

# East Lothian Local Licensing Forum

## Minutes of Meeting held on 28 September 2011

**Members Present:** Nico de Fretais (Chair for this meeting), Valerie Roebuck (Secretary), Stuart Baxter Andrew Blair, Martin Bonar, PC Heather Bowsher(L & B Police), Rudi Fruzynski (Licensing Standards Officer Ricky Ross, DI Gillian Tennant(L & B Police).

**Apologies:** Cllr David Berry (sent before meeting received after).

**Website Presentation and Discussion:** [www.eastlothian.gov.uk/licensingforum/index](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/licensingforum/index)

The website went live yesterday; various items for members to discuss

Does the forum want a standalone website rather than via Council website. Do the members wish to have their contact details on the website. The FAQs have come from other Forum websites however if members have any other suggestions these would be welcomed. If members have any suggestions they should contact Nico de Freitas or LSO

L & B Police advised that initiatives on the police page should only be those that the Police are leading, they will provide a generic email .

Suggestion of explanation and link to the MELDAP website. The website contains downloadable signs and training manuals.

The LSO will update the website (unless someone else volunteers) and will promote the website to Licencees, and suggest the register to receive information/updates.

The discussion forum will be monitored by LSO with posts going to his email and then after monitoring they will be posted together with possible answers.

The Forum wished to thank Sarah for all her hard work setting up the website.

**Correspondence:** Letter from Keith MacConnachie Clerk to LLB,

Before the discussion took place a question was asked about how other LLFs are managing for members, Cities appear to have plenty of members but other rural areas are struggling.

The Secretary is leaving the Forum so a new secretary is required; the forum felt that ELC should provide funds to cover the minute taking on the same basis as before. *" A council must provide each Forum established by them or ensure each such Forum is provided, with such staff, property and services as the council considers are required for the Forum's purposes."* It was agreed that VR will forward to Nico de Freitas the list of members who answered the email about remaining members.

With regard to the need for a member of the Health Board to be nominated, no replies have been received from John Boyce and it was understood by some members that JB has now moved to a different post within the Health Board.

The Forum wishes ELC to assist in obtaining members possibly advertising in the local press. The Forum members will try to recruit members however they have no resources available so to do. It was agreed that

the Forum is unsure of how the Licensing Board regards the Forum, the Forum requires a strong chair to both influence the Board and Council. The Forum needs more members to have influence and to spread any workload between meetings.

### **Police Report:**

Question asked "What does the Forum want from the Police" The Forum wishes to know what is happening in the area with regard to licensed premises, are there any particular problems we may be able to assist with?

The last round of test purchases all premises passed.

Best Bar None 9 new premises have joined the scheme, the Police do not wish to be the lead agency in this scheme as it should be a partnership between Publicans/Police and Council. And it was felt licencees would prefer not to have the Police as the lead agency. The LSO advised he was unable to take this forward due to workload. The best option would be for an independent assessor to take it forward and the Forum asks the Licensing Board to push this forward as it acknowledges best practice. In Edinburgh the Licensing trade runs the scheme.

### **Local Licensing Officer Report:**

No feedback has been received regarding the Social Responsibility Levee. The SNP has pledged to bring in minimum pricing.

All premises licences have been issued, there has been a steady flow of alteration requests mainly from off sales premises wishing to change their layout. 2 Premises requested a change in hours.

Evening visits with members of the Licensing Board have continued and premises in Prestonpans will be visited by the end of the year.

A complaint was received regarding a shop in Tranent selling to adults who then sold on to under 18s so called proxy purchasing, no further action was taken on the shop. 6 people have been charged with proxy purchasing. Signs are up in all premises advising proxy purchasing is illegal.

LSO has been working on the LLF website, and requests feedback.

The Committees Team is now looking after applications to LLF, electronic applications are passed to ELC, Councillors independent of the Licensing Board judge applications. The LLF have no say to give independence to decision however we can change the LLF constitution if we wish. The LSO has asked for member's feedback but has yet to receive any. There are not sufficient LLF members at the moment to take work between the meetings.

### **AOCB:**

Pubwatch is amalgamating in the Musselburgh area and will become RASP, a request was made for a letter from both the Police and Licensing Board for a letter confirming that if landlords contact the Police for either assistance or to advise they have removed someone from their premises, this would not be held against them.

Police advised they would like licensees to contact them it would help other landlords if problem customers were dealt with earlier. However the Police would only issue a standard letter, however they will raise this with PC Scot Robertson who works with Pubwatch.

LLF input is requested to obtain a letter from the Licensing Board.

**Next meeting 7<sup>th</sup> December**