

DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

LICENSING COMMITTEE

24TH JANUARY, 2013

A MEETING of the LICENSING COMMITTEE was held in ROOM 8, THE CIVIC OFFICE, WATERDALE, DONCASTER on THURSDAY, 24TH JANUARY, 2012 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT:

Chair – Councillor David Nevett
Vice-Chair – Councillor Patricia Bartlett

Councillors Linda Curran, Pat Knight, Sue Phillips and Kevin Rodgers

APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Elsie Butler, Paul Coddington, Sue McGuinness, Austen White and Jonathan Wood.

12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, IF ANY:

There were no declarations made at the meeting.

13. MINUTES OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 24TH OCTOBER 2012

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Licensing Committee meeting held on 24th October 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

14. MINUTES OF THE LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE 'A' MEETING HELD ON 29TH NOVEMBER, 2012

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

15. HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY – AMENDMENT TO SECTION 3.4 MEDICAL FITNESS

The Committee considered a report that sought approval to amend Section 3.4 of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy in respect of medical fitness.

Members noted that the Doncaster Council Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy (HC & PH Licensing Policy) which was adopted on 19th January 2012, required all licensed hackney carriage and private hire drivers to produce a Class 2 Medical Standards Certificate signed by their registered

medical practitioner on application and periodically throughout the time they continue to be licensed. Paul Williams, Business Safety and Licensing Manager explained that fees charged by medical practitioners varied greatly with fees ranging from £30 to £200.

The Business Safety and Licensing Manager advised Members that by requiring applicants to obtain a certificate from their own medical practitioner, the Authority had indirectly limited the applicant's options as to where they could go to obtain a medical certificate. The report therefore recommended that the Council's current policy be amended in line with current DVLA information on medical reports that enables medical reports to be completed by a doctor registered or practising in the United Kingdom or in any other EU/EEA country.

Members were also advised that the current version of the HC & PH Policy referred to a Class 2 Standard Medical. References to Class 2 were errors and should have stated Group 2. It was therefore proposed that all references to Class 2 in the HC and PH Policy be replaced by the term 'Group 2'.

RESOLVED that the amended section 3.4 (Medical Fitness) of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy, as set out in Appendix B to the report, be approved to be implemented immediately.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Chair asked the Business Safety and Licensing Manager to provide the Committee with an update on the outcome of the 2013 Best Bar None Awards and any updates in legislation changes.

The Business Safety and Licensing Manager advised the Committee that the event had been a huge success with the overall Winner's Award going to Cask Corner. The venue also scooped the award for Best Pub. The Business Safety and Licensing Manager agreed to circulate to Members, a copy of the full list of accredited venues and the category winners from the Awards Ceremony.

The Chair wished to place on record the Committee's congratulations to all those involved in the success of the Best Bar None Scheme in Doncaster.

Paul Wilson, Licensing Officer advised Members that the option to apply a Late Night Levy came into effect on 31st October 2012 but it was up to individual Councils to agree whether or not to pursue this. The Licensing Officer then explained the process, potential costs and implications of imposing this across the Borough and added that this would ultimately be a decision for Full Council to make should a request be received to impose a Late Night Levy in the future. The Licensing Officer also advised the Committee that Central Government were considering the extension of the Live Music Act later in the year.