

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL

NORTH ABERDEENSHIRE LICENSING FORUM

POLICE OFFICE IN FRASERBURGH, 12TH JUNE, 2017

Present: Mr John Clark, Mr Calvin Little, Mr Kenneth McGeough, Ms Sarah Ward, Mr David Fusco and Mr Brian Topping.

Officer: Anna Ziarkowska (Paralegal), Aberdeenshire Council

In presence of: Sgt Kevin Goldie

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Ms Norma Thomson, Ms Lauren Eastwood, Mr Wayne Gault and Ms Lesley Muir.

2. MINUTE OF MEETING OF 22ND MARCH & 26TH APRIL, 2017

The Minute of the Meeting of 22nd March and 26th April, 2017 had been circulated and **approved**.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Forum Members observed decreasing trend in Members turnout and searched for alternative venues to accommodate future meetings. It was observed that video conferencing could be an option for those people who has concurrent commitment or duties and it should be treated as an exception. During discussion, Members identified potential venues such as MacDuff Centre, Fraserburgh Leisure Centre, NE Scotland College in Fraserburgh and agreed to get in touch with them to facilitate future meetings.

After consideration, Forum **agreed**:

(1) to look for opportunities to employ IT facility and modern technology in running the Forum meetings remotely,

(2) to look for the potential venues for the future Forum meetings and get in contact with them.

4. LICENSING BOARD POLICY STATEMENT REVIEW

There had been circulated the current Statement of the Licensing Policy for North Division. Members were advised that Board has 18 months from the date of the election to reconsider and agree a new policy for licensing. It was reported that consultation process will be initiated shortly and Licensing Forum should take advantage of this opportunity to share their views with the Board and influence the licensing policy change.

After consideration, the Forum **agreed** to note the information provided.

5. CONSIDERATIONS HOW TO ENCOURAGE GREATER COMMUNITY AND YOUNG PEOPLE INVOLVEMENT IN FORUM'S OPERATION

Members acknowledged decreasing number of Forum's Members. It was felt important to secure a new representative from the local community, off sale trade and general public on the Forum. During the discussion Members suggested that it would be worthwhile to contact

press, Social Media and Community Councils in order to raise awareness of the Forum and encourage new applications for membership.

After consideration, the Forum **agreed**:

(1) to prepare a brief article about the Licensing Forum and get this published through Council Social Media,

(2) to invite members of the public and off sale representatives to come along to the next meeting of the Forum,

(3) to contact other Licensing Forums to put forward suggestions regarding encouragement of greater community involvement (including making up a questionnaire re alcohol for young people).

6. LICENSING BOARD UPDATE

During the Licensing Board Convener absence, Members were advised that following on from the election, new Board Members would be appointed at the forthcoming meeting of the Board on 28th June 2017 and all need to undertake a mandatory training. It was suggested that Forum Members should attend that meeting and introduce themselves to the Board in order to build up partnership relationship.

After consideration, the Forum **agreed** to note the information provided.

7. LICENSING STANDARDS OFFICER UPDATE

Ms Sarah Ward advised that Licensing Standards Officers were continuing to carry out their routine programme of inspections in a cooperation with the Police Officers. Members were also advised that new post of Civil Licensing Standard Officer has been introduced by statute to ensure compliance with conditions of civic licensing which may potentially impact on the LSOs' workload. Despite the fact that a lot of work is required around taking on the new role, Members were assured that LSOs will remain equally focus on alcohol issues.

After consideration, the Forum **agreed** to note the information provided in the update.

8. POLICE UPDATE

Mr Kenneth McGeough advised that licensing team adopted more operational strategy in its daily work and started visiting the licenced premises with a view to identify and deal with any issues arising in co-operation with Licensing Standards Officers. He stated that Police maintain the list of 'emerging premises' which causing some issues and increase a number of Police inspections at such premises to undertake preventive actions if necessary. It was reported that this system operates for some time now and ensures consistent approach across all divisions in identifying the problems at early stage, helping licence holders to find a solutions and eliminating the issues. Mr McGeough informed that the second National Licensing Week will run from 19th – 23rd June, 2017 which encompasses a series of events around the country promoted and coordinated by the Institute of Licensing aiming at highlighting the importance of licensing in all different aspects of society. Members were also advised that the Air Weapon Act came into force on 15th May 2017 and it has serious implications for work undertaken by Police.

After consideration, the Forum **agreed** to note the information provided in the update.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Topping advised he would like to resign from the membership of the North Licensing Forum due to the concurrent commitments and this is his last Forum meeting. Members expressed their gratitude and appreciation to Mr Topping work and his valuable input to the Forum operation.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was **agreed** that the next meeting of the Forum would take place on Wednesday, 1st November, 2017 at 2.00 p.m. at County Hall, Banff.

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