



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EAST LoTHIAN LOCAL LICENSING FORUM

**TUESDAY 3 JUNE 2014
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HOUSE, HADDINGTON**

Forum Members Present:

George Hood (Chair)
Stuart Baxter
PC Heather Bowsher
David Forrest
Rudi Fruzynski
Gary Naysmith
Christine O'Brien (minute taker)
Ricky Ross
John Thayers
Steven McGovern

Council Officials Present:

Kirstie McNeil

Licensing Board Members Present:

Tom Trotter
Fraser McAllister
Jim Goodfellow

Visitors Present:

There were no visitors present

Apologies:

Stuart Logan
Oskar Grodnicki
David Black (Secretary)
Kirsten Baird
Inspector Ian Mackay

1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LOCAL LICENSING FORUM HELD ON 3RD JUNE 2014

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

2. JOINT SESSION WITH THE LICENSING BOARD

Kirstie McNeil presented a report on the Licensing Board giving an overview of previous year's activity:

- In October 2013 new Statement of Policy adopted introduction of over provision statement. Licence objections have to be addressed before new licence applied. None refused to date, more details required;
- Chasing of Licensing Fees – causing a few problems. 3 reminders sent and then Rudi Fruzynski having to chase up. Going forward if premises require to be chased for payment a review with the Licensing Board will be a likely outcome; and
- Next joint session with Licensing Board date/time to be explored to improve attendance from Licensing Board members.

3. LICENSING STANDARDS OFFICER REPORT

During the period 1st March – 31st May 2014 Rudi reported:

E Cig - Health Institute of Scotland - Licensing Board looked at this issue insufficient material to comment will review in the future if further information becomes available.

Licences - 1 premises license refused due to safety concerns by the police. 1 new premises licence granted and 1 provisional licence granted. 6 noise complaints received: 3 from outside venues and 3 pubs. 15 major Variations granted and 8 Extensions for the World Cup, 6 Transfers, 167 Occasional licences.

The Scottish Licence Trade News referred to the new licensing Bill introduced on 14th May 2014. The portions of the Bill relevant to the alcohol trade are sections 41 – 59.

Rudi mentioned concerns that a considerable amount of personal licence holders have still to do their 5 year refresher course but noted that due to ongoing process he was unable to determine how many still outstanding. A statutory reminder letter regarding refreshers course will be sent out.

Steven McGovern mentioned that it would be wise to surrender the licence rather than lose it as it will be suspended for 5 years.

4. POLICE REPORT

PC Heather Bowsher gave report on the previous three months.

- A closure order was granted by the Licensing Board due to the risk to public safety and will be reviewed in 3 months. (August 2014)
- Of the 4 monitor premises, 2 were taken off and 2 still active: 1 in Musselburgh and 1 in Tranent.

- A joint operation was underway between Police Scotland and SIA to monitor door stewards.
- Testing of illegal substances within licensed premises was being reintroduced.
- Due to Commonwealth Games a reduced cover would be apparent in July; however World Cup extensions would not impact on Police time.

Cllr Stuart Baxter mentioned there would be no road closures for the Queens Baton Relay but parking restrictions will be heavy. A letter would go out to all business regarding the times on the 17/06/14.

5. PUBWATCH – REPORTS FROM LOCAL SCHEMES

R.A.S.P

E- Cig - after discussion it was agreed that individual premises would decide whether to allow these to be used within their premises.

Concerns were expressed with regards to Musselburgh Races and whether such events were being policed in the same manner as other licence premises. Heather Bowsher replied that when these events take place additional conditions are applied such as plastic tumblers, security staff at the Racecourse searching bags for alcohol and free bottles of water being made available to race goers.

6. ALCOHOL FOCUS SCOTLAND

No issues were raised.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Members were advised that Nico de Freitas had resigned from Forum. Members expressed their thanks to him for his invaluable input and his time as a Forum member.

George Hood asked if there was any form of training available for Forum members. Rudi Fruzynski suggested he contact Linda Bowie at Alcohol Focus Scotland for guidance.

It was noted that the new pass card for 18 plus was issued on the 10th June 2014.

The issue of Sky pricing was raised and it was noted that pricing was done on a business rates basis leaving public houses at a disadvantage to community pubs.

Proposed agenda item for next meeting - Forum to debate and discuss New Bill and the impact it will have on the licensing trade.