

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

Minutes of meeting of South Ayrshire Local Licensing Forum in County Buildings, Ayr  
on 27th August 2014 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: R. Rennie (Chair), R. MacLellan, S. Horne, R. Shepherd, R. Russell,  
M. Ankers and A. Bradford.

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

Attending for South M. Douglas, Depute Clerk to the Board; and  
Ayrshire Council: J. McClure, Committee Services Officer.

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

The Chair welcomed all members to the Forum.

### **2. Presentation on White Ribbon Campaign.**

The Chair, on behalf of the Forum, welcomed Geraldine McGivern, Community Safety Officer (Problem Solving) to the meeting.

Geraldine then gave a presentation to the Forum on the White Ribbon Campaign and advised

- (1) that 25th November 2014 was UN International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and would mark the start of the 16 Days of Action to End Violence Against Women which would end on 10th December 2014, Human Rights Day;
- (2) that White Ribbon Scotland would be organising and supporting events across the country to support the 16 Days of Action and encouraging men to sign up to the pledge that "by wearing a white ribbon I pledge never to COMMIT, CONDONE OR REMAIN SILENT about violence against women";
- (3) that South Ayrshire's Multi-Agency Partnership to Tackle Violence Against Women and Children (MAP) was supporting the 16 Days of Action through promotion of the White Ribbon Campaign and had developed an action plan with one of the key actions being to raise awareness as widely as possible in South Ayrshire, including raising awareness within licensed premises, in particular pubs and clubs;
- (4) that while most men did not commit violence against women or commit violence when drinking, studies had shown that, for some men, there was a correlation between alcohol and violence, particularly domestic abuse and other forms of violence against women; and
- (5) that the MAP, in partnership with White Ribbon Scotland, was encouraging staff within licensed premises to show their support for the campaign by either wearing a white ribbon or displaying campaign material during the 16 Days of Action.

A full discussion then took place on the most appropriate way of supporting the 16 Days of Action and those members of the Forum who were licence holders outlined that beer mats would not be beneficial for the for raising of awareness, however, they agreed that posters could be displayed within the toilets of their premises and staff could wear White Ribbon Campaign badges.

**Decided:** to thank Geraldine for her interesting and informative presentation on the White Ribbon Campaign.

**3. Minutes of previous meeting.**

The Minutes of the Local Licensing Forum meeting of 21st May 2014 (issued) and the joint meeting with the Licensing Board of 21st May 2014 (issued) were submitted.

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

**4. Matters Arising from Minutes of previous meeting.**

**(1) Constitution.**

M. Douglas advised that she was currently investigating the possibility of amending the Constitution to allow a member of the Youth Forum to attend each meeting of the Local Licensing Forum rather than a named member as it proved difficult for young people to attend when they were attending University.

A discussion then followed on the possible members who could be appointed to the Forum including a member of staff from the Education Directorate, a medical student or a Modern Apprentice from the Council; and projects run within schools on alcohol awareness.

**Decided:** that M. Douglas would examine possible new members of the Forum.

**(2) East Ayrshire Local Licensing Forum.**

The Chair advised that herself and the Vice-Chair would be attending a meeting of the East Ayrshire Local Licensing Forum.

**Decided:** to note that the Chair and Vice-Chair would be attending a forthcoming meeting of the East Ayrshire Local Licensing Forum and would report back to a future meeting of this Forum.

**5. 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 May 2014, 5th June 2014 (Special) and 18th June 2014.

## 6. Matters Arising from Minutes of the Licensing Board Meetings.

### (1) Occasional Licences

The Chair referred to the inconsistency in the Board's decisions when considering Occasional Licence applications and a discussion then took place on the reasons for requesting an Occasional Licence; the definition of an event of national or local significance; the Board's policy on the latest hour an Occasional Licence would be granted to; and the Board's refusal of an application for an Occasional Licence at a children's event.

**Decided:** to note the decisions in relation to Occasional Licence applications; to support the Board's decision to refuse an application for an Occasional Licence for a children's event; and to monitor the Board's decisions on Occasional Licence applications.

### (2) Events on the Low Green.

M. Douglas advised that the Licensing Standards Officer had submitted a report to the Board on the recent application for an Occasional Licence for an event on the Low Green regarding the potential implications of granting an Occasional Licence in this area in terms of the Licensing Objective 'Preventing Public Nuisance'. The applicant had, however, made a case to the Board that a liquor licence was necessary for the success of the event and the Board had granted the application.

A discussion then followed on the objection from Police Scotland; the conditions attached to the licence; why a liquor licence was granted for this family event; people drinking alcohol outwith the cordoned off area; safety concerns of a large number of people drinking alcohol on the Low Green; and the assumption for granting an application unless the Board had a reason for refusal.

**Decided:** to reconsider this matter at the next Forum meeting and, thereafter, should there be problems at this event, the Chair would write to the Board outlining the Forum's concerns.

### (3) Reviews of Licences.

The Chair advised that, at the Board meeting on 20th May 2014, two personal licence reviews had been considered, however, Police Scotland had not requested a review of the premises where both licence holders were employed.

M. Douglas then outlined the circumstances surrounding the request for the reviews and that the premises had co-operated fully with Police Scotland, therefore only the two personal licence holders had been subject to a review; and outlined the Board's decision.

**Decided:** to note the outcome of the reviews of the two personal licences.

**(4) Late Applications.**

The Chair advised that she had noted some applications for Occasional Licences were submitted close to the event which was almost an assumption by the applicant that the licence would be granted and M. Douglas advised that 28 days prior to the event was the minimum that an application could be submitted, however, should the Board have to consider the application, more notice was required.

M. Douglas advised that a Special meeting of the Board had been arranged for 5th June 2014 to consider a late application for an Occasional Licence which could not be dealt with by the Clerk under delegated powers as there had been neighbour complaints at previous events held at these premises and the event went on beyond midnight and therefore, had to be considered by the Board and there then followed a discussion on the company which had applied for the licence; whether the owner of the company had attended the meeting personally; and whether the Board were permitted to invoice the company for the cost of convening the meeting.

**Decided:** to note the procedures for applying for an Occasional Licence; and that the Chair, on behalf of the Forum would write to the Board requesting details of its policy for holding special meetings.

**(5) Licence Holder Refresher Training.**

Following questions from Forum members on training providers and the number of licence holders still requiring to undertake refresher training, M. Douglas outlined the providers of training in South Ayrshire and advised that all affected licence holders had been written to, sessions had been held to remind licence holders and the Licensing Standards Officers had visited premises highlighting the requirement for refresher training, however, a large number of licence holders still required to undertake this training by the deadline of 31st August 2014 which would result in their licence being revoked and them being unable to reapply for five years.

A discussion then took place on the importance of undertaking the refresher training; the cost of the training; and the funding available to undertake the training and M. Douglas further advised that the Clerk, on behalf of the Board, had written to Kenny MacAskill requesting that the Scottish Government review the requirement regarding the revocation of licences should the refresher training not be completed within the deadline.

**Decided:** to note the present position with regard to refresher training.

**7. Letter from Alcohol Focus Scotland on Review of Statements of Licensing Policy.**

There was submitted a letter and report (issued) of 12th August 2014 from the Chief Executive of Alcohol Focus Scotland outlining the findings of the review of Statements of Licensing Policy for 2013 to 2016.

A discussion then followed on over provision; whether the Forum considered there was over provision within South Ayrshire; the number of hospital admissions through alcohol related illnesses; off-sales selling alcohol at the same price as a cash and carry; and the definition of 'vertical drinking establishments'.

**Decided:** to note the findings of the review of Statements of Licensing Policy and that the Chair, on behalf of the Forum would write to Alcohol Focus Scotland outlining that the Licensing Board had consulted with the Forum when producing the Statement of Licensing Policy for South Ayrshire.

**8. Date of Next Meeting.**

**Decided:** to note that the next meeting of the Local Licensing Forum would take place on Wednesday 12th November 2014 at 10.00 a.m. in the County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr.

**9. Closing Remarks.**

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

The meeting ended at 11.45 a.m.