

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOM 2/3, CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND ON THURSDAY, 8 JANUARY 2009 AT 2.00PM

Present:-

Councillor C J James

Councillors

D Buttle
D K Edwards
C E Hughes

Councillors

R D Jenkins
D N W Jones
W B Morgan

Councillors

P J White
M C Wilkins
R Williams

Officers:

L Jones - Head of Trading Standards
Y Witchell - Licensing and Registration Officer
P Gavigan - Principal Solicitor
M Galvin - Senior Cabinet and Committee Officer

21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the following Members:

Councillor M L Simmonds - Recuperating
Councillor K Watts - Doctor's Appointment
Councillor M W Butcher - Family Commitments

22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were made and both the Members in question left the meeting whilst the item was being considered:

Councillor R D Jenkins - Agenda item 4 (ii) - Personal and prejudicial interest in that his daughter and future son-in-law are taxi owners.
Councillor C E Hughes - Agenda item 4 (ii) - Personal interest in that the person subject of the report and making the request is a tenant of his.

23 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 17 October 2008, be approved as a true and accurate record.

24 LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1982
CONTROL OF STREET TRADING, PORTHCAWL

The Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Regulatory Services submitted a report, which sought approval to change the designation of the Eastern Promenade, Porthcawl from a consent street to a prohibited street, for the purposes of street trading, and to carry out a consultation on an interim street trading policy for Porthcawl, in light of the forthcoming regeneration proposals for the town, and the development of a Street Trading Policy that would compliment this.

The report gave some background information, and the current situation, particularly with regard to overall street trading in the town centre.

The current proposal was to change the Eastern Promenade from a consent to a prohibited street which would prohibit street trading completely at this location.

A plan showing the proposed extent of the prohibited street was shown at Appendix 'A' to the report, with this option being an interim measure pending the development of a Regeneration Action Plan for the whole of the town centre.

The remainder of the report concentrated upon the benefits of street trading in Porthcawl, and the type of policies that could be adopted.

Any change of the Eastern Promenade from a consent to prohibited street on the current Street Trading Order would require public notice of such change amounting to £1,100 from the Porthcawl Regeneration budget allocation.

Members asked a number of questions regarding the current situation with regard to street trading at this area, including the type of traders located there, e.g. kiosks, ice cream vendors and tricycles selling products, and the horse and cart provision which provides rides for the public.

These queries were responded to by the Licensing and Registration Officer.

The Head of Trading Standards advised that the Council were looking to prosecute highway traders unaccompanied by vehicles, and that this was ongoing.

Concern was raised over on-street parking congestion along the promenade. Further concern was raised over the costs for advertisement costs for the issuing of public notices regarding the charge of designation of the street, which Members felt should be taken up further by appropriate officers.

RESOLVED: That Committee:

- (1) Gives Notice of the intention to pass a resolution to vary the original resolutions passed by the Council's Environmental Health Committee on 31 March 1993 and Council Policy and Resources Committee on 19 June 1996, that the designation of Eastern Promenade be changed from a consent to a prohibited street including all forecourts, roads, footways or other areas adjacent to the street in all directions for a distance of thirty metres for the purposes of street trading;
- (2) Notes that a further report will be presented on a proposed street trading policy for the Esplanade, and West Drive Porthcawl, following a short consultation with interested parties.

25 TOWN POLICE CLAUSES ACT 1847, LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976: AGE POLICY IN RESPECT OF HACKNEY CARRIAGES AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES

The Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Regulatory Services submitted a report, regarding a request to amend the current age policy in respect of the licensing of hackney carriages and private hire vehicles, received from a member of the trade.

The Licensing and Registration Officer reminded Members of the current policy in respect of the age of vehicles, an extract of which was shown in Appendix 'A' to the report.

In paragraph 4 of the report the request to amend the current age policy was detailed, which if acceded to, would allow for Hackney Carriages up to three years old or in pristine condition to be accepted for first licensing.

The report also advised of a taxi survey that was to be undertaken by commissioned Consultants, and that it would perhaps be advisable not to change current vehicle policies at this point in time, until the conclusion and finding of the survey was known.

RESOLVED: That Committee defers consideration of the above request, pending further reports on the outcome of the Bridgend consultation on taxi provision and use, and the Department of Transport consultation on taxi accessibility regulations.

26 LICENSING ACT 2003
RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY MEETING

The Head of Trading Standards presented a report on behalf of the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Regulatory Services, so as to advise the Committee of setting up of the Responsible Authorities Group.

He explained that this Group, created under the Licensing Act 2003, comprised of public bodies that are obliged to make representations to the licensing authority in relation to the grant, variation or review of licences. These responsible authorities were outlined in the report.

At these meetings, important issues would be discussed, surrounding the Licensing Act, for example on alcohol and licensing of premises issues and matters could be discussed and problems pre-empted before they materialise and/or escalate. The Group would also strengthen partnership working and encourage joined up thinking.

He further added that other local authorities had introduced such a Working Group, with some success.

Quarterly meetings were currently proposed, though further meetings over and above these could be convened should the need arise.

The Head of Trading Standards confirmed when asked, that he would arrange for the Trade Guidance packs aimed initially at Bridgend Town Centre Licensees, to be sent to Members of the Committee.

This training for licensees would be launched prior to the commencement of the forthcoming Six Nations tournament.

RESOLVED: That the Committee notes the report.

The meeting closed at 2:30am.