



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EAST LoTHIAN LOCAL LICENSING FORUM

Wednesday 15th March 2017

COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HOUSE, HADDINGTON

Forum Members Present:

George Hood (Chair)
PC Heather Bowsher (Police Scotland)
John Thayers (MELDAP)
Elizabeth Oldcorn (NHS Lothian)
Jim Shervaz (NHS)
Christine O'Brien (PLH)
Dave Dickson (PLH)

Council Officials Present:

Jim Goodfellow (Cllr)

Minute Secretary:

Kirsten Baird

Visitors Present:

None

Apologies:

Rudi Fruzynski (LSO)
Richard Ross (RASP)
Kirstie MacNeil
Bernard Harkins

1. Election of Officers for the year 2017/2018;

There was discussion about what type and level of administrative support could be offered by East Lothian Council as Christine feels that taking minutes makes it difficult to contribute effectively to the meetings. The issue of potential financial support for Forum training and activities was also discussed.

It was agreed that Cllr Goodfellow would seek clarification from Kirstie MacNeil on these issues and on whether members of the Licensing Board have voting rights on the Licensing Forum.

It was agreed that the positions of Chair and Secretary will remain as they are until the next meeting and be reviewed once clarification on the above issues is provided.

2. Review of Membership of the licensing Forum

Following discussion, it was agreed that a broader membership would be useful to the Forum and that the Chair will write to local traders and professionals inviting them to get involved.

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 6th December 2016

The Minutes were agreed as a true record.

4. Feedback from the Annual Joint Meeting between the Licensing Board and Licensing Forum

It was agreed by those who attended that the meeting had been very positive and that Forum Members had felt respected and listened to. Minutes from the meeting have not yet been circulated and Jim Goodfellow agreed to follow this up.

The new Licensing Board will be constituted after the local government elections.

The Forum will lobby the new Board on over-provision and the new Licensing Statement with the formation of a short life working group.

5. Licensing Standards Officer Report

Rudi Fruzynski reported:

Licensing Board December 2016

None

Licensing Board January 2017

Statement of Principles – Gambling Act 2005 –

The Clerk to the Board presented a report on the topic to the Board.

Licensing Board Meeting with Licensing Forum – annual meeting.

No notes. The LSO was absent from this meeting.

Licensing Board February 2017

Provisional Premises Licence Dal Patino, 49a High Street, Musselburgh

This is the former Cafe Borsa that had its licence suspended for 6 weeks in 2015 then surrendered it, and shortly thereafter it closed. The new owners have two-licensed Italian restaurants in Edinburgh. The applicant withdrew their request for alcohol deliveries.

Decision - The Board then granted the application.

Major Variation Application Habaneros

This is the former Brewed and Baked cafe in High Street, Musselburgh, which has been taken over by a father and son team who have two successful Mexican style restaurants in the Falkirk area.

Decision - They withdrew the request for alcohol deliveries and the variation was granted.

Musselburgh Miners Welfare and Social Club (incorporating Royal Musselburgh Golf Club) – Major Variation to Extend Core Hours –

The Club has a big social element to its Open Club licence. It takes many bookings for Parties and weddings and the midnight terminal hour on a Thursday, Friday and Saturday caused major problems for staff trying to get people out at the end of drinking up time at 00:15.

The club decided they do not want to sell alcohol until 01:00, but felt that it would be beneficial if they had licensed hours up until 01:00 to allow for drinking up and safe dispersal after the bar closes at 24:00.

Decision - The Board accepted this as good practice and granted the application. Both the police and the LSO were heavily involved in arriving at this solution.

Request For Review of Premises Licence – Cockenzie and Port Seton Bowling and Recreational Club.

A request was lodged by a Port Seton woman who alleged that her daughter had been assaulted in the club and that the management committee had not taken appropriate steps to deal with the problem. The review was linked to a breach of the prevention of crime and disorder objective. The Board granted the review, which will be heard at the March Licensing Board meeting.

Licensing Board March 2017

This Board will be the last until 22nd June due to East Lothian Local Council Elections. The new Administration will appoint a new Board and each member will receive their mandatory training on Monday 5th June.

Since the last meeting of the Forum, a small number of complaints have been received relating to licensed premises.

It is worth noting that there were no complaints received by any section of East Lothian Council concerning licensed premises in relation to the festive period general extension to 02:00.

During the period 1st December 2016 to 4th March 2017, the LSO dealt with the following:

Description of Licensing Activity	last 3 months
Applications for Premises Licence	0
Provisional Licence Applications Confirmations	2 1
Applications for Major variation of Premises Licences	4
Minor Variations`	19
Premises Licence Reviews	0
Personal Licence Review	0
Licences Surrendered	0
Applications for Occasional Licence	111 113
Applications for Occasional Extensions -	4
Transfer of Licences	2
Complaints received	7

6. Police Report

PC Heather Bowsher reported:

The review request for Cockenzie Bowling Club was withdrawn as the matter was dealt with appropriately by the club.

The Christmas period in East Lothian went fairly smoothly and the joint visits undertaken with the LSO are contributing to this. However, following a Police Scotland review the Licensing Team has been reduced from 6 to 4 officers therefore this type of preventative work may be negatively impacted.

The report from the Chief Constable will go to the Licensing Board at the end of March 2017.

PC Bowsher will feed into the Board and Forum discussions around the new Licensing Statement.

7. Rasp Report

Ricky Ross reported:

Website is almost finished with a public area and a member's area.

The ring round system is being replaced with a Facebook group however there are issues for some premises around having a smartphone for the premises rather than an individual which is slowing some premises down.

Last meeting was well attended with 19 establishment's present.

4 people were added to the banned list.

RASP would like to work more closely with Prestonpans and Port Seton area to strengthen the Pub Watch over more of East Lothian. Membership is voluntary but RASP will work with the LSO and PC Bowsher to promote membership.

8. A.O.B.

National Licensing Forum

The Forum discussed the possibility of a National Licensing Forum, which has been proposed by Forums in the West of Scotland. The proposal is that a National Forum will feed into the Scottish Government and raise standards, consistency and training etc. for all Forums.

Licensing Statement Consultation

A Working Group is to be set up to respond to the Licensing Statement Consultation.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the East Lothian Licensing Forum will be held at **10.00am on Tuesday 6th June 2017 in the Pine Marten, Spott Road, Dunbar EH42 1LE**