

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2013

## Licensing Forum – Minutes

Present: John Loudon – Appointed Chair (Convenor of Forum)  
Robin Morris  
Norman Tinlin – substitute for Maria Kelly  
John Clark – Craigmillar Community Council  
Eddie Thorn – Chair of Craigleith/Blackhall CC  
Samuel Piacentini  
Ken Fairgrieve – LSO  
Jim Sherval – NHS  
Inspector Lynne Symington – Lothian & Borders Police  
Maximilian Crema  
Rosaleen Harley  
William Strachan  
Alison Magill – Licensee  
Graeme Arnott – Caledonian Heritable  
Dr Fiona Watson - NHS  
Chris Wigglesworth  
Patrick Browne (standing in for John Murphy)  
Councillor Eric Milligan  
Andrew Mitchell – Senior Community Safety Manager  
Isla Burton – Facilitator  
Leigh Henderson – Business Support, Minute Taker

Apologies: James Wilkie – Licensee  
Dennis Williams – Licensee  
Maria Kelly

## Agenda

1.1 – Andrew Mitchell (AM) welcomed attendees to the Licensing Forum today. He apologised and explained about the delay in reconstituting the Forum, after the expiry of the previous one at the Council elections last year, and explained that the new Constitution adopted by the Council last September would provide the new Forum with both flexibility and continuity for the future. Isla Burton would offer day to day support to the Forum on behalf of Services for Communities.

1.2 – Introductions from all members of Forum.

1.3 – Appointment of Chair:

John Loudon (JL) was nominated by Sam Piacentini, who was seconded by William Strachan (WS) ; no other nominations were made and JL was duly appointed Convenor of the Forum.

1.4 – Guest speaker Councillor Eric Milligan spoke about the Licensing Board ('the Board') and issues that have been raised:

- Appropriate level of licence provision
- Alcohol sale on Sundays restricted to after 12.30pm – discussion on earlier hours and perhaps an 11am compromise? What is the appropriate time?
- Leith Pilot Project – abuse of alcohol and consumption of alcohol can and should this be adopted elsewhere ('Best Bar None' project)

Noted that the Forum is entitled to ask for statistical information from the Board. Issues arose about the provision of such statistics - AM assured the Forum that the Council would support any such requests from the Forum

It was suggested that if any Forum member is not familiar with the Board he or she should arrange to attend a meeting of the Board. AM advised he is happy to receive requests regarding this. **All to contact Isla if they wish to attend a future meeting of the Board.**

1.5 – Agreed date for joint meetings of Forum and Board

Meetings of the Forum are to take place every two and a half months, which satisfies the statutory requirement of a minimum four meetings per year. The next Board meeting is due to take place on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2013 with the intention of the Board having a Policy Meeting in March and with a Forum meeting to take place at the end of February. The date agreed for the next Forum meeting was Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2pm, Location: City Chambers or a City Centre based alternative.

NB - DONM: Now 14.30, 26 February 2013 Teviot Row House (Debating Chamber), Bristo Square.

1.6 – Proposed work plan for the coming year.

1.6.1 It was suggested that sub-groups be set up to look at specific topics. Robin Morris suggested keeping four main topics of discussion within the agenda:

- Provision;
- Facilities;
- Children and Young Persons
- Sunday opening hours

**It was agreed that Forum members would indicate (by email to isla.burton@edinburgh.gov.uk) any particular interest in any of the four topics well in advance of the next Forum meeting. Please do this ASAP and at the same time confirm which category of Forum membership you consider yourself to be under.(see Constitution below)**

Additional topics raised:

1.6.2 Look at:

The Constitution and current Board policy (links on the right hand side of [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/licensingforum](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/licensingforum)).

**All Forum members to raise any concerns or suggestions with Isla in advance of next meeting.** Again please do so ASAP.

1.6.3 WS raised a concern about turnover of LSOs. AM advised that there is currently a stable staff resource in place consisting of 8 LSOs. **Any issues regarding LSOs should be referred to AM. (andrew.mitchell@edinburgh.gov.uk)**

1.6.4 Rejected applications and objections - are applicants are being listened to?

1.6.5 There is information available on website, but what about people who do not have internet access and feel alienated?

1.7 **Any Other Business.** It was brought to the attention of the Forum that it would be useful for other members to know about any other business before Forum and Board meetings. **Isla to look at ensuring that the Forum pages on the Council website include up to date information from Board meetings, Forum Meetings and any other meetings/forums regarding Licensing and related matters** that might be of interest.

**Isla to ensure that web pages include an up to date list of Forum members.**

All present were happy to have their email addresses and contact details etc circulated to the other members of the Forum.

There are two remaining spots left on the Forum to reach maximum capacity of 21 under the Act.

**All welcome to suggest/nominate further Forum members.**

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