

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL

CENTRAL ABERDEENSHIRE LICENSING FORUM

GORDON HOUSE, INVERURIE, 21 JANUARY, 2015

Present: Mr Paul Robinson (Vice Convener), Ms Lauren Eastwood, Mr Wayne Gault, Ms Lisa Godini, Sergeant Gavin Jardine, Mr Cryle Shand, Mr Keith Simpson and Ms Dawn Tuckwood

Officer: Mrs Fiona Tweedie (Committee Officer), Aberdeenshire Council.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Mr William Duncan, Mr Jason Fitzgerald, Mr Paul MacLennan and Ms Cheryl Smith

2. NOTE OF MEETING OF 25 JUNE, 2014

The Note of Meeting of 25 June, 2014 had been circulated and was **approved**. The meeting convened for 29 October had been cancelled, due to being inquorate.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Dawn Tuckwood asked about the Air Weapons and Licensing Bill, which had been noted in the minute of the previous meeting. Keith Simpson advised that this was still being progressed and oral evidence was currently being gathered. It was expected to have gone through the Scottish Parliament by summer 2015. It was hoped to have the five year ban on revocation of personal licences reduced, as it was felt that this was too harsh.

Members discussed the problem of attracting young people to become involved with the Licensing Forums. Three pupils from the Gordon Schools in Huntly had attended the meeting in June 2014 but had not attended any further meetings. It was felt that perhaps the subjects discussed did not engage young people.

4. "ONE TOO MANY"

Wayne Gault advised members that he had put this report forward to highlight problems experienced in serving alcohol to customers who were already drunk. There was evidence to demonstrate that on-sales regulation was of a high standard. Exceptions were highlighted at the presentation of the Best Bar None awards last year, where concerns were expressed that when drunk customers were refused service, they would go to another premises and be served there. This document explained some of the difficulties on how to assess intoxication and wanted to raise an open question. Was this something that the Forum should be doing something about?

It was agreed that it could be difficult to define what constituted being drunk and incapable. There were various degrees of drunkenness and the Police looked for evidence of this. Members discussed whether the licensees of clubs had to work to the same level of care as pubs. Mr Simpson agreed that nightclubs could pose problems. Due to the fact that people visited nightclubs very late in the evening, they were likely to have been drinking for a number of hours and so could be very intoxicated by this point. Clubs had a small window of opportunity to make money from customers before closing time. However, there should be no excuse for staff being unable to deal with any situation which might arise as all bar staff had to undergo training before being able to work in the licensed trade. A two hour training session was the minimum level but it was up to licensees if they wished to provide enhanced

levels of training. The difference was highlighted between clubs and smaller pubs, where bar staff could say to a regular customer that they had had enough alcohol and should go home. The numbers attending clubs would preclude this but door staff should be vigilant and prevent entry to those who were already drunk.

Mr Gault gave some context to the reason for putting forward this report. Six months ago, Police Scotland and the Ambulance Service began consulting on a Memorandum of Understanding, which made the assumption that the NHS would provide a place of safety for those who were drunk and incapable. Those who were drunk and incapable were often taken to Aberdeen as minor injuries units in Aberdeenshire did not have the facilities to cope with this. It was agreed that it was difficult to define what constituted being drunk and incapable. The ambulance service had to differentiate between someone possibly being drunk, diabetic, or suffering from a range of other medical conditions presenting in a similar way. The vast majority would be drunk but it was impossible to discount other factors and it was important to try to minimise inappropriate referrals.

5. LICENSING TOOLKIT

Wayne Gault had forwarded a copy of the 'Good Licensing Practice', produced by Alcohol Focus Scotland, for circulation and members discussed the tools the Act had provided to meet the five licensing objectives. Since the previous Forum meeting, the Central Licensing Board had published their updated policy and had incorporated performance indicators into this. The Committee Officer was asked to circulate the link to this policy on the Aberdeenshire Council website to members. Members decided to look at one section per meeting and section 1 would be the first. It was acknowledged that a huge effort was going into collecting data. The Licensing Board would be looking at evidence from NHS Grampian, Police Scotland and other stakeholders to monitor the situation. Information was also collected through surveys such as the SALSUS report, which asked 13 and 15 year olds questions on their attitudes to various topics, including those such as alcohol and drugs. There was evidence to suggest that attitudes to alcohol in this age group were improving.

Members also suggested that the Clerk to the Licensing Board attend Forum meetings periodically to update members and the Committee Officer was asked to contact the relevant people to enquire about this.

6. LICENSING STANDARDS OFFICER UPDATE

Keith Simpson reported that the Safer Streets campaign over Christmas had given Police a high visibility and this had given reassurance to the public. There was nothing to suggest that any particular problems had been highlighted from this.

LSOs had given an undertaking to enhance and encourage the take up of 125 ml measures in licensed premises. A presentation from representatives of the Diageo group had been given on this and they were also supportive of promoting the 125 ml measure. Mr Simpson advised that LSOs would encourage anything which promoted a healthy attitude to alcohol. The third of a pint measure was to be reintroduced. It was important to communicate this to the public and the Alcohol Industry Liaison Group had advised that they could supply promotional material on the subject.

Mr Simpson introduced Ms Lisa Godini as the new Licensing Standards Officer for Central Aberdeenshire and advised that she would now be attending Central Forum meetings.

7. POLICE UPDATE

Sgt Jardine advised that he had only recently taken up his post and that he was working closely with Licensing Standards Officers.

The Safer Streets campaign had gone well. The Police looked at incidents on licensed premises on a daily basis and if a trend was becoming evident, they would have to consider an intervention. This is the route they would take initially, in the hope that taking a licensee before the Board could be avoided.

8. LICENSING BOARD UPDATE

The Convener of the Central Licensing Board advised members that the Board had called in those premises who were late in paying licence fees. It had been decided to take a more sensible approach and it seemed to have worked well. The consensus was to keep reviews for more serious matters.

Members of the Board regularly accompanied Police on visits to licensed premises to observe how the licensing laws were being applied.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Wayne Gault informed members that there was to be a 'conversation café' held in the Town Hall in Inverurie at 11 am on Saturday 24 January, which all members of the Forum were welcome to attend.

It was decided that the joint meeting of the Board and Forum should be held on 22 April, following the Board meeting scheduled for that date. As the Forum's Annual General Meeting was to be held on Wednesday, 18 March, any further information on times could be noted then.

Members discussed writing letters to local supermarkets selling alcohol, with the aim of encouraging representation on the Forum. It was decided to write to Aldi and Lidl in Inverurie, inviting them to put forward applications to join the Licensing Forum.

10. MEETING DATES FOR 2015

Wednesday 18 March, at 10.30 am in the Town Hall, Market Square, Inverurie
Wednesday 17 June, at 10.30 am in the Council Chamber, Gordon House, Inverurie
Wednesday 28 October, at 10.30 am in the Town Hall, Market Square, Inverurie

**PAUL MACLENNAN
CONVENER**

ACTION SHEET

CENTRAL ABERDEENSHIRE LICENSING FORUM – 21 JANUARY, 2015

No.	ACTION	COMPLETION DATE	ACTION OWNER
1	To circulate a link to the Board's Licensing Policy on the Aberdeenshire Council website.	e-mail sent 26 January.	Fiona Tweedie
2	To contact the Clerk to the Central Licensing Board to ask if they would be willing to attend meetings of the Forum from time to time to update members.	e-mail sent to Jill Joss & Michele Pittendreigh 18 February Reply received 9/3/15	Fiona Tweedie
3.	To contact the Clerk to the Board advising that the annual joint meeting of the Board and Forum take place on 22 April 2015, following the meeting of the Board scheduled for that date.	e-mail sent to Jill Joss on 22 January.	Fiona Tweedie
4.	To write letters to Aldi and Lidl supermarkets in Inverurie to invite them to forward applications to join the Forum.	Letters posted 17 February	Fiona Tweedie