

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

Minutes of meeting of South Ayrshire Local Licensing Forum in County Buildings, Ayr  
On 22nd February 2017 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: B. Mackie (Chair of the Licensing Forum), R. MacLellan, C. Andrew, P McCarroll, M. Ankers, S. Bradford, R. Russell, P. Zive, A. Kelly G. Scott and M. McFadyean.

Apologies: Sergeant G. Griffiths, K Whitehead, R. Rennie and C. Lindsay.

Attending for South Ayrshire Council: D. Moore, Committee Services Assistant.

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

The Chair welcomed all Forum Members to the meeting.

### **2. New Membership.**

The Chair extended a welcome to new members Gavin Scott and Callum Lindsay, who had submitted his Apologies.

### **3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.**

The minutes of the Local Licensing Forum meeting of 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016 (issued) were submitted.

**Decided:** To approve the minute as an accurate record.

### **4. Matters Arising from Previous Forum Meeting.**

C. Andrew informed the Forum that, with regard to the 2017 Licensing Board meeting dates which had been circulated at the previous Forum meeting, there had been a proposal to move the meeting scheduled for Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017, with the possible new date being Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

**Decided:** To note the position.

### **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 24th November and 12<sup>th</sup> January.

**6. Matters Arising from Previous Board Meetings.**

C. Andrew drew Forum Members' attention to the minute of the meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> November 2016 (page two, number 6) which stated that the Board had made a decision to grant the Clerk permission to deal with Extended Hours Licenses for Hogmanay. The Forum's attention was also drawn to the content of pages 2, 3 and 4 of the minute, an application which had drawn a lot of publicity from local news media. C. Andrew stressed that, contrary to reports, the Licensing Department were not objecting to the event. When a license was refused, it did not stop the event from taking place, it only denied a license.

With regard to the Licensing Board meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017, C. Andrew informed the Forum of a case where a license was suspended for a month as a result of the license holder failing to comply with the terms of their license.

**Decided:** to note the Minutes of the previous Board meetings.

**7. Forum Letter to the Licensing Board – Response.**

Forum members heard that, in response to the Forum's letter to the Board, the Licensing Board had recognised the Forum's concerns and indicated their intention of passing those comments on to the next Board. The Vice Chair stressed the importance of this, and C. Andrew pointed out that the next Forum meeting would be in conjunction with the Board, which was the ideal opportunity to raise this issue.

**Decided:** to note the position.

**8. National Licensing Forum.**

C. Andrew informed the Forum that she had travelled to a meeting in East Ayrshire where it was proposed that a National Licensing Forum be set up. However, the Chair informed the Forum that, after the Licensing Forums from all other 32 local authorities had been written to regarding the possibility of a National Forum, only two responses had been received and the feedback was not positive, rendering the National Forum unlikely to go ahead.

The Chair suggested to the Forum that an alternative solution would be to set up an annual meeting with neighbouring Forums in East and North Ayrshire, which Forum members felt would be a positive action.

**Decided:** C. Andrew to contact East Ayrshire Council to gauge interest in the possibility of a pan-Ayrshire/West of Scotland Licensing Forum.

**9. Statement of Licensing Policy – Children and Young Persons**

The Chair informed the Forum that recent Board meetings have highlighted issues regarding child access to licensed events. P. McCarroll informed the Forum that Premises Licenses were not an issue, as child access was embedded in black and white in the terms of their license. Instead, it was Occasional Licenses which were a cause for concern, as the current Statement of Licensing Policy with regard to Children and Young persons was very ambiguous.

Forum Members were issued with a copy of the section of the current Policy which refers to children and advised that, unless the Board are challenged on the Policy, the new Statement of Licensing Policy was unlikely to change.

A conversation took place, allowing Forum Members to express their views regarding child access to Licensed areas and events, with particular focus on what constituted a 'child friendly' environment. The Chair took all comments on board and suggested that Forum members use the period between that point and the next meeting to think about their own personal views on the matter, with a view to formulating an official Forum-wide opinion on the matter at the following meeting.

**Decided:** to gather the views of Forum Members at the following meeting regarding the Statement of Licensing Policy in relation to Children and Young People.

The meeting finished at 11.15 a.m.