

FALKIRK COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the FALKIRK LOCAL LICENSING FORUM held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on MONDAY 18 MARCH 2013 at 2.00 p.m.

FORUM MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Jill Bennet (Person resident in Forum Area); Gordon Emslie (Personal Licence Holder); Caird Forsyth (Falkirk Alcohol and Drug Partnership); David Gibson (Social Work); Madelene Hunt (Bo'ness Community Council); Nash Lalli (Personal Licence Holder); Ian Lovie (Scottish Grocers Federation); Warren Luke (Person resident in Forum Area); Lorraine Fisher (Education); Bruce Rennie (District Bowling Association); Thomas Ross (Licensing Standards Officer), and Kate Smith (Young Person).

APOLOGIES:

Mike Calvert (Person resident in Forum Area); Aileen Holliday (NHS Forth Valley) and Alan Waddell (Central Scotland Police).

CHAIR:

Brian Pirie, Democratic Services Manager.

COUNCIL OFFICERS

PRESENT:

Rose Mary Glackin (Clerk, Falkirk Licensing Board), Brian Pirie, Democratic Services Manager and Arlene Fraser, Committee Services Officer.

ALSO ATTENDING:

Councillor Malcolm Nicol (Convener, Falkirk Licensing Board) and Linda Bowie (Alcohol Focus Scotland).

1. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS

Councillor Malcolm Nicol, Convener of Falkirk Licensing Board welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for volunteering to become members of the Falkirk Local Licensing Forum.

Rose Mary Glackin, Clerk to Falkirk Licensing Board introduced herself to the Forum and gave a brief overview of her role.

Councillor Nicol advised that due to a conflict with a previously arranged meeting, he and Ms Glackin were unable to attend the Forum meeting further. Both left the meeting at this point.

Thereafter, all those in attendance gave a brief personal introduction detailing their background and what they felt they could bring to the Forum.

Brian Pirie advised that at the next meeting of the Forum, each member would be provided with an introductory pack containing information which, he hoped members would find relevant and useful in undertaking their role on the Forum.

He further advised that there would be a small change to the agenda order, with the presentation from Alcohol Focus Scotland being taken first. This would give members an

opportunity to hear more about the Forum's role and the issues surrounding licensing before consideration was given to appointing a Convener.

2. ALCOHOL FOCUS SCOTLAND – PRESENTATION ON THE ROLE OF LICENSING FORUMS

Linda Bowie, Development and Learning Co-ordinator, Alcohol Focus Scotland gave a presentation on the role of local licensing Forums, and their value within the regulatory framework.

The presentation focused on:-

- the background to local licensing Forums
- the legislative framework relating to the membership, the functions and the limitations of licensing forums
- the 5 licensing objectives, namely *Preventing Crime and Disorder; Securing Public Safety; Preventing Public Nuisance; Protecting and Improving Public Health; and Protecting Children from Harm* and reiterating that each had the same weighting and were all important factors in the licensing process
- the link between the increase in alcohol availability, consumption and harm
- why regulation of liquor licensing is important within society
- how licensing forums can approach their role

In response to a question from Warren Luke, Linda stated that Alcohol Focus Scotland was a registered charity funded from a variety of sources, including the Scottish Government, grant giving bodies, and self-generated income. Alcohol Focus Scotland works with a wide range of partners to advocate for evidence-based policy; deliver training and development programmes and provides accurate and accessible information about alcohol to the media, policy-makers, practitioners and the general public.

Thereafter, a general discussion took place on the following:

- the value of holding a “workshop” at the next meeting to allow members to look at the 5 licensing objectives as a way of enabling the forum to develop its position in regard to each objective and to licensing within the area
- the relationship between Licensing Boards and the Forums and in particular the relationship between the Falkirk Board and Forum
- the delay in issuing premises licences following the implementation of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005
- the requirement for the Board to agree a licensing policy and thereafter to review and update their policy statements every three years
- the current position of the Falkirk Licensing Board's review of its policy statement which was consulted upon in early 2012
- that Licensing Boards were due to undertake a further review of their policy statements in November 2013

Agreed that clarification would be sought in relation to the draft policy statement, which had been consulted on during March/April 2012.

3. APPOINTMENT OF CONVENER

Brian Pirie advised that, in line with the Constitution, the Forum should elect a Convener at its first meeting in each calendar year.

However, after discussion, the Forum agreed to continue this appointment to the next meeting to allow members to familiarise themselves with the role of the Forum and of its Convener.

4. FALKIRK LOCAL LICENSING FORUM – CONSTITUTION

A copy of the Constitution which details how the forum will operate had been previously circulated to Forum members' for their information.

Brian Pirie advised that the document had been approved by the previous Forum and was based around statute. However, he advised that it was available for the Forum to discuss the contents of the Constitution at a future meeting, if they felt it appropriate and/or necessary.

5. PROVISIONAL DATES OF LOCAL LICENSING FORUM MEETINGS

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 27 February by the Chief Governance Officer setting out suggested dates and times of future meetings, for the Forum to consider.

After discussion, the Forum approved the following dates and times:

Tuesday 30 April at 7.00 p.m.

Thursday 13 June at 2.30 p.m.

Tuesday 20 August at 7.00 p.m.

Thursday 24 October at 2.30 p.m.

Thursday 19 December at 2.30 p.m. – Joint meeting of the Forum and Licensing Board.

The Forum also agreed that an additional meeting be arranged to take place in May. Once a date and time was identified, members would be advised accordingly.

6. AOCB

Member Information Sheet

Information sheets were circulated to members for their completion and return. Brian Pirie reiterated the requirement of providing details of a nominated substitute (when possible).

During the lifetime of the previous Forum, a number of meetings had been inquorate. This had a two-fold effect. Firstly it interrupted the flow of business and secondly, it had an adverse effect on those members who were able to attend. As part of the wider discussion on the Constitution, the Forum may wish to look at introducing a minimum attendance requirement.

Name Plates

Madelene Hunt suggested that name plates be available for future meetings. Arlene Fraser agreed that these would be arranged for all members.

