



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE CABINET**

**THURSDAY 9 MAY 2013
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HOUSE, HADDINGTON**

Committee Members Present:

Councillor J McNeil (Chair)
Councillor F McAllister
Councillor J Caldwell
Councillor J Williamson
Councillor J McMillan

Council Officials Present:

Ms C Molloy, Legal Adviser
Ms D Richardson, Licensing Administration Officer

Others Present

Insp B Rodriguez, Lothian and Borders Police
PC H Bowsher, Lothian & Borders Police

Clerk:

Mrs F Stewart, Committees Assistant

Apologies:

Councillor D Grant

Declarations of Interest:

None

1. COMPLAINT RE USE OF BLEACHINGFIELD, DUNBAR AS A VENUE FOR FUNFAIRS

The Executive Director (Support Services) had submitted a report to advise the Sub-Committee of the views of local members regarding the question of the Bleachingfield.

Catherine Molloy, Legal Adviser, stated that this was a follow up report to the report which came before the Sub-Committee on 14 February 2013 regarding one complaint from a local resident regarding the nuisance caused by funfairs held at the Bleachingfield, Dunbar. She advised that views had since been sought from Lothian and Borders Police and from the Council's Landscape and Countryside division as owners of the site. The Police had been supportive of the complaints and proposed Winterfield as an alternative location and Landscape and Countryside had indicated that the site was an official showground and they had no issue with it continuing to be used as such. They also confirmed that a bond of £500 was taken from all funfair/show organisers to cover the cost of any damage to the site. The Sub-Committee had resolved to continue consideration of the complaint to allow for a possible site visit but no funfairs had been held since receipt of the complaint. The views of Local Members were outlined in the report.

The Chair advised that this matter had been discussed by the Dunbar Community Council and they had been supportive of the funfair remaining at the Bleachingfield.

The Police Inspector advised that he had consulted the Community Police Officers who confirmed that there was a police presence at the funfairs but reported that no specific calls relating to it had been received. There was noise and a gathering of youths as would be expected at a funfair anywhere, but no major concerns.

Members discussed the matter. Councillor McAllister stated that funfairs were part of our heritage and Councillor Caldwell observed that the funfairs had been coming to this site for 70 years and therefore assumed that not many complaints had been received. Councillor McMillan stated that evidence and further feedback would be helpful. All agreed that it was important to listen to the views of the local community.

The Chair stated that the Council had to support events which come to entertain the people of East Lothian. However, he would be asking the Council's Noise Investigation Officer and Environmental Health Officers to attend a funfair at Bleachingfield at the first opportunity to ensure that the Sub-Committee had made the correct decision.

Decision

The Sub-Committee agreed that, in the light of the responses received regarding the matter, they note the complaint and agree to continue to monitor the situation in future.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS – EXEMPT INFORMATION

The Licensing Sub-Committee unanimously agreed to exclude the public from the following business containing exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 6 (information concerning the financial or business affairs of any particular person other than the Authority) of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

2. Applications for Grant of Taxi/Private Hire Car Driver's Licence

The Sub-Committee considered two applications for grant of a licence, one of which was granted for the full term of 12 months and the other was granted for 3 months.

3. Application for Renewal of Taxi/Private Hire Car Driver's Licence

The Sub-Committee considered one application for renewal of a licence and this was agreed.