

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOM 2/3, CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND ON THURSDAY, 26TH NOVEMBER 2009 AT 2.00PM

Present:-

Councillor D K Edwards – Vice-Chairperson in the Chair

<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Councillors</u>
M W Butcher	D A Unwin
E M Dodd	P J White
C E Hughes	M C Wilkins
D N W Jones	R Williams

Officers:

Y Witchell	-	Licensing and Registration Officer
P Gavigan	-	Principal Solicitor
M A Galvin	-	Senior Cabinet and Committee Officer

46 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the following Members:

Councillor D Buttle	-	Hospital Appointment
Councillor C J James	-	Holiday
Councillor R D Jenkins	-	Doctor's Appointment
Councillor K Watkins	-	Prior Engagement

47 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

48 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee dated 13th August 2009, be approved as a true and accurate record, subject to Councillor C E Hughes being added to the list of apologies for absence, with the reason for his non-attendance at the time being due to the fact he was on holiday.

49 LICENSING ACT 2003:
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND JOINT ENFORCEMENT
PROTOCOL BETWEEN BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL PARTNER
AUTHORITIES

The Licensing and Registration Officer presented a report on behalf of the Assistant Chief Executive – Legal and Regulatory Services, the purpose of which was to seek the approval of the Committee to formally adopt a Memorandum of Understanding and Joint Enforcement Protocol between the Council (i.e. various Departments), South Wales Police, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service and certain internal Council departments.

The report gave some background information which advised that the Licensing Act 2003 introduced a new regime for the licensing of a variety of activities, including places where alcohol is sold and entertainment is provided.

The Act set out four equally weighted licensing objectives to be promoted by the Licensing Authority in conjunction with other “responsible Authorities” and the licensed trade.

The Licensing and Registration Officer informed the Committee that statutory guidance strongly recommended that certain protocols be set up between responsible Authorities including the Licensing Authority, and the Memorandum and Joint Protocol attached at Appendix A to the report, sought to formalise common aims and partnership working that has been established, particularly since the introduction of the 2003 Act.

The Licensing and Registration Officer further advised that the Memorandum of Understanding was based on the joint promotion of the licensing objectives outlined in paragraph 4.1 of the report and that effective co-operation and liaison with various bodies was essential to ensure that premises licence holders, Designated Premises Supervisors, Personal Licence Holders and Club Premises Certificate Holders understand and comply with the law.

The purpose of the protocol the report outlined was to promote efficient and effective co-operation between agencies when dealing with areas of mutual interest, to secure high levels of open communication, clear lines of responsibility regarding enforcement of the law and a proportionate and targeted approach to dealing with recognised problem premises.

The Licensing and Registration Officer advised that regular meetings, (i.e. monthly at present) were held involving the relevant Regular Responsible Authority representatives, where information could be shared and a strategic approach to assessing problem premises be discussed and established.

Aside of assessing problem premises, the Responsible Authority meetings had also been looking at positive steps to engage with traders to ensure the promotion of licensing objectives, and the Licensing and Registration Officer added that to that end, a recent partnership initiative had resulted in the launch of a Trade Guidance pack to licensees in Bridgend Town Centre.

The Licensing and Registration Officer then expanded upon some of the key provisions of the attached Appendix A, which she considered Members should be referred to in particular.

Following this submission both the Principal Solicitor and the Licensing and Registration Officer responded to questions from Members in relation to the report and supporting Memorandum of Understanding and Joint Enforcement Protocol 2009 between the Council as Licensing Authority and the South Wales Police and South Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

RESOLVED: That the Committee approves and endorses the Memorandum of Understanding and Joint Enforcement Protocol between Bridgend County Borough Council and Partner Authorities, attached at Appendix A to the report.

The meeting closed at 2.17pm.