

SCOTTISH BORDERS LOCAL LICENSING FORUM

MINUTE of MEETING of the SCOTTISH BORDERS LICENSING FORUM held in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells on 20 April 2011 at 4.00 p.m.

Present: M. Ballantyne (Convener), Inspector K. Simpson, A. Craig, S. Bell, H. Davies, K. Rowan, C. Mouat, S. Robb (part of meeting), J. Swanson (part of meeting), G. Todd, S. Walker, I. Tunnah, A. Vickery.
Apology: K. MacDonald
In Attendance: Committee & Elections Officer (K. Mason).

NEW MEMBER – WELCOME

1. Susan Robb, Participation Officer, Education (Scottish Borders Council) was welcomed to her first meeting of the Forum.

MINUTE

2. The Minute of Meeting of 23 February 2011 had been circulated.

DECISION

APPROVED and signed by the Convener.

MEMBER

Mr H. Davies joined the meeting during discussion of the following item of business.

MATTERS ARISING

3. With reference to paragraph 11(a) of the Minute, the Convener advised that she had ascertained that there was no legal obligation for the Director of Public Health (DPH) to attend meeting of the Forum and he could send a representative in his place. Mr Baijal, DPH was on holiday and the Convener undertook to contact him on his return.

DECISION

NOTED.

4. With reference to paragraph 11(b) of the Minute, the Clerk advised that she had still to liaise with the Children's Panel to ascertain if they wished to appoint a Member to the Forum.

DECISION

NOTED.

5. With reference to paragraph 11(c) of the Minute, the Chairman and G. Todd advised that their attendance at Board meetings had been interesting and a recommendation was made to all Members of the Forum to attend meetings of the Board. It was agreed that the Convener and S. Bell attend the next meeting of the Board to be held on 13 May 2011.

DECISION

NOTED.

6. With reference to paragraph 11 (d) of the Minute, I. Tunnah advised that details relating to delegated powers were contained in Appendix 2 of the Licensing Board Policy Statement.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

7. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute discussions took place as to whether the Forum could undertake drawing up a questionnaire to be completed by young people to seek their views on alcohol related issues and this would be dependent on funding.

**DECISION
AGREED that the Clerk to the Committee would ascertain how much money was available in the budget for a project of this nature.**

8. With reference to paragraph 12 of the Minute, it was confirmed that the Clerk would be sent copies of the Scottish Licensed Trade News and she would bring copies of this with her to meetings of the Forum. Kim Rowan undertook to email Members with relevant information from the publication.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

9. With reference to paragraph 13 of the Minute, the Convener advised that owing to financial restraints there was no contact in the Scottish Government who would be able to advise the Forum on legal issues.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

NEW MEMBER – WELCOME

10. C. Mouat (Broughton Ales) joined the meeting during discussion of the following item of business and was welcomed to his first meeting of the Forum

UPDATES

11. (a) Lothian and Borders Police
Inspector K. Simpson reported on recent work of the Police in regard to test purchasing, and to the review hearing on 13 May of H20. There had been no issues in relation to Melrose 7's. He referred to a situation in the Tweeddale area when an Occasional Licence had not been granted and commented on reports which had appeared in the local media. He advised that the Police were happy to support such events for young people on condition they were held in a safe and legal manner.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

MEMBER

Inspector Simpson left the meeting.

- (b) Licensing Standards Officer
I. Tunnah reported on recent work of the Licensing Board. A number of variations had been granted owing to shop refitting etc. One premises licence had been reviewed but the Board had taken no action because all due diligence was in place within the premises. Many discussions had taken place with licensees regarding mandatory rules relating to hospitality packages offered by licensees.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

TRAINING – PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM HARM

12. Owing to problems viewing the video relating to training for local licensing Forum Members, the Forum referred to page 24 of the training manual entitled “Protecting Children from Harm”. Members agreed that the problems in the Scottish Borders were no worse than anywhere else in Scotland. Some of the key problems related to agent purchasing of alcohol and drinking at home meant there was more emphasis on getting drunk and less emphasis on drinking as one part of a social interaction. The possible way forward for the Forum would be to gather information and be clear what issues can, and what cannot, be addressed by the Licensing Board. The Forum could look at other schemes or projects which addressed some of the issues e.g. a campaign to raise awareness with the public that buying for under 18’s was an offence. A paper was tabled at the meeting by S. Robb presenting examples of how public health could be promoted as recommended by Alcohol Focus Scotland, particularly in off-sales settings. The Forum needed to look at the Licensing Board’s Policy relating to “Protecting Children from Harm” to review evidence and ascertain what the Forum’s input could be.

**DECISION
AGREED**

- (a) to examine Test Purchasing statistics over the previous 12 months;
- (b) K. Rowan to contact Aberdeen Licensing Forum for information on their questionnaire on licensing issues for young people;
- (c) to put together a newspaper campaign (column re Licensing Act to raise awareness/education issues – targeting key issues);
- (d) to contact Diagio re sponsoring beer mats, for children to colour in; and
- (e) to identify a competition to raise the profile of the Forum.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

13. The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 20 July at 4.00 p.m. The main focus would be training/discussion relating to “Protecting and Improving Public Health”.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

The meeting concluded at 7.10 p.m.