

# LICENSING COMMITTEE

**Date:** 4 March 2009

**Venue:** East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

**Time:** 7.30 pm

**Present:** Councillors:- **Albert Campbell (Chairman)**  
**Anna Sauntson (Vice-Chairman)**  
**Andy Mercer (Leader of the Council)**

**Peter Bedford**  
**Richard Gell**  
**Glenn Harwood MBE**  
**Gill Mercer**

**Brian Northall**  
**Rupert Reichhold**  
**Ron Silver**

**Also Present (for item 393) – Sgt. Ian Fletcher (Northamptonshire Police)**

## PART A ITEMS

### **387. COUNCILLOR RICHARD GELL**

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Gell as a member of the Committee following changes to Committee membership at the Council meeting on 2 March 2009 (minute 380 refers).

### **388. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 October 2008 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to the change in the time of the meeting to "7.30pm".

### **389. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillors Peter MacGovern and Sarah Peacock sent their apologies.

### **390. DECLARATIONS AND QUESTIONS**

There were no declarations and no questions.

### **391. LICENSING ACTIVITY**

The Committee received and noted details of licences issued under the Licensing Act 2003 between 1 September and 31 December 2008. Members asked questions about specific premises. Minor changes to the format of the report were agreed for the future.

**392. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:**

That the public and press (with the exception of Sgt. Fletcher) be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business because exempt information, as defined under paragraph 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, may be disclosed

**393. LICENSING ACT 2003 - CRIME STATISTICS FOR LICENSED PREMISES**

Further to minute 353 (12 March 2008), the Committee received an analysis of criminal activity relating to licensed premises in East Northamptonshire, covering the period March 2008 to February 2009. Members also received a ComPASS report to the Crime & Disorder Partnership showing that, although above target, there was a downward trend in violence in Rushden town centre (the only town in East Northamptonshire for which details were available).

Reference was made to the Licensing Incident Matrix, which used a “traffic light” system, classifying premises under Red, Amber and Green. It was noted that there were no Red or Amber premises in East Northamptonshire, and Sgt. Ian Fletcher gave details of the work undertaken to manage the situation. He also answered Members’ questions and commented on various aspects relating to crime and disorder linked to licensed premises, including the scoring mechanism used to determine the Red, Amber and Green classifications, and potential reviews.

The Leader of the Council asked whether it was possible to add a condition to licences relating to off licences and supermarkets which would enable containers to be endorsed with details of the vendor, to aid further investigations by the Police. The Licensing Officer confirmed that it was not a standard condition at present.

Following a question, the Democratic Services Manager confirmed that Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licensing issues did not come within the remit of the Licensing Committee in view of the specific wording in the Licensing Act 2003 and the Gambling Act 2005. He undertook to remind Members of the consideration given by the Council of the need to make a clear distinction between the areas of licensing.

**RESOLVED:**

That representations be made to the appropriate Government department in favour of the introduction of a standard condition to be imposed on off sales which would require containers to bear details of the vendor.

**Chairman**