

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Date: 2 October 2013

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30 pm

Present: Councillors:- Glenn Harwood MBE (Chairman)

Tony Boto

Richard Gell

Glenvil Greenwood-Smith

Barbara Jenney

Andy Mercer

Gill Mercer

Bob Nightingale

196. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2013 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

197. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Pauline Bradberry, Brian Northall and Anna Sauntson.

198. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

199. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

200. LICENSING ACTIVITY AND UPDATE REPORT

The Committee received a report detailing applications received under the Licensing Act 2003 in the previous six months, broken down into new licences and licence variations, Temporary Event Notices and personal licence applications received.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report be noted.

201. LICENSING LEGISLATION - UPDATE

The Health Protection Manager presented a report outlining changes to the licensing regime and consultations on proposals for further changes.

Government consultations were currently being carried out on the termination of the personal licence scheme under the Licensing Act 2003. The intention was to use the current Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) system to ensure the safe sale of alcohol. This would potentially lead to a loss of income to the Council and would prevent conditions being included elsewhere which required a personal licence to be held. However, it was noted that a DPS licence would enable the Council to exercise control over the licences issued for the District, whereas a personal licence was valid across the country, wherever it had been issued. The risk was that the issuing authority might not be aware of concerns affecting the licence holder which were known to other authorities.

The Committee noted the introduction of the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 which had been considered by the Policy and Resources Committee on 26 September 2013. Members raised a number of issues arising from the legislation and the licensing regime it introduced. Detailed guidance was awaited and it was noted that training would be arranged for Members in preparation for Licensing Panel Hearings which would consider applications where representations had been received.

The Criminal Records Policy of the Council had been in place for three years and was now subject to review. The Committee was asked to appoint Members to participate in this review.

A report would be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee in November 2013 regarding the proposed introduction of a licensing scheme for hire boats operating on the stretch of the River Nene in the District. This waterway was not part of the national licensing scheme operated by the Canals and Rivers Trust, although the reasons for this exclusion were not clear. Members expressed a number of concerns about the implications of adopting legislation to implement the licensing scheme and it was noted that neighbouring authorities through whose area the affected stretch of the River Nene also ran, were not intending to adopt a licensing scheme.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the report be noted.
- ii) That Councillors Glenvil Greenwood-Smith and Glenn Harwood be appointed to assist in the review of the Criminal Records Policy

202. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED:

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business because exempt information, as defined under paragraphs 1 and 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 may be disclosed.

203. LICENSING ACT 2003 – CRIME AND A&E STATISTICS

The Health Protection Manager presented a report providing the Committee with Accident and Emergency data for quarter 4 2012/13 and Quarter 1 2013/14. The crime statistics associated with licensed premises had not been received from the Police

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

Chairman