Chamber.