

Licensing Forum
25 JUNE 2015 10.00am
Dunedin Room - City Chambers

Present: Morag Leck, John Murphy, Dianne Bruce, Robin Morris, Tracey McLean, Isla Burton, Chris Wigglesworth, Len Havard, John Loudon (Convenor), Ken Fairgrieve, Graeme Arnott, Jim Sherval, Norman Tinlin, Marshall Bain

Apologies: John Lee, Alison Magill, Peter Swanson, Sam Piacentini, Bridget Stevens, Dennis Williams, Rosaleen Harley, James Nicholson

Agenda

1. Apologies: Please see above

2. Minute of last meeting: The minutes from last meeting were agreed.

3, 4 and 5: Note that the Forum agrees with the recommendation that members of the public should be asked to sit at the side rather than in the body of Forum Members; indicate notice of attendance a week before the meeting; and be given a maximum of five minutes to address the Forum or otherwise at the discretion of the current Convenor: the Forum Members agreed the three proposals for members of the public attending a Forum meeting. Norman made the statement that the Forum is a meeting in public meeting, not a public meeting.

6. Alcohol Focus Scotland/University of Edinburgh: Gemma Crompton (AFS) gave a presentation on the results of research for the CRESH website (www.cresh.org.uk). Norman Tinlin asked if the figures were up to date? Dr N Shortt (EU) explained that the dates were for 2012, that it took nine months to collate the figures and explained the difficulties in getting the required information from all the Licensing Boards. John Murphy asked if the quantity of the alcohol is measured. This was not measurable as outlets are different sizes and can re-stock regularly. Graeme Arnott stated that the figure for the amount of alcohol consumed is reducing nationally. Dr Shortt stated that people tend to give a lower figure when asked questions in a health survey on how much they drink. Jim Sherval stated that statistics are only as good as they were at the time taken and there are constant changes.

Gemma Crompton showed the Forum maps of Edinburgh showing alcohol density and health issues relating to alcohol, she also informed the Forum that the figures will be published and that the information will be available for people to use from the site's launch today. Fact sheets will be sent to Licensing Boards. Jim Sherval stated that Edinburgh is the second most visited city and asks how does this affect the figures? Dr Shortt replies that visitors do not come to Edinburgh to drink but to be tourists. Nick Smith (EDAP) stated the deprived areas can have fewer outlets for alcohol. John Murphy asked whether internet sales are taken into account - they are not as the data is not available.

7. Update on progress of Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Bill: Morag Leck gave an update that this will be going through Parliament this afternoon.

Morag informed the Forum of other proposed changes: the fit and proper test is to return. Over provision is to be made clearer. Personal licence holders who have not informed the Board of refresher training can now apply right away if revoked, instead of having to wait. A new addition that some occasional licences will also require a public entertainment licence (the previous 'exemption' having been removed). Financial – data will be reviewed and details of new grants given. The Dr Richard Simpson Bill for health and Sports Committee – more community engagement and more information on the web.

John Murphy asked if the Board have to publish figures, Morag stated that under old legislation the Boards did not have to but that this will now become a requirement. Len Havard asked about the Board policy and election dates, Morag stated that it is 18months but will have to wait and see what legislation is implemented. Ken Fairgrieve asked about Personal Licences that have been revoked, Morag will discuss further at the National meeting of Board.

8. Development of the next Licensing Policy Statement (due 2016) – possible presentation of an options paper (Jim Sherval/Nick Smith): the convenor stated that the Forum would like to give a balanced view. Jim Sherval stated that the NHS will give a paper and this will be a project. The Chair asked what the Forum would like to more input on? Chris Wigglesworth would like more information on A & E. Dianne Bruce suggested a report on a stage by stage of a night out, information the Forum that two police officers are on duty at the A & E part of the hospital at weekends and suggested arranging a small group visit on a weekend night. Robin Morris would like more information on impact of alcohol on the domestic side. The Chair proposed to consult the public and neighbourhood groups and that the Forum will prepare some questions for the next meeting. Jennifer Curran (AFS) offered support and to provide information from Alcohol Focus.

The Chair asked Morag if the Board policy has to be changed every five years – there is an obligation to review or change.

9. Personal licences – the Chair showed the Forum a personal licence and stated that an A4 sheet is impractical to be carried around and that it would be much easier with a small card similar to that of the driving licence. Morag replied that the fee is £50 and a small card would cost more and that it has to be endorsable. The Chair will make a recommendation to the Board.

10. Standing item – report from the Licensing Inspector – Dianne Bruce gave background on the report and took members through her report.

11. Standing item - report from Licensing Inspector March to June 2015 there were 40 new provisional/premises applications, 10 in area of special concern. No objections from the Chief Constable as these applications were for cafes or restaurants. Robin Morris asked about the police working with the Licensing Standards Officers. Dianne informed that both teams do work together and findings can result in the premises licence holders to be invited

to a meeting to discuss any issues, or if needed to request a review of a premises. Dianne also stressed the importance of having a good working relationship with door staff.

12 AOCB - John Murphy stated that the Forum would like sales figures for alcohol (supermarkets etc).

13. DONM – 13 Oct 2015, 14.00 with Licensing Board (time/date may be amended)