

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Date: 4 March 2013

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30 pm

Present: Councillors:- Glenn Harwood MBE (Chairman)

Tony Boto	Barbara Jenney
Pauline Bradberry JP	Andy Mercer
Richard Gell	Gill Mercer
Glenvil Greenwood-Smith	Bob Nightingale

Sgt. Mark Worthington (Northamptonshire Police)

425. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2012 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

426. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Sylvia Hughes, Brian Northall and Anna Sauntson.

427. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

428. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

There were no questions.

429. LICENSING ACTIVITY

The Committee received and noted details of applications received under the Licensing Act 2003 in the previous six months, broken down into new premises licences and licence variations, removals of Designated Premises Supervisors (DPS), transfers, Interim Authority Notices, Temporary Event Notices (TENs), personal licences and changes to details, and notifications of interest.

Members raised concerns regarding the number of DPS that had changed in a six month period and asked whether this had an impact on the workload for Licensing Enforcement. Members were advised that it was not unusual for a DPS to change on a regular basis, but in general, bar staff at premises remained the same, which aided the retention of knowledge of a customer base. These changes did not negatively impact on Licensing Enforcement workloads.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report be noted.

430. LICENSING ACT 2003 - CRIME STATISTICS FOR LICENSED PREMISES AND ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY STATISTICS

Further to minute 353 (12 March 2008), the Committee received and noted an analysis of criminal activity relating to licensed premises in East Northamptonshire, covering the period February 2012 to January 2013. A breakdown of the three licensed premises where most crime had occurred was supplied to the meeting, detailing the manner of offence committed. In addition, monthly crime volumes covering East Northamptonshire for the same period were supplied. These crime volume statistics detailed the percentage of crimes perpetrated where violence was used, and whether the offender had been under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time.

For the period February 2012 to January 2013, there had been 81 crimes on licensed premises in East Northamptonshire.

Members also received Accident and Emergency statistics from Northamptonshire NHS covering Kettering and Northampton hospitals. The statistics broke down the figures for the number of assault victims, the percentage of those assaults taking place on licensed premises and the number involving alcohol. Members noted that, for the period October 2012 to December 2012, of the 427 assault victims attending Accident and Emergency, only four had been assaulted in East Northamptonshire and of those, only one was associated with a licensed premise, although three were associated with alcohol.

The following points, comments and requests were made during the discussion on this item:-

- Gathering of statistics by the NHS was a recent development, and did not take into account hospital admissions outside of Northamptonshire. It was hoped that, with time, these statistics would increase in accuracy.
- The standard of management in licenced premises across the district was generally positive and proactive, with members appreciating the efforts made to report crimes in order to maintain good premises.
- Pubwatch was still well attended, especially in Rushden and Higham; Sgt Mark Worthington would be in attendance at the next meeting in April.
- Operation Honey had recently taken place in the district, with under-age test purchases taking place at ten off-licences. Two premises had sold to under-age persons as a result of this operation and had been issued with fixed penalty notices. The 20% failure rate was deemed a disappointment by the committee.
- Crime figures for The Feathers in Rushden were explained as being a result of late opening until 3am and a very proactive management policy detecting offences. It was noted that the management worked closely with police, and door staff wore body cameras to record and supply footage to the police.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report be noted.

431. LICENSING ACT 2003 - UPDATE

The Commercial Health Manager presented a report to members to inform them of proposed changes to the Licensing Act 2003.

Members were advised that as a result of the public consultation "Rebalancing the Licensing Act" held in 2012, the Government had announced several proposed changes to the licensing regime.

A new policy for entertainment had been devised, and as such, performance of both plays and dance would no longer require a licence between 0800-2300 hours for audiences of up to 500 people. Indoor sport would also no longer require a licence for audiences of up to 1,000 people and covering the same hours.

The Government had also proposed to exempt the following venues from most forms of entertainment licensing:

- Community venues
- Schools
- Nurseries
- Hospitals
- Circuses

Members noted that although these changes were anticipated to be introduced in April 2013, the exact details and timings were yet to be confirmed.

Members noted that circuses were included in the proposal as a public entertainment requiring a licence at every location they visited. This was considered to be overly burdensome hence their inclusion.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report be noted.

432. TOM MORRISSEY

The Chairman advised the committee that the Licensing Enforcement Officer, Tom Morrissey, would be retiring from ENC in July after long service, and as such this would be his final committee meeting.

He thanked Mr Morrissey for all of his input and assistance over that period, noting that he had been a pleasure to work with and would be extremely difficult to replace. All members of the committee registered their grateful thanks for the work undertaken by Mr Morrissey.

Chairman

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Date: 11 March 2013

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30 pm

Present: Councillors:-

Richard Lewis	(Chairman)
Glenvil Greenwood-Smith	(Vice-Chairman)
Steven North	(Leader of the Council)
Glenn Harwood MBE	(Deputy Leader of the Council)

Peter Baden	Marika Hillson
David Brackenbury	Dudley Hughes JP
John Farrar	Andy Mercer
Roger Glithero JP	Rupert Reichhold

433. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2013 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

434. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Wendy Brackenbury, Sue Homer and Jeremy Taylor.

435. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following interests were declared in the agenda items specified below:-

Councillors	Item	Nature of Interest	DPI	Other Interest
Councillor Andy Mercer	11 – Legal Shared Service	Northamptonshire County Councillor		Yes
Councillor Dudley Hughes	11 – Legal Shared Service	Northamptonshire County Councillor		Yes
Councillor Rupert Reichhold	11- Legal Shared Service	Northamptonshire County Councillor		Yes
Councillor John Farrar	6 – Homelessness Grant	Chairman of Spire Homes		Yes
Councillor John Farrar	12 – Public Health Funerals	Business undertaken with Funeral Directors		Yes

436. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

There were no questions received.