

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 21 October 2014 at 4.00pm.

Present: I Tunnah (Chairman), S Bell, A Craig, M Hay, R Mackay, J Taylor, G Todd, J Scott (from paragraph 5), S Walker.
Apologies: Councillor M Ballantyne
In Attendance: Legal and Licensing Services Manager (A Isles), Director of Public Health, Research & Policy Officer (E Murray), Democratic Services Team Leader
Members of the Public (1)

CHAIRMAN

1. In the absence of Chairman, Councillor Ballantyne, Mr Tunnah chaired the meeting.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

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

MINUTE

There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the meeting held on 10 June 2014.

DECISION

APPROVED the Minute for signature by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

4. It was noted that the actions detailed in the minute had all been carried out.

DECISION NOTED.

MEMBERSHIP

5. Inspector Scott joined the meeting and the Chairman welcomed him to the Forum as the replacement for Chief Inspector Simpson.

ACCREDITED YOUNG SCOT CARD

6. The Chairman welcomed Mr Arnie Yule, PASS Development Manager for Young Scot. Mr Young gave members a presentation on PASS (Proof of Age Standard Scheme). The Young Scot card was a National Entitlement Card for young people between the ages of 12 and 26 which could be used for a number of services. The PASS scheme was designed to give retailers confidence in the card as proof of age. He outlined how applications were vetted and advised that over 2 million cards had now been issued bearing the PASS hologram. He assured members that there were no fake PASS cards in circulation and so long as licensees followed the required steps to verify the card and the person presenting it they should serve the cardholder. Inspector Scott advised that they had received reports regarding fake cards but had never been able to obtain one. Mr Hay advised that licensees would be more inclined to accept these cards as proof of age if they had a sample copy with which to compare cards with. Mr Yule agreed that he would report these comments back to Young Scot. In response to a question on whether any evaluation on the use of the cards had been

carried out with licensees, Mr Yule advised that a campaign was about to be carried out and a letter would be sent to all licensees. Inspector Scott also suggested that contact be made with Police Scotland regarding use of the card and he agreed to provide Mr Yule with the appropriate contact details. The Chairman thanked Mr Yule for his presentation.

DECISION

NOTED the presentation.

PRIVATE BUSINESS

7. DECISION

AGREED under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of the business detailed in the Appendix to this Minute on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 6 of Part I of Schedule 7A to the Act.

SUMMARY OF PRIVATE BUSINESS

Updated Alcohol Profile

1. Members discussed the draft Alcohol Profile for 2013/14 and agreed that any final comments be submitted by 29 October 2014.

AFS National Licensing Conference

8. Ms Walker reported on her recent attendance at the conference. The presentations had been very informative and she commented on research on outlet density which proved that the areas with the most outlets had the most alcohol related deaths. Comment had also been made on the difficulties for Community Groups successfully objecting when faced by the legal teams of large supermarkets. She advised that she would type up her notes and circulated them to Forum members. It was noted that copies of all of the presentations were available on the website.

DECISION

NOTED that Ms Walker would circulate her notes.

ALCOHOL FOCUS SCOTLAND

9. There had been circulated copies of a summary of review of Statements of Licensing Policy. The paper outlined the findings from Alcohol Focus Scotland review of Statements of Licensing Policy for the Scottish Borders Local Licensing Forum and Scottish Borders Licensing Board. Ms Walker advised that five areas were being looked at to identify to what extent statements met their legal purpose. The paper identified how the Scottish Borders Statement met these requirements.

DECISION

NOTED the position.

LICENSING BOARD MEETINGS

10. With reference to paragraph 13 of the Minute of 10 June 2014, it was noted that dates had been circulated to Forum members. The Chairman encouraged members to attend and Ms Walker advised that she had produced an aide memoire for members which would be issued once it had been returned by the graphic section.

DECISION

NOTED that members would attend Board meetings where possible.

URGENT ITEMS

11. Under Section 50B(4)(b) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the Chairman was of the opinion that the items dealt with in the following paragraph should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency, in view of the need to keep Members informed.

DECISION

NOTED.

LICENSING

12. The following were reported:-
- (a) The evaluation of the Licensing Act had been carried out in August and a link for members would be circulated with this Minute.
 - (b) The website needed to be updated to add the new Forum members.
 - (c) Members of the Council's legal staff had been invited to be part of a training event for police on licensing and would cover the area of overprovision. Mrs Isles would report back to the Forum.
 - (d) A reminder on the previous request for a presentation from the police on their reasons for objecting to licence applications was given.

DECISION

AGREED to action the matters listed above.

FUTURE MEETINGS

13. The next meetings of the Forum were scheduled for:-

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

14. It was noted that the joint meeting with the Licensing Board would be arranged for January 2015.

The meeting concluded at 5.40 p.m.