

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Date: 7 October 2009

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30 pm

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

Richard Gell
Glenn Harwood MBE
Peter MacGovern
Gill Mercer

Brian Northall
Ron Silver
Robin Underwood

Also Present (for item 170) – Sgt. Ian Fletcher (Northamptonshire Police)

PART A ITEMS

166. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2009 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Comments were made on minute 393 relating to the possible imposition of a condition enabling details of the vendor to be given on containers, and whether the Police might call for a condition to be imposed on licences for specific off sales and supermarket premises should there be a problem with under age drinking.

167. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Peter Bedford and Anna Sauntson (Vice-Chairman) sent their apologies.

168. DECLARATIONS AND QUESTIONS

There were no declarations and no questions.

169. LICENSING ACTIVITY

The Committee received and noted details of applications received under the Licensing Act 2003 between 1 March and 15 September 2009, broken down into new licences, variations, reviews, Temporary Event Notices and personal licences.

Members noted that the Government had introduced a minor variation process and a new condition for community premises, following a review of the legislation. The Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 14 September 2009, had recommended, to Council, delegation to Officers for minor variations (minute 135 refers).

170. LICENSING ACT 2003 - CRIME STATISTICS FOR LICENSED PREMISES

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 September 2008 to August 2009. Members also noted the reduction in town centre violence in Rushden since March 2008.

The Committee raised a number of points and asked questions, which were addressed by the Officers and Sgt. Fletcher. The main issues were:-

- Despite the reduction of crime in the figures presented, Members believed that crime levels were still unacceptable
- It was appreciated that the information presented only covered crimes but there were many other incidents reported and some incidents, Members believed, were not reported to the Police
- Attention was drawn to a recent Licensing Panel hearing relating to premises in Rushden and the absence of any evidence presented by the Police. Members felt it was essential for the fullest picture to be given to enable Panels to take all evidence into account before reaching a decision
- A consistent approach regarding attendance of the Police was not being adopted throughout Northamptonshire and some Licensing Authorities had prevented the Police from giving evidence at hearings.

The question of Police attendance at hearings would be discussed at the forthcoming Licensing seminar to be held at East Northamptonshire House on 3 November. A Police Inspector would be attending.

Chairman