

FALKIRK COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the FALKIRK LOCAL LICENSING FORUM held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on TUESDAY 19 MAY 2015 at 6.00 p.m.

FORUM MEMBERS

PRESENT: Inspector Billy Drummond (Police Scotland); 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); Warren Luke (Person resident in Forum Area); Bruce Rennie (District Bowling Association);

APOLOGIES: Jill Bennet (Person resident in Forum Area); Lorraine Fisher (Education); Charles Gillespie (Person resident in Forum Area); Aileen Holliday (NHS Forth Valley); Ian Lovie (Scottish Grocers Federation); Thomas Ross (Licensing Standards Officer), and Kate Smith (Young Person).

CHAIR: Gordon Emslie.

COUNCIL OFFICERS

PRESENT: Alison Barr, Consumer Protection Manager; Arlene Fraser, Committee Services Officer, and Rose Mary Glackin (Clerk to Falkirk Council Licensing Board).

1. MINUTE

The Forum **approved** the minute of meeting held on 26 March 2015, subject to the amendment at Item 3 (8th bullet point, 2nd sub point) to read “that on average neighbourhoods had 11 outlets within a 10 minute walk and alcohol related hospitalisations were 27% lower than Scotland as a whole”.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTE

There were no matters arising from the minute.

3. CHIEF CONSTABLE’S REPORT

A copy of the Chief Constable’s annual report for 2013/14 had been previously circulated for members’ information. The report outlined the activity which has been undertaken over the previous 12 months for the Falkirk Council area and sets out the steps which Police Scotland will take during 2014/15.

Inspector Drummond referred to the work carried out by dedicated licensing teams located within each of the 14 local Divisions, and which are supported by Police Scotland’s National Licensing Policy Unit (NLPU).

Reference was made to the National Priorities section within the report and, in particular to the recognition by Police Scotland on the need to protect the public at major events and festivals and that the management of alcohol consumption is crucial to event management. The forum sought confirmation on whether agreed alcohol management plans had been developed for major events in Glasgow/Edinburgh and if so, whether these had been forwarded to the

appropriate licensing boards. Billy advised that he would seek clarification and update the forum at a future meeting.

Discussion took place in relation to both recent and forthcoming major events at the Falkirk Stadium and to the meetings between event organisers and other associated agencies to ensure that all necessary arrangements and risk assessments had been undertaken prior to large scale events taking place.

Mention was also made to the impact on resources when patrons were dispersing from concerts. This not only affects Police Scotland's resources, but also on licensed premises within Falkirk town centre, on local taxis firms and congestion problems on the local road network.

The forum also discussed the intervention process which is a formal agreement between the premises licence holder and the licensing department, designed to aid premises management in addressing specific problems linked to their premises. Four premises interventions had been entered into within the Falkirk Council area during the specified period, with none requiring any further action nor review hearing.

During general discussion, it was acknowledged that there was a duty on Courts to give notice to licensing boards of any convictions received by a premises licence/personal licence holders. However, Alison confirmed that no such notifications had ever been received by Falkirk licensing section.

4. STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY – UPDATE

Rose Mary advised that the draft statement of licensing policy would be presented to the June meeting of the Licensing Board. A public consultation would be carried out, with a further report being presented thereafter to the Licensing Board in order to consider any comments received.

Noted.

5. UPDATE ON REVOKED PERSONAL LICENCE – ACCEPTED QUALIFICATIONS

Alison advised that 379 personal licences had been revoked within the Falkirk Council area. She referred to the level of inconsistency between licensing boards in relation to what training qualification was acceptable in relation to those persons who had surrendered their personal licence, but had thereafter applied for a new licence. She confirmed that in our area, there had been a small number of persons who had re-applied and their original recognised qualification had been accepted. However, a number of those applicants had undergone more recent training.

Noted.

6. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN WORK OF THE FORUM

A short discussion took place on the suggestion to have meetings of the forum within different venues within the Falkirk Council area. It was agreed that, in light of costs which would be incurred with hall lets etc. that the meetings would continue to be held within the Municipal Buildings. However, due to the “free after 3.00 p.m.” car park incentive being lifted, arrangements would now be made to allow members of the forum to access the rear car park when attending forum meetings. Members would require to supply their car registration number to the Clerk in order that arrangements could be made prior to the next meeting in August.

Noted.

7. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Alison advised that the bowling club training event which had taken place within Falkirk Indoor Bowling Club on 22 April 2015 had been a success and had been well attended. It was envisaged that this type of event would take place in future for other specific licence holders or in relation to specific licensing matters e.g. the introduction of new policy.

Noted.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 13 August 2015 at 2.30 p.m.

DRAFT