

Licensing Committee – 13 July 2015

Minutes of the meeting of the **Licensing Committee** held on **13 July 2015** when there were present:-

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

Cllr N J Hookway
Cllr M Hoy
Cllr K H Hudson

Cllr D Merrick
Cllr I H Ward
Cllr M J Webb

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs M R Carter, Mrs D Hoy, J L Lawmon, R A Oatham and Mrs C A Pavelin.

OFFICERS PRESENT

J Fowler - Senior Licensing Officer
S Worthington - Committee Administrator

140 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2013 and of meetings of the Licensing Sub-Committee held on 3 July 2014, 15 October 2014, 29 October 2014, 22 January 2015, 26 January 2015, 12 March 2015 and 10 April 2015 were approved as correct records and signed by the Chairman.

141 REVIEW OF LICENSING ACT STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Director, Legal Services seeking Members' approval of the draft statement of licensing policy in order to be published and circulated for public consultation.

In response to a Member question relating to amendments to the draft document, officers advised that there were no major changes proposed.

Officers emphasised, in response to concerns expressed by Members in respect of paragraphs 1.81 and 1.82 on page 5.17 of the officer's report about the impact on Rayleigh of the current closure of licensed premises at Festival Leisure Park, Basildon, that licensed premises in Rayleigh are well managed. Rayleigh's Pubwatch scheme is the most successful in the county, and has resulted in 42 individuals being banned from licensed premises in the town. Any problems there might be are on the streets once premises have closed, but this is a Policing matter. PCSOs were on duty until 1.00 am, however, many licensed premises close at this time, resulting in more people being out on the streets of Rayleigh. Registered door staff of licensed premises were not insured to deal with any problems out on the street, other than to administer first aid. Officers further advised that, with the exception of Red Door, no new premises licences had been issued in Rayleigh since the policy was last issued; in addition, Morrisons and the Co-op were relinquishing their

premises licences.

Responding to an issue raised by a Member relating to broken glass on the high street in Rayleigh, officers confirmed that they were aware of this issue, which, in part, related to the Roebuck; a meeting was scheduled with the premises this week in order to address the matter. There were also instances of people bringing in pre-purchased bottles to Rayleigh, which was an issue that the PCSO's had to manage. Officers advised, in response to a further Member question relating to banning drinking on Rayleigh streets, that an order was in place in Rochford that prohibited drinking on the streets in the centre of Rochford, however such an order was not in place for Rayleigh. An order could be put in place by the Community Safety Partnership, but the Police would have to enforce such an order.

During further debate of the impact on Rayleigh of the closure of licensed premises in Basildon's Festival Leisure Park, Members expressed concern that Rayleigh was becoming a convenient alternative for those who would usually go to Basildon, given that it is situated on the same railway line. Members concurred that there would be merit in establishing a means of temporarily limiting the number of premises licences issued in Rayleigh until such time as alternative licensed premises opened in Basildon.

Officers confirmed that they would request Pubwatch to organise for signs to be placed at licensed premises in Rayleigh advising customers that many premises close at 1.00 am and that customers are not admitted after 1.00 am into those premises that remain open later and that they should therefore disperse from Rayleigh after 1.00 am.

It was further noted that there would also be merit in officers working closely with the Planning department on any relevant new planning applications for Rayleigh in respect of hours of operation.

Resolved

- (1) That, subject to officers exploring the possibility of including a saturation policy, the draft licensing policy statement be approved for commencement of public consultation.
- (2) That the likely timetable for the consultation period be noted. (ADLS)

142 REVIEW OF GAMBLING ACT STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Director, Legal Services seeking Members' approval of the draft Gambling Act statement of licensing policy in order to be published and circulated for public consultation.

During debate of the document, officers agreed with a Member observation that the majority of changes proposed related to safeguarding/child protection and replacing references to CRB with DBS.

Resolved

- (1) That the draft Gambling Licensing Policy Statement be approved for commencement of the public consultation.
- (2) That the likely timetable for the consultation period be noted. (ADLS)

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and closed at 10.40 am.

Chairman

Date

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