

Tuesday 26 February 2013

Licensing Forum – Minutes

Present: John Loudon – (Convenor of Forum)
Robin Morris
Maria Kelly
Norman Tinlin
Terry Tweed (substitute for John Clark)
Eddie Thorn – Chair of Craigleith/Blackhall CC
Samuel Piacentini
James Wilkie
Ken Fairgrieve – LSO
Nick Smith (substitute for Jim Sherval)
Hannah Carver
Inspector Lynne Symington – Lothian & Borders Police
Sgt Hazel Leslie
Maximilian Crema
Rosaleen Harley
William Strachan
Alison Magill – Licensee
Graeme Arnott – Caledonian Heritable
Dr Fiona Watson - NHS
Chris Wigglesworth
Patrick Browne (substitute for John Murphy)
Bridget Stevens (substitute for Robin Morris)
Isla Burton – Facilitator
Leigh Henderson – Business Support, Minute Taker

Apologies: Ian Lovie (Scotmid)
Dennis Williams

1.1 Nick Smith from the Edinburgh Alcohol and Drug Partnership (EADP) and his colleague Hannah Carver discussed how they might be able to assist in co-ordinating a data gathering exercise about consumption and impact of alcohol in Edinburgh, on behalf of the Forum and the EADP. Nick will email a copy of the presentation to Isla Burton to put onto the Licensing Forum website. They plan to look at overprovision of alcohol. The challenge they may face is the less obviously problematic drinkers. Data indicate that in the Lothians, with regards to consuming alcohol, 12% don't, 45% are above the recommended guidelines and 25% are at a hazardous level. It was noted that people who live just a short distance from licensed premises are 50% more likely to consume. In cases involving Child Protection issues, where the parents have an alcohol problem, it was noted that 41% of 13 year olds and 78% of 15 year olds have had an alcoholic drink.

EADP are currently working with Lothian and Borders Police on alcohol related offences. A 2012/2013 report indicated that 3,500 people were referred to Alcohol Misuse Service.

A copy of the report will be sent to Isla to circulate round the Forum.

1.2 Welcome to new members:

- Peter Swanson (licensee)
- Ian Lovie (Scotmid), who will be able to contribute an off-sales perspective

1.3 Minutes of last meeting (21 January 2013) were agreed.

Matters arising:

- All have read previous minutes. There were no comments
- All have attended Licensing Board.
- Sub-groups: Three sub-groups have been formed: Provision, Children & Young People, and Sunday Opening hours (see 1.4 below)

1.4 The group agreed to concentrate on three main topics, and indicated particular interest as follows:

(a) Provision

- Sam Piacentini
- Patrick Browne
- Maria Kelly
- Chris Wigglesworth
- Rosaleen Harley
- Jim Sherval

(b) Children and Young Persons

- Fiona Watson
- Maria Kelly
- Max Crema

(c) Sunday opening

- Peter Swanson
- Robin Morris (TBC)
- James Wilkie

What “relevant statistical information” should the Board be asked to provide?:

- Public Register Licensing. Edinburgh does not have an electronic system, which should be used and available to the public. Request made for this.
- Fee income v expenditure – what happens to surplus?
- Time taken for variations to be processed. What are average processing times?

- Why is 'change of hours' classed as 'major'? (Peter Swanson)
- Can administration be simplified and thus reduce time taken to respond?
- '16 hours' restriction – everyone leaves at the same time, which causes disruption. Can this be staggered?
- Has there been any assessment of the effectiveness of the training requirement in the '05 Act?
- How many licences have been made/refused/allowed in the past year? Could the Board provide a quarterly report?
- Request for presentation from LSOs
- What liaison is there between Planning and the Board re: new developments? Could a condition re: licensing be considered?

1.5 AOCB - none

1.6 DONM – 15 April 2013 (10.00), Diamond Jubilee Room, City Chambers. NB the Forum meeting will be followed by a buffet lunch, and Licensing Board members will then join the Forum for the afternoon session.