

Licensing Forum
1 April 2014 10.00am
Mandela Room City Chambers

Present: Ken Fairgrieve (City of Edinburgh Council), Bill Strachan (S.L.T.A), Sam Piacentini (Old Town CC), John Murphy (SPBA), Alison Magill (Licensee), Roddy Cooper (Police Scotland), John Loudon (Convenor), Robin Morris (Merchiston CC – South Rep), Graeme Arnott (CHL – Licensee), Tracey McLean (City of Edinburgh Council – Minute Taker), Isla Burton (Facilitator), Chris Wigglesworth, Norman Tinlin, Eddie Thorn, Bridget Stevens, Jim Sherval (NHS Lothian), Ian Lovie, John Lee (Scottish Grocers' Federation), Dennis Williams, Alison Magill, Bridget Stevens, James Nicholson

Apologies: Rosaleen Harley, Dianne Bruce, Peter Swanson, Jim Wilkie

Agenda

1. Apologies: Please see above

2. Welcome: The Convenor welcomes James Nicolson to the Licensing Forum

3. Minutes of last meeting (21 January 2014): The minutes were agreed and no changes requested. Norman Tinlin thanked Tracey for preparing the last minutes and reports. Tracey will continue to take the minutes for the Forum and make sure that the Licensing Board minutes and decision lists are up to date on the web site.

4. Legal highs: - Peter Swanson had requested this agenda item, but was unable to attend. The item will therefore be carried forward to the next meeting.

5. To consider whether the Forum should adopt a structured work plan including specific topics, and to consider any suggestions from Forum Members in this regard: The Convenor informed the Forum members that the Board had accepted most items proposed to date, and asked if there was any other subject they would like to be presented over the coming year.

- Norman Tinlin asked about the number of occasional licence applications for premises which don't have an actual premises licence (such as Dundas Castle, Royal College of Physicians). The Convenor explained briefly how these work and that it was not fair to businesses that did have a premises licence if occasionals were not granted on similar terms and conditions. He will follow up with the Board.
- John Murphy stated that abroad some premises sell alcohol in smaller measures, and asked whether this could be introduced in Edinburgh. The Convenor explained that only recognised measures could lawfully be used in the UK, and that a legislation change would be required to put this suggestion in place.
- Jim Sherval said that he was less familiar with occasional licences and asked how many per month, year, and what is the impact on the Police and LSOs?
- Dennis Williams asked for figures for new premises and variation of premises being granted – Tracey will prepare a list of what has been granted in the last six months.

- Chris Wigglesworth asked how the new grants work with regard to the overprovision policy. The Convenor explained that a refusal decision will have to be challenged in court to test the policy. Also it was suggested that the Forum get some information from the Economic Development team to see if the number of new premises is considered likely to have any impact on the city.
- John Murphy – stated he has noticed a change in policing since the introduction of Police Scotland – his premises were visited at 10pm by police when the French rugby was on. He said that the atmosphere and business went down after their visit – he thinks that the high-vis part of the uniform frightens people - mainly tourists. Roddy Cooper agreed that there was more focus on licensed premises and inspecting them – they can inspect at any time of the day - it is not the intention to disrupt any business or to frighten customers, police only want to speak to the managers – as for the hi-vis vest it is an essential part of the uniform, but he will report this back to the Chief Constable. Both Sam Piacentini and Bridget Stevens felt police presence was welcomed and reassuring.
- Chris Wigglesworth asked about test purchasing – Roddy Cooper states that test purchasing has not been as active in recent months.
- John Lee stated the work done with police has been worthwhile from his point of view. Ian Lovie stated that the retailers have worked with police discussing improvement to stores and reducing shop lifting.
- The Convenor asked about Personal Licence refresher training, Alison Magill asked how it is done. The information was given by Tracey McLean and she will give figures for the first six months when due.
- The Convenor asked if the Licensing Standards Officers have any issues. Ken Fairgrieve gave information on the Best Bar None success and stated that new geographical areas are being brought in but that routine visits are still required. The Late Hours Catering within the Licensing Board policy also has site visits. Ken also stated that Public Entertainment applications are needed alongside occasionals at some events. Robin Morris asks if there are enough Licensing Standards Officers for the city and Ken thinks that there are.
- Chris Wigglesworth asked about the Licensing Objectives and if there was any information on improving public health – Jim Sherval stated that there are lots of facts and figures but he was not aware of any dramatic changes and that these figures could be something that the Forum look at in the coming year.
- Robin Morris asked about drinking at sporting events - Roddy Cooper explains that there is no drinking at football matches unless in hospitality area, whereas at rugby matches drinking is permitted.
- The Convenor suggested that there should be another joint meeting with the Licensing Board but that the Forum should be prepared beforehand. It was agreed that it could be beneficial to invite a Board member to the Forum meetings. Isla informed the Forum that Councillor Chas Booth is on the circulation list.

6. AOCB:

- The Convenor emphasised that members should send apologies or a representative if they cannot attend a Forum meeting.
- It was also noted that Kirsty Haigh who represents Young Persons had never attended a meeting or replied to communication from the Convenor – it was agreed

to make attempts to find a new representative for Young Persons. Sam Piacentini suggested the Convenor write to Students Associations – this avenue will be explored.

9. Dates of forthcoming meetings:

25 June 2014 at 10am – Isla to explore possibility of getting a representative from Economic Development to give information at this meeting.

15 October 2014 at 10am – suggested date for a joint meeting with Licensing Board.