

**Department of Corporate and Community Services
Deputy Chief Executive: Caroline Innes BSc (Hons)**

Council Headquarters, Eastwood Park, Giffnock, East Renfrewshire, G46 6UG

Phone: 0141 577 3000 Fax: 0141 577 3834

website: www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

Date: 6 June 2018

When calling please ask for: Eamonn Daly (0141-577-3023)

e-mail: eamonn.daly@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

TO: Members of the East Renfrewshire Licensing Forum.

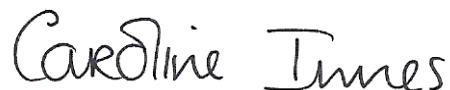
Dear Forum Member

EAST RENFREWSHIRE LICENSING FORUM

A meeting of the East Renfrewshire Licensing Forum will be held within the Council Chamber, East Renfrewshire Council Headquarters, Eastwood Park, Giffnock, on **Tuesday 12 June 2018 at 7.00 pm.**

The agenda of business is as shown below.

Yours faithfully



C INNES
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

AGENDA

1. **Report apologies for absence.**
2. **Minute of meeting of 20 March 2018 (copy attached, pages 3 - 6).**
3. **Matters Arising.**
4. **Establishment of National Licensing Forum – Report by Clerk (copy attached, pages 7 - 8).**
5. **The Role of the Licensing Section – Presentation by Police Scotland.**

6. **Minimum Unit Pricing – Update by Licensing Standards Officer.**
7. **Date of Next Meeting - Tuesday 11 September 2018, 7.00 pm, Council Chamber (joint meeting).**

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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 Levern 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.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE LOCAL LICENSING FORUM12 June 2018Report by ClerkESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL LICENSING FORUM**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To advise the forum of the latest position in respect of efforts to establish a National Licensing Forum.

REPORT

2. At the meeting of the Forum on 20 March 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 seeking their support for the establishment of this ad asking them to lobby Scottish Ministers.

3. Following discussion the forum agreed to support the request from East Ayrshire Licensing Forum, and that I write to Jackson Carlaw MSP seeking his support.

4. I subsequently wrote to Mr Carlaw setting out the background to the establishment of local licensing forums, explaining that they were in operation across the country with varying degrees of success, and highlighting that whilst the legislation established forums at a local level, no provisions were introduced for the establishment of a national body. As such licensing forums tended to operate in isolation. I further explained that more recently, to try and address this perceived deficit, licensing forums in the West of Scotland had joined together informally to establish the West of Scotland Joint Licensing Forum, providing details of the purpose of the Joint Forum.

5. It was also highlighted that one of the issues raised at joint meetings had been the absence of a national forum and whether or not there is any appetite for the creation of such a body. To establish this, all 32 licensing authorities in Scotland had been canvassed were canvassed. 22 responses were received with 18, including the East Renfrewshire Licensing Forum, supporting the establishment of a national body. In light of these results, forums had been invited to contact local MSPs to make them aware of the support for the establishment of a national forum, and to seek support for the creation of such a body by lobbying the relevant Scottish Ministers, in this case the Justice Secretary and the Health Secretary.

6. In his reply Mr Carlaw explained that he did not feel this was something he could support at this time. He recognised the role of the forum locally and that there was some confusion over the role of the forum and its ability to intervene in the operation of the Board.

7. He further highlighted that there is no national licensing board and so was unclear with whom a national licensing forum would interact? Given this he was not sure what purpose Ministers would see in engaging, as ultimately it would still be for local forums to liaise with local boards.

8. In conclusion he expressed concern therefore, that this may create an unnecessary additional but essentially un-empowered body which, depending on actual participation, may not be representative of local circumstances which was the point of the local forums.

9. Mr Carlaw's comments have been fed back to the Convener of the East Ayrshire Licensing Forum.

RECOMMENDATION

10. That the forum note the report

Report author

Eamonn Daly
Clerk to the Forum
0141 577 3023
eamonn.daly@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk