

## **SOUTH AYRSHIRE LOCAL LICENSING FORUM.**

Minutes of meeting of South Ayrshire Local Licensing Forum in County Buildings, Ayr  
on 25th January 2013 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: R. Rennie (Chair), S. Horne, Constable D. Jenkins, E. Caldow, M. Ankers,  
A. Kelly, A. Bradford, M. McFadyean, S. Sandor and M. McGough.

Apologies: C. Andrew, P. McCarroll, Sergeant D. McIntosh and R. Russell.

Attending for  
South Ayrshire  
Council: J. McClure, Committee Services Officer.

Also Attending: Councillor Peter Convery and B. Borland, Youth Worker.

### **1. Chair's Remarks.**

The Chair welcomed all members to the Forum.

### **2. Membership.**

The Chair advised that, due to the recent resignation of Archie Monkhouse, three vacancies now existed on the Forum and that these vacancies would require to be advertised in the press and the nominations subsequently approved by the Council.

**Decided:** to note the three vacancies on the Licensing Forum and to request that Officers of the Council advertise these vacancies for the Forum as soon as possible to ensure that the Forum had its full complement of members.

### **3. Questionnaires.**

The Chair thanked those Members of the Forum who had completed and returned their questionnaires and noted that matters for discussion which had arisen were the Forum's relationship with the Licensing Board, Extended Hours and Over Provision.

Members of the Forum

(1) indicated their disappointment

(a) that the Forum had not been consulted by the Board on matters such as the Statement of Licensing Policy, Over Provision and Extended Hours; and

(b) at the lack of attendance of members of the Licensing Board at the last joint meeting of the Board and the Forum and that they hoped that more Board Members would attend the next joint meeting

(2) outlined their willingness to work with and assist the Board.

**Decided:** that, in the absence of any Officers from the Council, the matters of Extended Hours and Over Provision should be continued to the next Forum meeting for discussion.

**4. Minutes of previous meeting.**

The Minutes (issued) of the Local Licensing Forum of 28th September 2012 were submitted.

**Decided:** to approve the Minutes as a correct record.

**5. Matters Arising from Minutes of the Local Licensing Forum.**

With reference to the Minutes (Page 2, paragraph 4) when it had been decided that a rota be created for Forum Members to attend each meeting of the Licensing Board and report back to the Forum on the decisions taken by the Board, the Chair advised that this rota had not yet been compiled, therefore, she would undertake this and submit it to Forum members for their approval.

**Decided:** to note that the Chair would compile a rota for all Forum members to attend the meetings of the Licensing Board.

**6. Minutes of previous Licensing Board meetings.**

The Minutes (issued) of the meetings of South Ayrshire Licensing Board which had taken place since the previous Forum meeting were submitted.

**Decided:** to note the Minutes of the Licensing Board meetings of 20th September 2012, 25th October 2012 and 22nd November 2012.

**7. Matters Arising from Minutes of the Licensing Board Meetings.**

The Chair advised

- (1) that, at the Licensing Board meeting on 20th December 2012, a nightclub type premises in Ayr had applied for opening hours until 3.00 a.m. on a Wednesday, Friday and Saturday and that this matter had been continued to the Board meeting scheduled to be held on Thursday, 7th February 2013 to allow further information to be sought on the effects that granting this application would have on the operation of the SafeAyr Group and on late hours catering premises; and
- (2) that it was important for the Forum to discuss Extended Hours and submit its views to the Licensing Board for its consideration.

There then followed a full discussion on:- a recent newspaper article on crime in Troon during the festive period and alcohol being a contributory factor in most of the cases; the fourteen and a half hours maximum trading hours per day; reasons for the Board to refuse an application for extended hours; the knock-on effect on Strathclyde Police resources and also for hospitals, taxi drivers, late hours catering premises, etc. of later opening hours; the problems being caused by people drinking alcohol at home rather than in a controlled drinking environment; the staggered departure of patrons when nightclub type premises were open later; the Board's proposal to make it compulsory for all premises to use plastic glasses; and absenteeism at workplaces due to people drinking alcohol on weekday evenings and not presenting for work.

Constable Jenkins advised that licensed premises being granted later operating hours was problematic for Strathclyde Police as late hours catering premises would then request an additional hour's trading resulting in patrons being later leaving the town centres and that it would be detrimental to patrons who were consuming more alcohol over a longer period of time.

**Decided:** that the Chair, on behalf of the Forum, should submit a letter to the Licensing Board outlining the Forum's views that, due to recent reports of worsening disorder and public nuisance in certain areas:-

- (a) no premises should be granted opening hours later than 2.30 a.m. and there should be a restriction on the number of premises granted these hours to 2.30 a.m. in an attempt to maintain a differential between "pub type" premises and "nightclub type" premises; and
- (b) that the Licensing Board should look at the effects of later opening hours being granted and examine this against the licensing objectives.

#### **8. Extended Hours.**

**Decided:** that, in the absence of any Officers from the Council, this matter should be continued to the next Forum meeting for discussion

#### **9. Further Options for Alcohol Licensing.**

E. Caldw advised

- (1) of the proposal to strengthen some elements of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 as parts of the legislation were unclear and that Alcohol Focus Scotland had been examining possible loopholes and where restrictions could be implemented; and
- (2) that should the Forum wish to respond to this Consultation Paper, the deadline for responses was Friday 21st March 2013.

**Decided:**

- (a) that, should Forum members wish to respond to this document, they could submit their comments to the Committee Services Officer for these views to be passed to the Licensing Board for inclusion in its response; and
- (b) that E. Caldw would circulate to Forum members the response to the Consultation Paper from the ADP.

#### **10. Shifting the Culture.**

There was submitted a report (issued) of March 2012 on a Members Bill Consultation by Dr. Richard Simpson MSP and Graeme Pearson MSP entitled "Shifting the Culture" which was a proposal for a Bill to bring forward measures to help change the culture in relation to alcohol in Scotland; and the NHS response to this consultation (issued).

E. Caldow then outlined some of the proposals within the document and areas that required to be strengthened.

**Decided:** to note the Consultation and the response from NHS Ayrshire and Arran.

11. **A Whole Population Approach to Alcohol : Achieving a Shift to Prevention and Early Intervention - Event.**

There was submitted (issued) documentation outlining details of an event being held in the County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr on Friday, 1st March 2013 on "A Whole Population Approach to Alcohol : Achieving a Shift to Prevention and Early Intervention" and E. Caldow advised that the purpose of this event was to examine the impact that alcohol had on the whole population and for people to consider their role in this.

**Decided:** that, should any Member of the Forum wish to attend this event, they should complete and return the registration form by Friday, 15th February 2013.

12. **A.O.C.B.**

**Over Provision.**

E. Caldow

- (1) advised that a Working Group with members from various agencies had been established under the auspices of the ADP to examine Over Provision and that this Working Group had considered issues on health, crime, etc.;
- (2) outlined that, with funding from the ADP, it was hoped to carry out a survey with the whole of the licensed trade in South Ayrshire asking them to identify issues surrounding Over Provision and the impact on the licensing objectives, with the on trade receiving one survey and the off trade a slightly amended survey;
- (3) requested that the members of the Forum involved in the licensed trade, pilot the questionnaire to highlight any problems with this survey; and
- (4) reported that it was also hoped to carry out a survey in the street to establish people's buying patterns and whether they purchased alcohol from supermarkets or smaller off-licences.

**Decided:** with the members of the licensed trade having filled in the questionnaire and passed their comments to E. Caldow, that the matter of Over Provision would be discussed further at the next Forum meeting.

13. **Date of Next Meeting.**

**Decided:** to agree that the next meeting of the Local Licensing Forum would take place on Friday, 26th April 2013 at 1.00 p.m. in the County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr and subsequently meeting with the Members of the Licensing Board at 3.00 p.m. on this date (**now changed to Wednesday 1st May 2013 at 10.00 a.m. in the Troon Room, County Buildings, Ayr and subsequently meeting with the Members of the Licensing Board at 11.30 a.m. on this date**).

14. **Closing Remarks.**

The Chair thanked the members of the Forum for their attendance and contribution.

The meeting ended at 3.10 p.m.