

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOM 2/3, CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND ON WEDNESDAY, 4 AUGUST 2010 AT 2.00PM

Present:-

Councillor D K Edwards - Chairperson in the Chair

<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Councillors</u>
R D L Burns	R D Jenkins
M W Butcher	D N W Jones
D Buttle	D A Unwin
C E Hughes	C Westwood
C J James	R Williams

Officers:

K Watson	-	Principal Solicitor
Y Witchell	-	Licensing and Registration Officer
J Monks	-	Democratic Services Officer - Committee

59 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the following Members:-

Councillor E M Dodd	-	Holiday
Councillor B I Quennell		
Councillor M C Wilkins	-	Unwell

60 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

61 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 25 May 2010, be approved as a true and accurate record

62 LICENSING ACT 2003 - STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

The Licensing and Registration Officer submitted a report on the main findings of the consultation process which was required in connection with the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy for the period 2011-2013. The report was the first stage of the process required for Council to re-adopt the Policy under the Licensing Act 2003 which they were required to undertake every three years. Part of the process requires consultation on any proposed changes with agencies such as the South Wales Police, Town and Community Councils, Voluntary Sector representatives as well as arts and entertainment groups.

The Licensing and Registration Officer advised that although Parliament were currently reviewing the Licensing Act, Council were required to adopt the Policy in the interim period, as any changes to the Law were unlikely to take effect until after January 2011. She confirmed that she would report back to the Committee if any Government proposals were likely to have a significant impact on the work of the Licensing Authority.

She drew the Committee's attention to the Responsible Authority Group whose members included the South Wales Police and Public Protection. The Group's aim

was to ensure effective sharing of information in order to tackle problem premises, and since the last policy review a Memorandum of Understanding had been signed by the Group. A new Traffic Light Management System (TLS) had been developed with the Police and other responsible authorities to identify problem premises, which would enable concerns to be brought to the attention of the relevant licensed premises and for an action plan to be put in place. This approach would also promote 'Best Practice' and good management at licensed premises. The Licensing and Registration Officer took Members through the table of major issues raised by consultees, shown at paragraph 4.7 of the report as well as the general revisions to the Policy shown at Paragraph 4.9.

In response to a question from Members, the Licensing and Registration Officer advised that the Police and other responsible authorities already had the power to review licensing hours in troubled areas if there was a problem and the Government was looking at further measures relating to opening hours in areas where communities had voiced concerns or preferences.

One Member questioned the statistics in appendix A, which stipulated that the population of the Borough was just over 128,000 which contradicted the mid-term estimates shown as 133,000. The Licensing and Registration Officer would take this into consideration in the final Policy document.

Members enquired about applications for open air entertainment with bands playing live music and the possible sale of alcohol to youngsters at such events.

The Licensing and Registration Officer explained that such events usually involved a maximum of 500 people and a Temporary Events Notice (TENS) would be served on the local authority, with a copy of the TENS being issued to the Police who had the power to object but not local residents. Larger events required a full application which would enable residents or any interested parties to object, as the applicant would be required to place notices on the site of the proposed event as well as in the local newspaper. Unresolved representations would be dealt with by the Licensing Sub-Committee.

The Licensing and Registration Officer pointed out to Members various amendments to the draft Policy Statement shown as follows:-

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| <u>Paragraph 2.7</u> | - a typing error |
| <u>Paragraph 3.3 and 4.1</u> | - typing amendments |
| <u>Paragraph 5.4 and 5.6</u> | - Amended |
| <u>Paragraph 5.11</u> | - Updated |
| <u>Paragraph 5.12</u> | - Legal change |
| <u>Paragraph 7.1</u> | - Updated |
| <u>Paragraph 8.3</u> | - Updated |
| <u>Paragraph 8.5</u> | - Updated |
| <u>Paragraph 8.7</u> | - Updated from April and October 2010 - mandatory conditions would apply to licensed premises to provide free tap water and make alcohol available in a variety of measures, including small measures and half pints. |
| <u>Paragraph 9.11</u> | - Updated to contain Best Practice, including proof of age and awareness of proxy sales of alcohol. |
| <u>Paragraph 10</u> | - Updated to highlight the Traffic Management System. |
| <u>Paragraph 12.3</u> | - Updated to reflect the change in law to allow Members to make representations. Members had previously received a report which had been presented to Council explaining |

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the implications if a Member of the Committee wished to submit representations.

One Member referred to Paragraph 5.7 of the draft Policy Statement and asked if the Licensing Authority had made any decisions which involved restrictions on the boundaries of premises.

The Licensing and Registration Officer advised that full statutory guidance was given and each case examined on its own merits and the authority had not adopted a definition of what constituted the vicinity of the premises by reference to a particular catchment area.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee noted the findings of the consultation and the proposed revision to the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy.

The meeting closed at 2.40pm.