

DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

LICENSING COMMITTEE

27TH JANUARY 2011

A MEETING of the LICENSING COMMITTEE was held at the MANSION HOUSE, DONCASTER on THURSDAY 27TH JANUARY 2011 at 10.00 A.M.

PRESENT :

Chair – Councillor Patricia Bartlett
Vice Chair – Councillor Ken Keegan

Councillors Beryl Harrison, Barry Johnson, J.P., John McHale and Bill Mordue

APOLOGIES :

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Elsie Butler, Stephen Coddington, Linda Curran, Barbara Hoyle, Margaret Pinkney and Austen White.

	<u>ACTION</u>
15. <u>DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTEREST</u> No declarations were made at the meeting.	
16. <u>MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4TH NOVEMBER 2010</u> <u>RESOLVED</u> that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 th November 2010, be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.	All to note
17. <u>MINUTES OF LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEES</u> <u>RESOLVED</u> that	
(A) The Minutes of the Licensing Sub-Committee 'B' held on 9 th November 2010, be noted;	All to note
(B) The Minutes of the Licensing Sub-Committee 'A' held on 16 th December 2010, be noted;	All to note

(C) The Minutes of the Licensing Sub-Committee 'A' held on 21st December 2010, be noted.

All to note

18. DONCASTER BEST BAR NONE SCHEME – UPDATE REPORT

The Regulation and Enforcement Manager, Hilary Caunt, introduced a report and drew Members' attention to proposed changes within Licensing Regulations which would require licensed premises to pay a fee in respect of late night opening which could potentially be reduced if the premises were registered with a policy similar to Doncaster's Best Bar None (BBN) Scheme.

The Committee received a presentation from the Best Bar None Co-Ordinator, Andrew Constantine which provided background to the establishment of the BBN Scheme in Doncaster launched in 2006, as well as the application process and training available to licensees. Members were also advised of the subsequent evaluation of the scheme carried out by the Council's Performance Team which had determined that alcohol related crime in the Borough had shown significant reductions since the launch of the scheme.

Members sought clarification with regard to the current number of licensed premises which were signed up to BBN, together with comparative figures from the previous years which were provided by the Best Bar None Co-Ordinator.

To conclude the discussion, the Regulation and Enforcement Manager provided the Committee with a summary of how the BBN Scheme was currently funded. Members were advised that this largely came from income generated directly from licensing fees paid to the Council, in accordance with Licensing Regulations.

RESOLVED that the update in respect of the Best Bar None Scheme, be noted.

All to note

19. ALCOHOL STRATEGY UPDATE REPORT

It was reported that Kate Harris, Alcohol Commissioning Manager (NHS) who was due to attend the meeting to provide Members with details of the Alcohol Strategy, was unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances. In view of this, the Regulation and Enforcement Manager undertook to provide Members with a brief summary of the Doncaster Alcohol Strategy.

Members were advised that the purpose of the Strategy was to bring together all issues surrounding alcohol for example, treatment for excessive consumption of alcohol and alcohol-related crime. It was reported that over the last quarter, there had been an increase in the number of young people seeking treatment as a result of alcohol consumption, although it was highlighted that this had included the festive period. However, the figures for the year overall whole had reduced.

To conclude, the Committee was reminded of the impending transfer of responsibility for public health to the Council.

The Committee discussed the impact of binge drinking in the Borough and a Member questioned whether there were any established links between the Courts and the NHS, particularly where young people had committed offences of alcohol-related crime. In addition, it was felt that there were many young people who had problems with binge drinking who had not necessarily committed offences but who would benefit from advice and support from the NHS. In view of this, Members were of the view that as this was a significant public health issue, it was important to pursue the attendance of a relevant NHS Officer at a future meeting who could provide details in relation to the issues which had been identified and it was suggested that a request be made through the Director of Public Health.

Regulation &
Enforcement
Manager

RESOLVED that

(1) the contents of the report, be noted; and

All to note

- (2) a request for the attendance of an appropriate NHS Officer at a future meeting of the Licensing Committee to provide an update in relation to the Doncaster Alcohol Strategy, be made to the Director of Public Health.

Regulation & Enforcement Manager

20. LICENSING ACT 2003 – UPDATE REPORT

The Committee received an update report which confirmed that the Council had adopted and implemented a Statement of Licensing Policy with effect from 7th January 2011, following approval by the Full Council.

The Regulation and Enforcement Manager informed Members that the Council had also received a Highly Commended Award at the prestigious Responsible Drinks Retailing Awards held in London due to its numerous initiatives to promote and develop a responsible drink retailing environment across the Borough. This included the Best Bar None Scheme, details of which had been provided earlier in the meeting. The Committee was pleased to note the Council's achievement in receiving the award.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the Statement of Licensing Policy, effective from 7th January 2011, be noted; and
- (2) the Council's achievement in receiving an award at the Responsible Drinks Retailing Conference 2010, be noted.

All to note

All to note

21. UNDER AGE SALES POLICY

The Regulation and Enforcement Manager introduced a report providing an update on issues relating to under age sales and the actions taken by Trading Standards.

It was reported that work was ongoing between Trading Standards and South Yorkshire Police for the purpose of developing a Policy which it was hoped would eventually be adopted across all Local Authorities within the South Yorkshire Area.

Members were advised that at the present time, each Local Authority had variations to their approach to undertaking test purchasing, a summary of which was provided and it was highlighted that this was carried out in accordance with LACORS (Local Authority Coordinators of Regulatory Services) Guidelines. To conclude presentation of the report, the Regulation and Enforcement Manager provided a summary of the guidelines where the Council could, in exceptional circumstances, instruct volunteers being used for the purposes of carrying out test purchases not to answer questions truthfully. Members were provided with a legal perspective of potential implications of adopting such an approach but also were reminded that this was not being used at the present time.

The Committee questioned how areas or premises were identified for carrying out test purchasing exercises, to which the Regulation and Enforcement Manager provided clarification. Members were of the view that it was important for resources to be targetted in areas of the Borough where there was evidence that there were issues with underage sales/drinking in order to ensure the best use of Council resources.

To conclude, the Committee recognised the valuable work carried out by Council staff and South Yorkshire Police and the excellent rapport which they had established with local licensees, and emphasised the importance of building on good working relationships. Furthermore, Members requested that their vote of thanks be extended to all staff concerned.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report, be noted.

Regulation &
Enforcement
Manager

All to note