

# LICENSING COMMITTEE

**Date:** 3 March 2010

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

**Time:** 7.30 pm

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

Richard Gell  
Glenn Harwood MBE  
Peter MacGovern  
Gill Mercer

Brian Northall  
Rupert Reichhold  
Ron Silver  
Robin Underwood

**Also Present (for item – 395) PC Andy Glover** (Northamptonshire Police)

## PART A ITEMS

### **391. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2009 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### **392. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor Albert Campbell (Chairman) sent his apologies.

### **393. DECLARATIONS AND QUESTIONS**

There were no declarations and no questions.

### **394. LICENSING ACTIVITY**

The Committee received and noted details of applications received under the Licensing Act 2003 between August 2009 and January 2010, broken down into new premises licences and licence variations, reviews, variations and removals of Designated Premises Supervisors (DPS), transfers, Interim Authority Notices, Temporary Event Notices (TENs), personal licences and changes to details.

Reference was also made to –

- Recent consultations relating to live music, simplifying the TENs application process and relevant offences. Views had been sought from Members and consultation responses had been submitted. The results of these consultations should be published by DCMS in May 2010.
- Publication of a consolidated version of the s182 guidance in December 2009 – which had been distributed to Members. This had now been superseded by a January 2010 version of the guidance incorporating changes introduced by the Police and Crime Act 2009. The following measures were highlighted:

- a mandatory code of practice for alcohol retailers;
- elected Members of licensing authorities included as interested parties;
- reclassification of lap dancing clubs so they require a sex establishment licence.

Elected Members were now considered to be interested parties for the purposes of the Licensing Act 2003, and as such they could comment on applications, variations and call for reviews of licences. There was specific guidance for interested parties that had been provided to Members.

Members drew attention to the category, in the report, involving removals of DPS and the Licensing Officer undertook to provide further information on the specific cases.

### **395. 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 March 2009 to February 2010. The level of town centre violence in Rushden was still reducing; in March 2009, there had been 110 incidents and the current figure was 48. The 10% reduction target was being exceeded.

The Committee raised a number of points and asked questions, which were addressed by the Officers and PC Glover. Members recognised that the statistics provided by the Police covered a full year and that there had been recent reductions in the number of incidents at particular premises and that the statistics did not take into account the measures which were being taken to address problem areas. It was **agreed** that the statistics needed to be supplemented by further information provided by the Licensing Enforcement Officer together with the RAGs matrix for the previous 3 months.

The other points raised included:-

- Underage sales – Trading Standards had undertaken 9 “test purchases” and at 3 of the premises (in Rushden and Irthlingborough), alcohol had been sold. Appropriate action was being taken by the Police and the Licensing Enforcement Officer
- Concern about street drinking – up 28% in the County, although the new Chief Constable was concerned about it and a more proactive approach was being taken by the Police Licensing Unit
- Training for DPS – it was suggested that a “kite mark” be introduced to recognise DPS who had completed an appropriate course. A “Best Bar None” scheme was being rolled out by the Police.

### **396. SEMINAR ON LICENSING ISSUES**

Members received the notes of the Seminar held at East Northamptonshire House on 3 November 2009, set out in the Appendix to these minutes at pages 684 to 689 and considered the conclusion in minute 4.4.

Members referred to minute 6.0 and highlighted the full co-operation which was now being provided by the Police Licensing Unit on reviews of premises licences. This was very encouraging.

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the conclusion regarding the development of a consistent approach amongst Councils in Northamptonshire on decision taking on all licensing applications be fully supported.
- (2) That the Committee expresses its appreciation to the Police Licensing Unit for the way it is working together with the Council on reviews of premises licences.

**Chairman**

# **SPECIAL LICENSING COMMITTEE**

**Date:** 26 May 2010

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

**Time:** 5.30 pm

**Present:** Councillors -

Richard Gell

Glenn Harwood MBE

Andy Mercer (Leader of the Council)

Gill Mercer

Brian Northall

Rupert Reichhold

Ron Silver

## **27. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE MEETING**

In the absence of the Vice-Chairman, it was

### **RESOLVED:**

**28.** That Councillor Andy Mercer be appointed Chairman for the meeting.

## **29. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillors Anna Sauntson (Vice-Chairman), Peter Bedford, Peter MacGovern and Robin Underwood sent their apologies.

## **30. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE**

Further to minute 16(e) of the Annual Council meeting, it was reported that Councillor Albert Campbell had stepped down from the Committee.

### **RESOLVED:**

That Councillor Glenn Harwood MBE be appointed Chairman of the Committee for the remainder of the Council year.

**Chairman**