

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL

SOUTH ABERDEENSHIRE LICENSING FORUM – INFORMAL SESSION

COMMUNITY CENTRE, STONEHAVEN, 16th JUNE, 2017

Present: Mr Alistair Black, Mr Chris Endersen, Mr Keith Simpson and Mr Michael Riley.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Mr Kenneth McGeough, Mr Wayne Gault and Mr Peter Argyle.

2. MATTERS ARISING

No matters reported.

3. LICENSING BOARD POLICY STATEMENT REVIEW

The meeting was designed as opportunity for the Licensing Forum to review the Licensing Boards Document which is currently due for a complete review within the next 16 months. After much general discussion, it was agreed that we would review the whole document, forward Members findings and recommendations to the Board and demand a response regardless as to whether they accept or ignore the proposed findings.

Preventing Crime and Disorder

As there was no Police presence at the meeting because of other commitments it was agreed that Members would leave this section for a later date.

Securing Public Safety

There was no issues in regard to this section it was felt that it was pretty straight forward.

Preventing Public Nuisance

It was also agreed that this section was pretty self-explanatory and no further action was required.

Protecting and Improving Public Health

It was agreed to shelf the discussion of this section for a later date as it was deemed one of the most important parts of the whole document and needed a full house and plenty time to give it justice.

Protecting Children from Harm

Members were relatively happy with the section except for clause 10 which caused some confusion and clarification was required especially on the number of supervisors per children. One area that requires clarification is the standard Action responses at the end of each section. Especially the Area of (What the Board will do), (What the Board will expect of the Trade) and (What the Board will expect of the Forums). The Members then moved on to the Supplementary Policies and it was agreed that **Supplementary Policy 1** which is (**Local Licensing Forums**) would be revisited when Forum found out if there was to be only one Forum in the future instead of three which is in place at the moment.

Supplementary Policy 3

There was considerable discussion over **Overprovision** but there was no clear answer or argument in regard to how you define overprovision? Mr Endersen pointed out that evidence has shown that if you take a standard location with one alcohol outlet and then add two more

outlets selling alcohol you don't get people buying more they just spread the same amount of money around the three locations normally decided by distance and price. It was also agreed that this section be left until a later date when the whole Forum was in attendance.

Supplementary 4

Some discussion went on concerning this section, but it was agreed that the only part of Occasional Licences requiring some input was under **Occasional Licence Conditions** and **Flexible Trading Hours**

Occasional Licensing Conditions

Mr Black asked if it was possible to exclude funeral teas from the Occasional Licence list as with clubs only getting twelve occasional licences per year we could not afford to squander them on funeral teas. There were two scenarios put forward for discussion one to exclude funeral teas from requiring an occasional licence or two, to still retain the occasional licence requirement, but not as part of the twelve per annum. Scenario two was the preferred choice.

Flexible Trading Hours

Where a property had forwarded their opening and closing hours, but because of changing circumstances there should be more flexibility to allow outlets to change their operating hours when required without having to get permission all the time as long as they do not go over the allotted closing time. There is little point keeping staff on if there is no customers after all it is the increase in stringent laws and prices that are causing hardship to Pubs, Clubs and Hotels and forcing customers to buy cheaper drink from off sales locations and drink at home. In regard to flexibility in opening hours there is nothing in the legislation to say that this cannot happen. It was agreed that Members had covered enough for the day and that they would need future meetings to complete the review. Those meetings would be separate from normal Licensing Forum ones.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No items were reported.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next review meeting of the Forum would take place on Friday, 28th July, 2017 at 9.30 a.m. at Community Centre in Stonehaven.