

Licensing Committee – 16 November 2015

Minutes of the meeting of the **Licensing Committee** held on **16 November 2015** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr Mrs C A Weston
Vice-Chairman: Cllr B T Hazlewood

Cllr J L Lawmon
Cllr D Merrick

Cllr R A Oatham
Cllr Mrs B J Wilkins

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs D Hoy, M Hoy, K H Hudson, Mrs J E McPherson, D J Sperring, I H Ward and M J Webb.

OFFICERS PRESENT

J Fowler - Senior Licensing Officer
S Worthington - Committee Administrator

223 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

224 CONSULTATION ON LICENSING ACT DRAFT STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Director, Legal Services detailing the response to the consultation of the Council's draft Statement of Licensing Policy.

Officers advised that only one response had been received, which related to typographical errors that would be corrected in the policy document. Furthermore, no response was received in respect of the inclusion of a cumulative impact policy for Rayleigh High Street, Rayleigh High Road and Eastwood Road, Rayleigh within the draft Statement of Licensing Policy. It was further noted that the effect of this would be such that new businesses applying for a premises licence in those affected areas would need to demonstrate that their business would not impact on existing night time economy issues in those areas. Officers confirmed that no new clubs or pubs had opened up within these targeted areas for over a year now.

In response to a Member question relating to the sale of alcohol on the streets, e.g., for events such as the Christmas lights switching on events, temporary event notices were required and such events were monitored by the Police and by the Council's licensing department.

Recommended to Council

That the amended statement of licensing policy (Licensing Act 2003) be approved. (ADLS)

225 CONSULTATION ON GAMBLING ACT DRAFT STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Director, Legal Services detailing the response to consultation of the Council's draft policy for gambling.

Officers advised that responses had been received relating to typographical errors and new legislation introduced by the Government. It was noted that the current draft Statement, once adopted, would allow officers time to assess changes needed in light of the new legislation introduced by Government this year, which would be shared at an early stage with this Committee.

In response to a Member question relating to casino licences, officers confirmed that the legislation was very specific in defining casinos requiring such licences as large ones, similar to that on Southend sea front. Members agreed that there was no reason for the Council to exercise its discretion to issue casino licences at this time.

Officers advised, in response to a further Member question relating to race nights, that race nights were considered more in terms of fundraising, rather than gambling.

Recommended to Council

That the amended Statement of Licensing Policy (Gambling Act 2005) be approved and that the Council should not exercise its discretion to issue casino licences. (ADLS)

226 LICENSING UPDATE AROUND THE DISTRICT

Officers provided a verbal update on licensing matters around the District.

It was noted that:-

- Pizza Express would open soon in Rayleigh High Street and that the outdoor seating arrangements would be strictly enforced by officers on market days.
- Pizza Express had the necessary pavement permission for external seating, etc.

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- There was no restriction on what alcohol Pizza Express could serve in the external seating area.
- An American-style diner, Barrington Grill, would open shortly in Hockley Road, Rayleigh.
- Funding had been obtained via the Community Safety Partnership until April 2016 for taxi marshals, SIA registered, to organise queues on the taxi rank in Rayleigh High Street from 2300 – 0400 hours at weekends.
- 42 individuals had been banned from Rayleigh for up to two years via the Rayleigh Pubwatch scheme.
- Two days of licensing training had run recently at the Mill Arts and Events Centre, covering conflict resolution, trading standards, drugs/legal highs and child exploitation and were well attended. These had been daytime events, as they were aimed at licensees, however it would be possible to run training next year for Members focusing on these issues, in addition to training on the new gambling legislation.
- Essex Police cuts had not yet affected licensing; Rayleigh Pubwatch helped to facilitate good communication within Rayleigh areas. It was, however, possible that the imminent loss of several PCSO's could impact on Rayleigh High Street and this would be monitored by officers.
- The Police Licensing Officer, Steve Greener, and the Council's licensing officer would continue to conduct licensing visits; however, any future issues would be reported to Members.
- A meeting was due to take place this week in Hullbridge to explore the possibility of setting up a Pubwatch scheme there, to include Hockley and Hawkwell.
- Individuals that are banned from an area by one Pubwatch scheme will also be banned from other areas covered by Pubwatch schemes as local Pubwatch schemes share details of banned individuals.
- A new sexual entertainment venue was due to operate in Manor trading estate in Benfleet; there was likely to be an increase in applications for such venues in out of town locations.
- Mandatory training had been scheduled for taxi drivers covering the areas of disability awareness, child exploitation and prevent; it would be possible to run similar training for Members next year.

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The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and closed at 10.45 am.

Chairman

Date

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