

Committee Minutes

The City of Edinburgh Licensing Forum

Edinburgh, 5 July 2011

Present:-

Licence Holders and Persons With Relevant Interest – Robert Orr (Unight) Edinburgh Nightclub Industry, David A Gould (Belhaven Pubs), Rosaleen Harley (Individual Licensee), John Loudon (The Law Society of Scotland), John G Murphy (Scottish Beer and Public Association) and Bill Strachan (Scottish Licensed Trade Association).

Health, Education and Social Work – Michelle Walker (Edinburgh & Lothian Council on Alcohol), Jim Sherval (NHS Lothian) and Alison Smith (Edinburgh Napier University)

Residents – Stewart Blaik (Leith Central Community Council), John Clark (Craigmillar Community Council), Samuel Piacentini (Old Town Community Council), Robin Morris (Merchiston Community Council) and Norman Tinlin (Fairmilehead Community Council)

Lothian and Borders Police – Sergeant Lynne Symington

Licensing Standards Officer – Derek McGowan

1 Appointment of Convener

Decision

To appoint John Loudon as Convener.

2 Minute of Meeting of 7 March 2011

Decision

To approve the minute of the meeting of 7 March 2011 as a correct record.

3 Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 – Revision of Statement of Licensing Policy 2010 – Consultation with Licensing Forum

The Statement of Licensing Policy by the City of Edinburgh Licensing Board was detailed. The Statement had since been updated and was available on the Council's website.

Decision

That the Clerk's Office would distribute by email the updated Licensing Policy Statement. (Subsequently done)

(Reference – Statement of Licensing Policy, submitted.)

4 National Licensing Conference 2011

Decision

To note that Jim Sherval and Rosaleen Harley had been chosen by lot to attend the National Licensing Conference 2011.

5 Alcohol Policy Summit

Chris Wigglesworth gave an update on the summit held by ASH Scotland, Alcohol Focus Scotland and Scottish Health Action on Health Problems. The summit heard from professionals in the health field on the latest data and analysis on the effects of alcohol and tobacco on the population.

The presentations that were heard at the summit can be viewed on the [AshScotland website](#).

Decision

To note the update.

6 Youth Consultation Working Party Report and Draft Event Budget

Details were provided on the work of a sub-group on how the Forum can best engage and consult with young people on licensing issues. Details of a proposed budget were submitted.

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The Forum's discussion focussed on the following main areas:

- Continuing and repeated concerns that the Forum did not have a set annual budget
- That the work by the sub-group was of value and it was imperative that further work was done to engage with young people
- That holding the event with a partner would be more beneficial than hosting a solo event
- The number of young people at the event and the accompanying cost ratio
- Neighbourhood Partnerships and organisations like the Junction in Leith held similar events and could be contacted to co-operate with in a future event.

Decision

- 1) To agree in principle with the work undertaken by the sub group but that the Forum should not hold a youth engagement event on its own.
- 2) That the Clerk's Office would contact Junction in Leith, Young Scot, Neighbourhood Partnerships and the Edinburgh Alcohol and Drug Partnership to see if they would be interested in collaborating on a similar youth engagement event.
- 3) To delegate authority to those involved in the sub-group to take forward the youth engagement event if any organisations showed an interest in a collaborative event.

(Reference - Youth Consultation Working Party Report and Draft Event Budget, circulated.)

6 Budgetary Issues

Nicholas Fraser (Office of the Clerk to the Licensing Board) outlined that the Forum did not have a set budget but that requests would be looked at on a case by case basis.

In response to questions by the Forum, Mr Fraser indicated that:

- He noted the concerns of the Forum in not having a set annual budget
- It was likely that there would be some flexibility and for example money could be made available to contribute to holding an event.

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Decision

- 1) To request a budget of £5000 for the remainder of the 2011/12 financial year.
- 2) To request £950 to hold or make a contribution to a youth themed event.
- 3) To express concern over Stewart Blaik being refused necessarily incurred expenses in regard to attending the Licensing Annual Conference.

7 Public Health Aspects of Overprovision

Jim Sherval (NHS Lothian) gave a presentation on assessing the overprovision of alcohol licences in Edinburgh. The assessment was still at an introductory stage and work was ongoing.

The presentation examined the number of licensed premises in Edinburgh, how they could be grouped in terms of locality, which statistics were of particular interest and what other Licensing Boards were doing to tackle overprovision.

Decision

To continue consideration of the item to allow for the Forum to submit questions to Jim Sherval and have a question and answer session at the next meeting of the Forum.

8 Chair

At this point in proceedings John Loudon (Chair) apologised that he had to leave early and vacated the Chair. Robert Orr was appointed Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

9 Overprovision in regard to the Six City Centre Areas

Nicholas Fraser indicated that work was ongoing on obtaining greater detail on licensed premises. In particular, the amount of shelf space for alcohol was being looked at in off sales premises.

Decision

To note that further information on the Board's work would be available at the next Forum meeting.

10 Licensing Standards Officer Report

Decision

- 1) To continue consideration to the next meeting of the Licensing Forum.
- 2) That a paragraph addressing the number of environmental wardens employed in the monitoring and enforcement of the policies on tables and chairs on pavements be added.

(Reference – Report by the Licensing Standards Officer, submitted.)

11 Unight 'is it worth it' Campaign DVD

Decision

To note that copies of the DVD could be obtained by contacting Robert Orr.

12 Test Purchasing and Edinburgh Violence Reduction Programme Alcohol and Night Time Economy (Action A2)

Lynne Symington (Lothian and Borders Police) provided details on test purchasing, the Chief Constable's report to Licensing Boards and joint working with Licensing Standards Officers (LSO).

An update was also provided on PASS (Proof of age standards Scheme), test purchasing and age related sales.

In discussion, the need to expand on the answer regarding the type of referrals from LSOs and any subsequent cases or convictions was highlighted.

Decision

To note that Robert Orr would speak to Sergeant Symington to clarify any further information the Forum was seeking.

(Reference – report by Inspector Hunter and Report by the Community Protection Support Manager, submitted.)

13 Web Site Provision

Gavin King (Clerk's Office) indicated that there was scope for expanding the Licensing Forum content on the Council's website. Licensing Forum papers were now also on Council Papers on Line and were now publicly available.

A separate website, using Jadu Galaxies, could be created for the Forum but there was currently a waiting list and some costs would be involved.

Discussion focussed on new methods of communication and the possibility of using social media to interact with the public.

Decision

To agree that the Convener would determine the Forum's submission of data/content to the Clerk's Office for inclusion on the website.

14 Alcohol and Drug Strategy

Details of the Alcohol and Drug Strategy: A Framework for Partnership Action 2011-14 was submitted for the Forum's information.

Decision

To note the report.

(Reference – Alcohol and Drug Strategy: A Framework for Partnership Action 2011-14, submitted.)

15 Pub Crawls

a) Action by Authorities regarding Formation of Large Groups on the High Street on Pub Crawls

John Murphy highlighted his concern that there was little action being taken to deal with large groups on pub crawls. High Street pubs were often left to deal with these groups, without the required resources or training.

b) Response to Board

Michael Baron had prepared a response to the Licensing Board on organised pub crawls.

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Decision

To submit the response drafted by Michael Baron to the Licensing Board.

(Reference – draft paper on pub crawls, submitted.)

16 Cafes obtaining Liquor Licence and not having the Right Planning Use for Hot Food

Samuel Piacentini indicated that there were a number of cafes obtaining liquor licences, cooking food but not having the required planning permission. It was indicated that on an individual basis these issues should be raised with an LSO.

Decision

To note that this issue would be added into the discussion on overprovision.

17 Constitution and Remit

Gavin King (Clerk's Office) explained that there was no legislation blocking the inclusion of 'Any Other Business' (AOB) onto the agenda. However, in terms of governance and transparency it was not best practice to include.

Discussion focussed on the following main issues:

- One meeting a year with the Licensing Board was not sufficient.
- Inviting the Convener or representative of the Licensing Board to each meeting would help awareness of relevant issues between the Forum and Board.
- 4 meetings a year meant the gap between meetings was too large to ensure continuity of action.

Decision

- 1) To include AOB on future agendas.
- 2) To invite the Convener of the Licensing Board or their representative to all meetings of the Licensing Forum.
- 3) To hold bi-monthly meetings of the Licensing Forum.

(Reference – Email; Constitution and Remit, submitted.)

18 Date of Next Meeting

Decision

To note that the next meeting would take place at 2pm on 6 September 2011.