

FALKIRK COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the FALKIRK LOCAL LICENSING FORUM held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on THURSDAY 26 MAY 2016 at 2.30 p.m.

FORUM MEMBERS

PRESENT: Gordon Emslie (Personal Licence holder); Caird Forsyth (Falkirk Alcohol and Drug Partnership); David Gibson (Social Work); Madelene Hunt (Person resident in Forum Area); Nash Lalli (Personal Licence holder); Ian Lovie (Scottish Grocers Federation); Bruce Rennie (District Bowling Association); Warren Luke (Person resident in Forum Area); Inspector Billy Drummond (Police Scotland); and Douglas Frood (Licensing Standards Officer).

ALSO PRESENT: Licensing Sergeant Marie White, Police Scotland.

APOLOGIES: Aileen Holliday (NHS Forth Valley); Charles Gillespie (Person resident in Forum Area); Rose Mary Glackin (Clerk to Falkirk Council Licensing Board), and Thomas Ross (Licensing Standards Officer).

CHAIR: Alison Barr (Item 1), and Gordon Emslie (Items 2-7)

COUNCIL OFFICERS

PRESENT: Alison Barr, Consumer Protection Manager.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CONVENER

Nominations for the position of Convener were sought. There being only one nomination submitted, the Forum **agreed** to appoint Gordon Emslie as Convener of the Falkirk Local Licensing Forum for 2016.

2. MINUTE

The Forum **approved** the minute of the joint meeting of Falkirk Licensing Board and the Falkirk Local Licensing Forum held on 24 November 2015.

3. NOTES OF MEETINGS

The notes of meetings held on 21 January and 22 March 2016 were **noted**. There were no matters arising.

4. MATTER ARISING

In answer to a question raised by the Convener, Inspector Billy Drummond confirmed that the current threat level to the UK was "severe".

5. FORUM MEMBERSHIP

Gordon Emslie advised that this was the first quorate meeting since October 2015 and that attendance at meetings appeared to be a challenge for some members. Discussion then followed in relation to attendance in general. It was **noted** that there were substitutes who could attend but that only a small number of substitute members had attended on occasion.

The Forum **agreed** that contact be made with the members to encourage attendance and confirm future meeting dates.

After further discussion it was also **agreed** that the Forum's Constitution be included on the agenda for the next meeting in August.

6. LICENSING OBJECTIVE – SECURING PUBLIC SAFETY

Gordon Emslie praised the Licensing Standard Officers in their role of educating those in the licensing industry.

In relation to securing public safety, Douglas Frood was heard in relation to the following:-

- he would like to see a raising of standards year on year
- to the creation of model conditions for licence holders, in particular relating to CCTV, till prompts and staff training
- that the Forum make suggestions to the Board in relation to public safety

An open discussion then followed on the issues relating to this licensing objective with the following being highlighted, namely:

- the Falkirk Town Centre CCTV system only covers part of Grahams Road
- some CCTV systems still use videos which are dated; clocks are not set properly, and staff have difficulty in accessing the images
- the benefits of external CCTV to ensure public safety
- the importance of a refusals register
- the duration of the festive period in Falkirk being longer than other areas and the impact this has on the licensing objectives

Inspector Billy Drummond advised that Police Scotland's aim was to foster a safe and secure environment and to reduce the threat from harm. He further advised that there was an increased level of knowledge and engagement between Police Scotland and licence holders. He stated that this had resulted in the reaction time to incidents relating to licensed premises being quicker than ever. He also confirmed that he would be supportive of model conditions, dispersal policies, search policies and the use of new technology as these all help to uphold the licensing objective.

In terms of issues associated with young people, Inspector Drummond advised that there is a lot of pre-loading with far more alcohol consumed within the home than in licensed premises. He stated that early intervention and prevention work is carried out both in schools and colleges and that Police Scotland has a school based officer in each of Falkirk Council's secondary schools.

Sergeant White was heard in relation to the possible benefits of having model conditions in helping Police Scotland tackle crime and disorder and to help secure public safety. She also confirmed that there had been no test purchase failures since April 2016.

It was **noted** that Police Scotland in conjunction with the Alcohol & Drug Partnership and other agencies run campaigns informing people of safe drinking limits and how to help young vulnerable women stay safe. There are also educational leaflets for young people.

7. LICENSING TOOLKIT

A short discussion took place on the Toolkit produced by Alcohol Focus Scotland which had been circulated to members for their information.

The toolkit is designed to help anyone who would like to have a say on how alcohol impacts on their community. It also sets out how the licensing process works in Scotland and provides some practical tips on how people can get involved.

The Forum **agreed** that the toolkit was useful and requested that a “link” to this document be made available on the Falkirk Licensing Board’s webpage.

8. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Overprovision

Discussion took place on overprovision and, in particular the impact and number of internet sales of alcohol. It was **noted** that the LSO National Group had approached a leading supermarket and were in receipt of a response in relation to this matter.

Psychoactive Substances

Caird Forsyth advised that as from 26 May 2016, psychoactive substances were illegal however possession was not an offence. He further advised that a copy of the Psychoactive Substance report would be circulated to members for their information.

Alcohol Flyer

After a short discussion relating to the content of a “home delivery of alcohol” flyer which had been circulated by a licensed premise within the Falkirk area, the Forum **noted** that the service offered was within the law.

It was also **noted** that the Forum may want to seek the Licensing Board’s view on this practice in the near future, and on whether Police Scotland would consider undertaking test purchases for alcohol purchased on line.

Staff Training

After a short discussion, the Forum **noted** that staff training regulations required to be updated. Alison Barr confirmed that any change of legislation is done by the Scottish Government.

Community Alcohol Partnerships (CAPS)

Ian Lovie referred to a Community Alcohol Partnership (CAPS) which had been set up in Edinburgh and suggested that it might be useful for a member to attend a future meeting of the Licensing Forum.

Noted.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Forum noted that the next meeting was on Tuesday 23 August at 6.00 p.m.