

Licensing Forum
2 February 2015 10.00am
Dunedin Room City Chambers

Present: Morag Leck (City of Edinburgh Council Principal Solicitor), Andrew Mitchell, Ken Fairgrieve, John Murphy, Hazel Leslie (for Dianne Bruce), Graeme Arnott, Robin Morris, Tracey McLean (City of Edinburgh Council – Minute Taker), Isla Burton (City of Edinburgh Council - facilitator), Chris Wigglesworth, Norman Tinlin, James Nicholson, Mary Moriarty (for Rosaleen Harley), Peter Swanson, John Loudon (Convenor), Jim Sherval, Bridget Stevens, John Lee, Dennis Williams

Apologies: Dianne Bruce, Rosaleen Harley, Alison Magill, Len Havard

Agenda

1. Apologies: Please see above

2. Appointment of Convenor: Andrew Mitchell opens the meeting and asks for nominees for the position of Convenor – John Loudon is proposed by John Murphy and seconded by Sam Piacentini – John accepts but states that he will not accept next year – it's not productive for the Forum to be chaired by the same person for an extended period.

3. Reappointment to Forum: Both John and Isla have contacted the present Forum members to confirm they are happy to be reappointed, but still no response from a person to represent young persons. Jim Sherval is happy to represent 'Health' but feels not fully qualified to represent the Education sector – Andrew will contact the relevant Directors regarding this vacancy.

4+5 No attendance from Economic Development: - The Director of Economic Development has contacted the Forum with proposed dates in February 2015 to meet the Forum – the dates proposed were not suitable for the majority. New dates will be arranged for later in the year. The Convenor asks members if they still agree with the proposed questions and information required from the representative from Economic Development or if there are amendments. No amendments, but could they be informed that there could be questions on the day.

6. Further discussion of Edinburgh University presentation at last Forum meeting. The Convenor asks if there are any amendments the questions attached to agenda. John Murphy would like up to date figures – Jim Sherval informs that all figures will be estimates and Norman Tinlin states that there are lots of figures available the Scottish Public Health website. It is asked when Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Bill will become an Act – Morag states that changes are to be made and it could be the end of the year. Dennis Williams felt the Licensing Board grant all applications for new licences. The Convenor requests a list of new licence applications and major variations both granted and refused – a list following on from the premises list previously given to the Forum. Chris Wigglesworth asks if there is a problem with overprovision and that some policies have not changed – this

could be answered at the talk from Director of Economic Development. John Murphy asks if the Forums could have a National Conference – this could be merged with the International meeting this year – Jim Sherval asks if any information/facts/figures available could be presented in a more helpful way?

7. Report from Nick Smith, EADP Gemma Crompton from Alcohol Focus Scotland gives an update on the research and working with communities - examples Edinburgh and North Ayrshire, young people from Drummond High, Leith Neighbourhood partnership. Norman Tinlin gives some statistics from Alcohol and Drugs Partnership; Bridget Stevens asks if many community councils take up the offer of speaking to Alcohol Focus. Sam Piacentini states over provision is the problem. Jim Sherval – it would be good practice to now have someone from Education on the Forum and that a list of different types of premises would be useful – Morag informs that this type of licence is gone and all are premises licences

8 To note that the Council's Culture and Sport Committee have set up a short- life working group The work on the group has begun – figures and minutes can be circulated . Morag explains to the Forum about the music condition and the difficulties in premises with live music, John Murphy asks if Community Councils have any input in this subject – they do not – most complaints are resolved before the Board as to has a review a premises, not all premises have noise problem. Andrew gives information on webcast at some committees.

9.0 Alcohol Focus Scotland: this was covered in item 7.

10 Update on Personal Licence Refreshers: Morag provides the Forum with the figures that out of 1200 issued 500 of these did not complete refresher training and their licences have thus been revoked. Also that there could be a change in the future for licence holders who have had their licence revoked – being able to apply again after 2 years instead of the 5 years it is currently.

11 What do Forum Members wish to discuss and/or see to achieve this year: Graham Arnott would like figures for granted and refused application and more information on over provision – Tracey has agreed to provide a list to follow on from previous list provided to Forum. An attending Community Council member gives information about clubs in London breathalysing patrons before entering premises – Hazel Leslie states that it can only be done voluntarily. Norman Tinlin enquires about occasional licence application and how it works for premises already licensed - Andrew provides figure of over 2000 per year and Morag gives information on how these work. The Convenor suggests asking the Board if the same consideration can be given to occasional applications as is given to a premises application. James Nicholson would like more information on minimum prices – the Convenor explains that this would be outwith the Board's power. A request is made for more information about the Festivals in Edinburgh and the impact on the city. Chris Wigglesworth suggests a joint meeting with full Board to discuss overprovision and use of occasional licences. Roger Colkett (Community Council member) asks about the licensing objective Improving Public Health and felt that the Board did not take this into account enough – Morag refers to the Licensing Board Policy. Robin Morris – Opening hours and if there will be discussions to see if premises are open too many hours – Hazel Leslie gives the information that there has

been no issues with the earlier opening on Sundays and no concerns from either Chief Constable of Licensing Standards Officers

12. AOCB- this has been incorporated in with item **11**.

13. DONM – 25 June 10am and 13 October 2pm for the next two Forum meetings. The date of 5 March will be put to the Director of Economic Development to check to see if this will be suitable Isla will book the venue and let everyone know.