

SCOTTISH BORDERS LOCAL LICENSING FORUM

MINUTE of MEETING of the SCOTTISH BORDERS LICENSING FORUM held in Committee Room 2, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells on 10 June 2014 at 4.00pm.

Present: Councillor M Ballantyne (Chairman), Chief Inspector K Simpson, S Bell, A Craig, G Todd, I Tunnah, E Whitehead.
Apologies: A Isles, R Mackay, S Walker.
In Attendance: Democratic Services Officer (J Turnbull).
Members of the Public (1)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. The Chairman varied the order of business as shown on the agenda and the Minute reflects the order in which the items were considered at the meeting.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE FORUM

2. The Chairman welcomed Mr John Taylor, Jedburgh Community Councillor, to the Forum Mr Taylor hoped that he would be able to contribute to the Forum and make the Borders a safer, healthier place to live.

DECISION

AGREED:-

- (a) **TO welcome Mr Taylor as a new member of the Forum; and**
- (b) **TO request that the Clerk arrange a Conference pack for Mr Taylor.**

MINUTE

3. A note of the Meeting of 25 March 2014 had been circulated.

DECISION

NOTED.

PRESENTATION – BEST BAR NONE

4. PC Walker, was in attendance and gave a presentation on the Best Bar None scheme. The scheme originated in Manchester by Greater Manchester Police to reduce anti social behaviour and violent crime. In 2005, Glasgow ran a pilot scheme which had been successful and was rolled out nationally in 2006 – last year 400 licensed premises had been accredited. PC Walker reported that the aims of the scheme were: prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, prevention of public nuisance, promotion of public health and protection of children from harm. The benefits of being part of the scheme for the licensed premises included: partnership working, enhanced customer care, well managed on-trade licensed premises and staff, promoting a vibrant night-time economy and producing safe and secure customer focused premises.
5. The Scottish Borders started a pilot scheme in 20011/12 in Galashiels where seven premises were accredited. In 2013/14 the scheme was extended to Hawick, Kelso and Galashiels and there were successful accreditations as follows:-

Gold Award - Base and Indigo Rooms (Hawick)
Silver Award - Coopers and Waverley Bar (Hawick), Waggon Inn (Kelso)
Bronze Award - Horse and Hound, Borders College Union, Hunters Hall
(Galashiels)

6. Accredited premises received a plaque and press coverage. Premises were also listed in the Best Bar None guide and on the website. The Scoring Booklet and Good Practice Guide were circulated at the meeting. The Forum felt that the scoring was probably geared to larger organisations. PC Walker agreed and explained that the criteria was to be adjusted to target smaller premises.
7. Chief Inspector Simpson added that the scheme gave licensed premises something back in terms of membership, promotion and marketing. It would be useful if the scheme could be promoted by Visit Scotland to ensure that hotels, bed & breakfasts had listings of the accredited premises for visitors. PC Walker explained that the information on the scheme was available on the website at www.bbnsotland.co.uk anyone interested in the scheme should contact the Safer Communities Team, Tel No. 01835 823204.

DECISION

To thank PC Walker for the informative presentation.

POLICE LICENSING PRESENTATION

8. The presentation would be deferred until the next meeting of the Forum.

DECISION

Noted.

PRESENTATION – YOUNG PEOPLE

9. The presentation would be deferred until the next meeting. The Forum discussed that young peoples' attitudes were changing, and they were now making value judgements and choosing not to drink alcohol. The Chairman stated that education in schools had a major impact and it was important that consistency was maintained.

DECISION

Noted.

MEMBERSHIP OF FORUM

10. Mr Orde was in attendance at the meeting and was interested in becoming a member of the Forum. He reported that he had employees aged 18 – 24 who might be interested in becoming members of the Forum. Although not in attendance at the meeting the clerk confirmed that Mr Goode, a Community Councillor from Earlston, was now a member of the Forum.

DECISION

- (a) **TO request that the Clerk send an application form to Mr Orde to complete; and**
- (b) **TO remove Ms Jardine from membership of the Forum.**

ALCOHOL BYELAWS

11. Inspector Simpson informed the Forum that he had presented to Council a report on the outcome of the Public Engagement Process regarding 'Byelaws to Prohibit the Consumption of Alcohol in Designated Public Places'. He had informed Council that the Scottish Borders was the only place in Scotland that did not have byelaws in place. He had explained that an extensive public engagement process had been carried out with 104 responses received over the nine month consultation period, the outcome indicated that there was public support for the introduction of such byelaws in the communities of Eyemouth, Coldingham, Galashiels (Town Centre) Hawick, Jedburgh and Newtown St Boswell. Dr Baijal, Director of Public Health, had attended the meeting and supported the introduction of the byelaws. Following much debate, Council gave their approval, by one vote, for the introduction of the byelaws to go out for further consultation in the six areas. Councillor

Ballantyne had reminded Members at Council that common ridings, festivals, Hogmanay were exempt.

DECISION

- (a) **TO note the report**
- (b) **TO note that the Licensing Forum would continue to support the introduction of byelaws and were serious about addressing alcohol issues in our communities; and**
- (c) **TO request that Inspector Simpson circulate details of the further consultation process.**

LOCAL LICENSING FORUM WEBSITE

12. The Forum agreed that a link to the Best Bar None website should be added to the Forum's page. An update on the alcohol byelaws consultation, in terms of the Licensing Forum's position, with a Q & A section would be useful.

DECISION

AGREED

- (a) **TO ask the Clerk to arrange for the Best Bar None website address and contact details to be placed on the SBC's Local Licensing Forum's webpage; and**
- (b) **TO request that Inspector Simpson arrange for the further consultation on the Byelaws to 'Prohibit the Consumption of Alcohol in Designated Public Places' be placed on the website and to include a Q & A section.**

LICENSING BOARD MEETINGS

13. The Chairman advised that the Licensing Forum had a role in monitoring the Licensing Board, it was decided that where possible a member of the Forum attended one of the Board meetings. The Board met monthly on a Friday, the next meeting was scheduled to take place on 20 June. It was noted the Forum members attending the Board meetings had knowledge of the licensing objections which were used to inform the Board's decisions.

DECISION

- (a) **TO request that the Clerk circulate meeting dates of Licensing Board meetings for members' information; and**
- (b) **TO request that Licensing Forum members inform the Clerk of which Licensing Board meetings they would be attending.**

FUTURE MEETINGS

14. The next meeting of the Forum was scheduled to take place on Tuesday, 7 October. As this was the same day at the National Licensing Conference it was agreed to postpone the meeting until Tuesday, 21 October 2014. The future dates for meetings were: -

Tuesday 21 October 2014 at 4.00pm;
Tuesday 27 January 2015 at 4.00pm;
Tuesday 24 March 2015 at 4.00pm; and
Tuesday 9 June 2015 at 4.00pm.

The meeting concluded at 6.00 pm.