

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL

NORTH ABERDEENSHIRE LICENSING FORUM

COUNTY HALL, BANFF, 2 NOVEMBER, 2016

Present: Ms Norma Thomson, Mr John Clark, Mr David Fusco, Mr Kenneth McGeough, Mrs Lesley Muir, Ms Sarah Ward, Mr Brian Topping, Ms Carol Muir, Mr Stuart Pratt.

Officer: Anna Ziarkowska (Paralegal), Aberdeenshire Council

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Mr Wayne Gault, Mr Calvin Little, Mr Shahid Ali, Ms Lauren Eastwood and Mr Douglas Driver.

2. MINUTE OF MEETING OF 23rd MARCH, 2016

The Minute of the Meeting of 23rd March, 2016 had been circulated and **approved**.

3. MATTERS ARISING

(1) Carol Muir advised members about the Viewpoint Citizen Survey. After consideration, the Forum **agreed** that each member would submit the proposition of questions for the Viewpoint Citizen Survey to Wayne Gault.

(2) Lesley Muir informed members that Forum should search for options to attract young people and seek their input and involvement in the Forum works.

It was **agreed** that Forum representative would come along to the next meeting of the Youth Group/Education Forum in Woodhill House, Aberdeen and give a brief presentation on the operation of the Forum with a view to encourage greater participation among young individuals.

It was also **agreed** that Committee Officer would provide Lesley Muir with materials promoting Forum.

4. ALCOHOL LICENSING DATA – INN KEEPER SOFTWARE SYSTEM

There had been circulated some information from Alcohol Focus Scotland on the national consultation as to the Inn Keeper Software System. Carol Muir advised that Alcohol Focus Scotland is seeking proposals of how to further expand the operability of the system.

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

Kenneth McGeough informed members that on 23rd November there will be an event organised by Police to demonstrate the operation of the Inn Keeper System.

It was **agreed** that Kenneth McGeough will confirm the date of the workshop and forward invitation to the Forum members.

5. ALCOHOL RELATED DEATHS

There had been circulated some information which provided headline figures on alcohol-related deaths. Members discussed statistics on alcohol-related deaths and potentials

reasons for the increased alcohol consumption in Scotland and Aberdeenshire. Carol Muir indicated that research on this matter is still ongoing and would continue to explore this further.

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

6. MEASURABLE EFFECTS OF LOCAL ALCOHOL LICENSING POLICIES ON POPULATION HEALTH IN ENGLAND

There had been circulated some research paper which provided academic consideration on measurable effects of local alcohol licensing policies on the population health in England. Carol Muir advised that the article does demonstrate the strong relationship between the density of alcohol premises and alcohol consumption and indicates that restriction on availability of alcohol can significantly reduce the purchase rates without interfering with a price.

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

7. END-OF-AISLE DISPLAYS ENCOURAGE CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL AND FIZZY DRINKS

There had been circulated some research paper on how the product placement in shops does influence the purchase decisions and encourage consumption of alcohol drinks. Following on from discussion, members considered how they could be more influential in terms of proposing changes to the current licensing policy.

It was **agreed** that Wayne Gault would draft letter to the Scottish Government with a request for a capacity of off sales premises data and circulate that among members of the each Forum for consultation in order to ensure collective approach being taken.

8. ALCOHOL FOCUS SCOTLAND WORKSHOP

There had been circulated some information in respect of the Aberdeen Regional Licensing Event 2016. Carol Muir provided members with an oral update in this respect. The overall report from the event summarising main points and findings would be published by Alcohol Focus Scotland in December, 2016.

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

9. LICENSING BOARD UPDATE

Stuart Pratt advised members that responses to the consultation paper on Occasional License that has been circulated among Forum need to be submitted by 11th November, 2016.

Mr Pratt updated the Forum on recent work undertaken by the North Aberdeenshire Licensing Board. He stated that although it was busy period lately things had been running smoothly and that the Board received regular updates on the number of licences being processed by officers.

10. LICENSING STANDARDS OFFICER UPDATE

Sarah Ward advised that Licensing Standards Officers were continuing to carry out their routine programme of inspections in a cooperation with Police Officers. Ms Ward ensured that licensing applications are progressed smoothly and all fees have been now paid. She informed that further update in respect of the fee review would be provided after the meeting of the Board in December.

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

11. POLICE UPDATE

Kenneth McGeough advised members that Inspector Milne has now retired and he took over her responsibilities as a Licensing Inspector. He ensured that his team would be open to public for input and employ more operational approach in daily work. The Forum were made aware that Police appreciate the cooperation with Licensing Standards Officers in respect of data sharing and undertaking preventive actions. Kenneth McGeough also informed members that the licensing team would start visiting and inspecting the licenced premises with a view to identify and deal with any issues arising.

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

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(1) Brian Topping raised a query as to the main purpose of the Forum and available tools for achieving its aim. Members discussed the functions of the Forum and options for being more influential/effective.

It was **agreed** that Committee Officer would circulate a copy of the Forum remit and Licensing Policy statement to members via email.

(2) Members considered to what extent the occasional licenses contribute to local alcohol consumption and how this does impact on the community as a whole. The Forum were made aware that there is an ongoing issue with the 'bring you own alcohol' type of event where Licensing Standards Officers do not have authority to step in. Following on from discussion, it was **agreed** that further research in this area is required to address the issue properly.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Forum **agreed** the schedule of the meetings for 2017.

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