

DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

LICENSING COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 15TH OCTOBER, 2015

A MEETING of the LICENSING COMMITTEE was held at the 008 - CIVIC OFFICE on THURSDAY, 15TH OCTOBER, 2015, at 10.00 am.

PRESENT:

Chair - Councillor Ken Keegan
Vice-Chair - Councillor Linda Curran

Councillors Iris Beech, Rachael Blake, Elsie Butler, Bev Chapman, Steve Cox, James Hart, Charlie Hogarth, John McHale, Tony Revill and Clive Stone

APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Neil Gethin and David Nevett

9 **Declarations of Interest, if any.**

There were no declarations made at the meeting.

10 **Minutes of the Licensing Committee Meeting held on 25th June, 2015**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Licensing Committee held on 25th June, 2015, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

11 **Minutes of the Licensing Sub-Committee meeting held on 5th August, 2015**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Licensing Sub-Committee Meeting held on 5th August, 2015 be noted.

12 **Statement of Licensing Policy 2016 - Licensing Act 2003**

Members were presented with the Statement of Licensing Policy 2016 following its quinquennial review.

The Committee were informed that under the Licensing Act 2003, the Council were required to produce and review the Policy, and the Licensing Policy before them, was now the fourth Statement of Licensing Policy produced by the Council. Members noted that the Policy was 5 years since it had been revised, and the Business Safety Manager aimed to provide an overview of the key points.

Formal consultation had been undertaken over a period of time, and this was summarised in Appendix B attached to the report. A number of responses received as a result of the consultation were significant, and these were brought to the attention of the Committee.

South Yorkshire Police had responded with regard to the CIZ currently in place within Doncaster Town centre and requested that this be continued, with the addition of additional areas including Market Place and Cleveland Street. This CIZ had currently been in place for 8 years and had proven to have a positive impact on crime relating to alcohol and antisocial behaviour in this area. At the present time, this CIZ only applied to bars but there was the suggestion that this may be better applied to all licensed premises. Members were in support of this proposal, and certainly felt it wasn't time to remove the CIZ at the current time.

A discussion followed with regard to the proposal to create a new Cumulative Impact Zone in an area of Wheatley, around the Nether Hall Road area. There were high statistics of alcohol related crimes in this area which linked to the point that outside the Town Centre, this area had the highest density of off licences. By creating this Zone, it was therefore hoped that it would help to work towards addressing this problem.

A consultation response had been received from Bawtry Town Council with regard to a request for a Cumulative Impact Zone in the town centre. The Chair invited Mr David Kirkham, a representative from Bawtry Town Council, to speak at the meeting in support of this request, and outlined their reasons behind this. Mr Kirkham commented to the Committee that whilst crime and disorder wasn't a problem at the present time, there was the fear that it could be in the near future. There were a lot of licensed establishments in the centre of Bawtry which on Friday and Saturday nights brought a lot of people into the town, causing noise and disturbance and increasing concerns. Whilst there was a marshalling system in place, there was no control over people's behaviour once they were out of the establishments and the risk of the town deteriorating was a worry. At the present time, there was a good mix of shops, cafes, bars and restaurants and the local residents and Town Council wanted it to stay that way, and pointed out the risks if shops became roads full of bars. The Committee acknowledged the points put forward by Mr Kirkham, and felt that although the problems with alcohol related crime and disturbance weren't on a large scale at the moment, this was not to say that this may not be the case in the future, and therefore they felt that this would be a good move forward as a preventative measure to ensure that the area retained its character and appeal. Members debated this issue for a length of time in order to ensure they had looked at all aspects of this, and felt that it was the most appropriate move to safeguard Bawtry at the present time. However, as this was a newly proposed zone, they felt it would be appropriate to review this after a period of time in order to assess its effect.

Members had a thorough debate and ensured that all issues relating to the Licensing Policy were covered and the Committee were happy to recommend this to Cabinet and Council for approval before January, 2016.

RESOLVED that the Licensing Committee recommend the Statement of Licensing Policy 2016 – (Licensing Act 2003) be adopted by Full Council with the inclusion of the following points:-

- i. Agree to the continuation of the Cumulative Impact Zone in Doncaster Town Centre, with the inclusion of additional areas of Market Place and Cleveland Street for all premises licensed to carry on any licensable activity, including the sale of alcohol for consumption on or off the premises, and the provision of late night refreshment;
- ii. Support the implementation of a new Cumulative Impact Zone for all premises licensed to carry on any licensable activity, including the sale of alcohol for consumption on or off the premises, and the provision of late night refreshment in a specified area of the Wheatley Ward to include

Netherhall Road, Copley Road, Christ Church Road, Broxholme Lane and Highfield Road.

- iii. Support the implementation of a new Cumulative Impact Zone in Bawtry for all for all premises licensed to carry on any licensable activity, including the sale of alcohol for consumption on or off the premises, and the provision of late night refreshment in the areas of Market Place, High Street, Swan Street, Church Street, Scot Lane, Wharf Street and Grasswood Lane/Dower House Square with the intention to review the implementation of this in 2 years.

13 Statement of Licensing - Gambling Act 2005

The Committee considered the Statement of Licensing 2016 – Gambling Act 2005 following its triennial review. Following consideration by the Licensing Committee, this would then be considered by Cabinet prior to consideration and final approval by Council.

This was the fourth Statement of Policy produced by Doncaster Council under the Gambling Act, and would set out the framework for all Licensing decisions to be taken by the Authority over the next three years.

The changes made to the Policy were largely minor but guaranteed that the Gambling Policy adopted by the Council was robust and fit for purpose.

The Committee had a brief discussion on this item, and Members indicated that they were in support of the Policy.

RESOLVED that the Committee support the Statement of Policy – Gambling Act 2005 and recommend it to Cabinet prior to its approval by Full Council.

14 Update on Askern, Campsall and Norton Community Alcohol Partnership.

Members were presented with a report that provided an update on the Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) in Askern, Norton and Campsall. This was currently running in the North of Doncaster and aimed to address underage drinking and any associated behaviour.

The Committee noted that the CAP model was a unique scheme that recognised that the heart of the problems with alcohol associated behaviour often lay with retailers and licensees, and the model therefore looked to impact on the problem at grassroots level. Members were informed that the scheme had now been running for over a year, and had proven to have a positive effect on the areas involved. The scheme did not cost the Council any money, and funding had been received with which the Council had been able to buy resources to support the partnership.

Members were pleased with the success that the CAP had had in the North of Doncaster, and it was noted that there were less young people seen hanging around on the streets which was encouraging. They welcomed the update and were pleased to see it was continuing and hoped that it would have continued success in other areas of the Borough.

RESOLVED that the Committee note the update provided on the Community Alcohol Partnership.