

Licensing Forum

1 December 2015 10.00am

Diamond Jubilee Room, City Chambers

Present: John Loudon (JL) (Convener), Norman Tinlin, Kenneth Fairgrieve, Rosaleen Harley, Robin Morris, Penny Richardson (PR), Bridget Stevens, , Marshall Bain, James Nicholson,

In attendance -Andrew Mitchell (AM), Nicholas Fraser, Gordon Hunter, Cllr Norma Austin Hart, Cllr Chas Booth, Cllr Norman Work, Karl Chapman (KC), Nick Stewart (NS), Neil Cooper (NC), Stephen Hajducki (SH).

Apologies: Jim Sherval, John Lee, Graeme Arnott, Dennis Williams, Isla Burton, Sam Piacentini and Morag Leck (ML).

Agenda

1. **Apologies** - Please see above.
2. **Minutes of Last Meeting** – PR raised issues with wording of part 4 of previous minutes. JL to speak to ML regarding the implementation issues arising. Otherwise approved.
3. **Standing Item**– Report from the Licensing Inspector was carried until the next meeting.
4. **Presentation by the Music is Audible Working Group** – Before the presentation was heard, SH from New Town and Broughton C.C asked to be heard. This was agreed. Cllr Norma Austin Hart (Chair of M.I.A Group), KC (General Manager of the Usher Hall and lead Council Officer for M.I.A), NS (Manager of Sneaky Pete’s and member of M.I.A) and NC (Journalist and member of M.I.A Group) gave a presentation about the work and background of the Music is Audible Working Group. Cllr Hart began by explaining the key drivers of the group and the results of a group discussion with a number of musicians at the Usher Hall. Cllr Hart also discussed the make-up of the M.I.A Group and sub-groups as well as the Music Venues Trust Charity’s 10 recommendations. NS then discussed the recommendations in more detail. NC gave an account of his experiences of complaints regarding music in the city and expressed his opinion that it was hindering the success of local music. KC then discussed the Usher Hall’s view on the matter. JL declared an historical interest in Studio 24, one of the venues mentioned by NC and reminded members that the Forum cannot discuss individual premises. SH then discussed the concerns of the New Town and Broughton Community Council. The discussion was then opened up to the Forum where a full and frank discussion took place. Penny Richardson (PR)

stated opinion that CC's should have been involved with M.I.A Group. Cllr Booth encouraged dialogue between all parties and suggested setting up a subgroup with M.I.A members and CC's to have more in depth discussion. Cllr Work then spoke and asked for clarification to be made regarding how agent of change works. JL stated that a recommendation to the Board should be formulated which encourages the Licensing Board to look at the position closely. This was agreed. PR also asked for CC involvement in this and this was confirmed by Cllr Hart. JL to draft recommendation and agree with AM

5. **AOCB** – None
6. **DONM** – Tuesday, 19th January 2016 at 14.00.

Supplementary

These Minutes were approved by the Forum on 19th January 2016 subject to noting that one member of the Forum at the meeting on 1st December 2015 was adverse to any change at all. Further it was noted that the Forum wished to incorporate the circulated recommendation to the Board as an integral part of these Minutes to include a brief explanation of the "Agent of Change principle". The Forum were keen that the points raised in the recommendation were considered carefully by the Board and, if not accepted, that the Board should explain why.