

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**MINUTE of MEETING of the FALKIRK LOCAL LICENSING FORUM held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on TUESDAY 30 APRIL 2013 at 7.00 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); Aileen Holliday (NHS Forth Valley); Madelene Hunt (Person resident in Forum Area); 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); Kate Smith (Young Person), and Alan Waddell (Area Commander, Police Scotland).

**APOLOGIES:**

Mike Calvert (Person resident in Forum Area) and Thomas Ross (Licensing Standards Officer).

**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:**

Jane McLay (Substitute member, Scottish Grocers Federation).

**1. MINUTE**

The minute of the last meeting held on 18 March was approved.

**2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTE**

**Item 1 – Introductory Pack**

Arlene Fraser advised that all members had been supplied with an introductory pack and hoped that members would find the information useful. The pack would be updated regularly and any information deemed appropriate for members would be issued on an “as and when” basis.

**Item 2 – Draft Policy Statement Update**

Rose Mary Glackin confirmed that the policy adopted in 2007 was the policy currently being used by the Licensing Board. A review had been due in 2012 with another to follow in 2013. There had been a consultation in March 2012, but the review had not been taken forward. There was a general feeling that the review afforded the Board the opportunity to develop a more evidence based policy. However, there was another review due in 2013 which would give the Forum an opportunity to be involved in identifying any necessary amendments to the current policy.

**Noted.**

#### **Item 4 – Constitution**

Arlene advised that she had received an email from Thomas Ross, Licensing Standards Officer suggesting possible amendments to the Forum's Constitution. She summarised the content of the email and suggested that the group discuss this and the Constitution at their next meeting. This would allow all members an opportunity to raise any suggestions they may also have to this key document.

The suggested amendments were as follows:

#### **“6. MEMBERSHIP**

- 6.1 The membership will never be less than five or more than 20 *(this should be changed to 21 to reflect the change in legislation)*
- 6.2 In order to be eligible for consideration for membership of the Forum, a person must be:
  - (a) aged 18 years or above *(change to allow young persons to apply for membership i.e. those aged 16 & 17 years)*
- 6.5 The Convener of the Licensing Board will be invited to attend all meetings. The Deputy Convener may also attend. *(Invite all members of the Licensing Board to attend)*
- 6.7 “intimate their apologies to the Chief Governance Officer” *(should this not be office rather than officers? This also appears in 11.1 of the document)*

#### **7. CONVENER**

- 7.3 The word “change” which is the first word in 3<sup>rd</sup> line should be “chance” – typing error

#### **9. SPECIAL MEETINGS**

- 9.1 *A timeline would be useful.”*

#### **Decision**

**Agreed** to discuss the Constitution at the next meeting of the Forum.

#### **Item 5 – Additional Meeting**

Arlene referred to the request for an additional meeting of the Forum and confirmed that this would take place on **Tuesday 21 May at 2.30 p.m.** within the Committee Suite.

### **3. APPOINTMENT OF CONVENER**

Brian Pirie advised that although he was happy to chair the meeting in the interim, a Convener should be appointed in line with the Forum's Constitution.

After a brief discussion, the Forum agreed to continue consideration of this appointment to the next meeting of the Forum. Brian stated that he would email all members to seek any nominations prior to the next meeting.

#### **4. WORKSHOP – LICENSING OBJECTIVES**

The Forum split into 2 groups to look at each of the 5 licensing objectives and to consider the objectives in the Falkirk context.

The following points were raised:

- in terms of alcohol sales data, adults in Scotland are drinking around 20% more than adults in England and Wales
- Scotland experiences greater alcohol related harm than the rest of the UK
- overall average alcohol related harm in Forth Valley appears lower than the Scottish average, but it is accepted that the Scottish average is higher than the rest of the UK
- the changes in culture and the effect this has had on the trade and on public health with 70% of alcohol now being bought from off sales and 30% from on sales
- the availability of alcohol and the differing habits of customers
- in general antisocial behaviour was decreasing, although it was recognised that there were peak times when incidents did occur in certain locations
- the decrease in alcohol related incidents within Falkirk Town Centre during the festive period when premises had extended trading hours, although incidents in other areas had increased
- incidents of domestic abuse where alcohol has been a contributing factor
- the legal challenge to the Scottish Government's plans to introduce minimum pricing per unit of alcohol made by the Scottish Whisky Association has still to be determined
- the benefits of test purchasing
- the regulation of and additional hours for the sale of alcohol in relation to the grant of occasional licences and their impact on licensed premises' operating plans
- the practice of consuming large amounts of alcohol within the home before going out to licensed premises and the apparent tendency to binge drink
- the difficulty associated with collecting relevant data to assist with evidencing any identified problem
- the rationale and benefits of the Board developing the "standard licensing criteria"

Brian suggested that the Forum may wish to look at identifying from the above any relevant issue(s) which they feel impact on the licensing policy. This type of exercise could be beneficial, especially in terms of any future consultation carried out on the licensing policy. However, he reiterated the importance for the Forum to gather evidence from a range of sources to support their views.

#### **Decision**

For future consideration by the Forum.

## **5. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

### **Licensing Forum Web Page**

Arlene suggested that the Forum's web page required updating specifically to include dates of future meetings and identify the current membership. She advised that other local authorities made this type of information available to members of the public and asked the group for its views.

After discussion, agreed that a template with the proposed information would be provided for approval at the next meeting of the Forum.

### **Nominated Substitute Members**

Brian reiterated the importance of nominated substitute members. However, they should, as far as possible, represent the same category as the member who they will be standing in for.

### **Quorum**

Madelene Hunt asked for clarification on the quorum for meetings and was advised that currently this was 8 members due to the quorum requiring to be no less than half of the Forum's membership.