

FALKIRK COUNCIL

MINUTE of JOINT MEETING of FALKIRK LICENSING BOARD and the FALKIRK LOCAL LICENSING FORUM held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on THURSDAY 19 DECEMBER 2013 at 2.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Malcolm Nicol (Convener of Falkirk Licensing Board); Jill Bennet (Person resident in Forum area); Gordon Emslie (Personal Licence Holder); Charles Gillespie (Person resident in Forum Area); Madelene Hunt (Person resident in Forum Area); PC Andy Kane (Police Scotland (Substitute for Chief Inspector Waddell)); Nash Lalli (Personal Licence Holder); Iain Lovie (Scottish Grocers Federation); Warren Luke (Person resident in Forum Area); Bruce Rennie (District Bowling Association), and Thomas Ross (Licensing Standards Officer).

CHAIR: Councillor Nicol.

COUNCIL OFFICERS

PRESENT: Alison Barr, Consumer Protection Manager; Andrew Cassells, Graduate Trainee; Arlene Fraser, Committee Services Officer; Douglas Frood, Licensing Standards Officer; Rose Mary Glackin, Clerk, Falkirk Licensing Board, and Robert Watson, Licensing Co-ordinator.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were intimated on behalf of Lorraine Fisher (Education); Chief Inspector Alan Waddell (Area Commander, Police Scotland), and Brian Pirie (Democratic Services Manager).

2. LICENSING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2013

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 11 December 2013 by the Clerk to the Licensing Board (a) setting out the work undertaken by the Board during 2013 in relation to activity under the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005; (b) advising of the number of premise and personal licences currently in force within the Council area; (c) summarising the number of applications for new premise licences, provisional premise licences and variations to current premise licences; (d) informing of the outcome to the seven premise licence review applications received during 2013; (e) providing an analysis of the types of applicant for occasional licences and the total number of hours granted by way of occasional licences for 2013; (f) detailing the number of applications received for extended hours per month and the application outcomes, and (g) attaching, as an appendix, details of occasional licence applications by type, nature of function and the hours sought.

Discussion focused on the following:

- the licensed trade in Falkirk appeared to be well-run since the introduction of the 2005 Act
- there was no significant rise in the number of premise and personal licences within the area
- marked increase in the number of occasional/extended hours licence applications being submitted
- the problems associated with the management and control of occasional licences

Noted the Report.

3. UPDATE ON THE STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

An open discussion on the update on the statement of licensing policy took place, with the following being highlighted:

- the fact finding exercise required to be concluded
- there was no evidence coming forward to support radical changes to the current policy
- national statistical information indicated that, from the 14 indicators, Falkirk was higher than the national average in 3 indicators
- the availability and impact on the intervention process
- Police Scotland's reporting guidelines and how interpretation and recording of cases can affect the outcome of crime statistics
- there was no hotspots identified within the area
- possibility of developing stricter regulations within the policy statement and introducing best practice guidance for occasional licences applications
- difficulties associated with the over-consumption of alcohol

Noted.

4. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Personal Licence Refresher Training

The Clerk advised that, in terms s.87 of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, after five years of a personal licence being issued, mandatory refresher training is required to be undertaken by the personal licence holder (PLH). Therefore those who were issued with personal licences in August 2009 will require to undertake refresher training by August 2014.

Alison Barr outlined the work implications for Licensing staff. She also advised that information was available on the Council's website, that all PLHs would be contacted by letter advising of their requirement and that procedures were in place for the Licensing Section to follow up to ensure the requirements have been complied with by PLH.

Noted.