

SCOTTISH BORDERS LOCAL LICENSING FORUM

MINUTE of MEETING of the SCOTTISH BORDERS LICENSING FORUM held in Committee Room 1, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells on 23 January 2013 at 4.00 p.m.

Present: M. Ballantyne (Convener) Dr E Bajjal, S. Bell (during para 4), A. Craig, Chief Inspector K. Simpson, G. Todd, S. Walker.
Also Present: Inspector J. Scott.
Apologies: J. Swanson, I. Tunnah, E. Whitehead.
In Attendance: Committee and Elections Officer (K. Mason).

MINUTE

1. The Minute of Meeting of 17 October 2012 had been circulated.

DECISION NOTED.

MATTERS ARISING

2. With reference to paragraphs 5(a) and (b) of the Minute of 17 October 2012, the Committee and Elections Officer would undertake to liaise with the Legal and Licensing Services Manager regarding the eligibility of Forum Members claiming for travelling expenses and how much of Forum's budget had been spent to date.

DECISION NOTED.

3. With reference to paragraph 15 of the Minute of 17 October 2012, in referring to the joint meeting of the Licensing Board and the Forum which had taken place on 7 November 2012, Members of the Forum considered this had been very much a positive meeting compared with previous meetings, with the Forum members being more focussed and Board members more engaged and open in their attitude. The Convener advised that local Press would consider giving space to the Forum for publicity. The Forum would need to manage this carefully and information passed to the Press needed to be transparent.

DECISION NOTED.

SCOTTISH BORDERS ALOCHOL PROFILE

4. There had been circulated copies of the draft Scottish Borders Alcohol Profile 2012/13 which sought to provide Scottish Borders Licensing Board with data related to the five licensing objectives to inform and strengthen local licensing policy in line with the policy review and allow informed decision making. In presenting the report Inspector Scott thanked Susan Walker and Erin Murray for all their work. The report would provide Members with a reference document to which they could refer to when making decisions at Board meetings. Members noted that work needed to be undertaken to enable the profile to be updated annually, with the Forum taking ownership of the document. Dr Bajjal considered that a wide range of audiences would be interested in the profile, and he suggested that a presentation might be made to CMT and/or Council by S. Walker accompanied by a member of the Police. Chief Inspector Simpson would appraise Mr D. Scott, Community Planning of the profile. The profile would be presented to the Licensing Board on 15 February 2013. During the discussions it was noted that the document had been released to the Southern Reporter and the Convener contacted the Editor to ask that no

publicity be given to the document meantime. A suggestion was made that the Forum drive the profile forward by contacting the organisers of the National Licensing Conference to ask that this be an item of business at the next meeting. S. Walker advised that the document had already been shared with the Scottish Government.

DECISION

- (a) **NOTED the report**
- (b) **AGREED**
 - (i) **with the recommendations detailed in the profile, and**
 - (ii) **that it be remitted to the Convener and S. Walker to finalise the foreword and the front cover of the profile.**

MEMBER

Stephanie Bell joined the meeting during discussion of the above item.

LICENSING OBJECTIVES

5. (a) Preventing Crime and Disorder
Chief Inspector Simpson advised that 2 of the 3 nightclubs in the area had surrendered their licences. The vast majority of anti-social behaviour took place around nightclubs.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

- (b) Securing Public Safety
Chief Inspector Simpson advised that during the festive period people had been good natured, there had been the odd drunk with one serious assault.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

- (c) Preventing Public Nuisance
Chief Inspector Simpson advised that Test Purchasing operations had taken place with two premises failing, one of which had failed in 2010. An appropriate report would be made to the Licensing Board.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

- (d) Protecting and Improving Public Health
Chief Inspector Simpson advised that owing to the current economic climate there had been an issue re shoplifting with the theft of alcohol. He considered that supermarkets could have been more pro-active over the festive period.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

- (e) Protecting Children from Harm
Discussions took place relating to Occasional Licences issued to schools for fund raising etc. activities. Members of the Forum raised concerns at the need for alcohol to be provided at these events. S. Walker advised that the Licensing Board was looking into this issue.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

PERSONAL LICENCES – REFRESHER TRAINING

6. S. Bell advised that the the Scottish Government, the licensing trade and Queen Margaret University were reviewing the current licensing training specifications for the sale and service of alcohol in Scotland following various amendments to the 2005 Act and some additional pieces of legislation. As part of this review, a new training specification had been created for the mandatory "refresher" training programme for Personal Licence Holders which they must receive five years after their licence had been issued. During the discussions it was noted that the Forum had not been asked for its input into this review and S. Bell undertook to send details of this to the Clerk who would then forward the information to all members of the forum.

DECISION

AGREED that the Clerk would forward the information from S. Bell to Members of the Forum.

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION – FURTHER OPTIONS FOR ALCOHOL LICENSING

7. S. Walker referred to the Scottish Government's Consultation on Further Options for Alcohol Licensing, the closing date for which was Thursday 21 March 2013. S. Walker advised that she would be attending a meeting with colleagues from Police Licensing, Safer Communities, LSO and Trade to look at drafting a response to the document. S Walker would email details of the consultation for onward transmission to Members of the Forum for their comments.

DECISION

NOTED that the Clerk would forward the consultation document to Members of the Forum.

The meeting concluded at 5.45 p.m.