

LICENSING COMMITTEE
12TH NOVEMBER 2007

Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing-Sub Committee of Flintshire County Council held in County Hall, Mold, Flintshire on Monday 12th November 2007.

PRESENT: Councillor L.A.Sharps (Chairman)
Councillors L.A. Aldridge, S.R. Baker, B. Dunn, J.J. Griffiths, J. Ovens and M.J. Wright.

IN ATTENDANCE:
Health, Safety and Licensing Manager, Principal Solicitor and Democratic Services Manager.

APOLOGIES:
Councillors A.G. Diskin, J.F. Jones and P.J. Walkden.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were received.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 30th April 2007 were approved as a correct record.

3. LICENSING ACT 2003 – STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY 2008-2011

The Committee considered the report of the Acting Director of Environment and Regeneration which was presented by the Health and Safety Manager. The purpose of the report was to request the Committee to consider and adopt the Licensing Act 2003, Statement of Licensing Policy that would be in effect from 1st January 2008 for a three year period.

The report detailed the background to its preparation and the Head of Health & Safety indicated that consultation took place between June and September 2007 to invite observations or comments about the Policy after the first three year period of operation from 2004 – 2007. The report detailed those persons who had been consulted and the responses received. The responses, together with the appraisal and response to the comments, by the officers, were detailed in the Appendix to the report.

The officers had also suggested that the Policy should include paragraphs on two particular issues. The first was that a Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) should be responsible for only one licensed premises at a time. It was felt that effective supervision was compromised if a DPS held the position in a number of premises at the same time. The report detailed how this would be addressed. Members felt that this was a sensible suggestion.

The second point related to the advent of the 'Smoke Free Premises (Wales) Regulations 2007' which had significantly changed the way in which licensed premises operated. It was now common place for patrons to congregate outside licensed premises as they were no longer permitted to smoke inside. This had led to an increase in noise and disturbance issues and concerns about additional litter. It was recommended that the Policy should remind those in charge of premises that it was their responsibility to adequately supervise their customers both inside and outside their premises so as to prevent public nuisance and to ensure the smoking related litter did not accumulate. Members again very much supported this point.

Arising from the general discussion, Members enquired what measures were in place to enforce such provision. The Health & Safety Manager explained that colleagues from his Directorate had arranged a meeting and identified a number of problem locations and that measures were now in place to provide bins in specific problem areas. He explained how each of those areas had been identified.

On a general point, Members also expressed concern over difficulties caused by excessive drinking. They stressed that they do not wish to stop people's enjoyment but were concerned when such drinking led to incidents of violence and anti social behaviour generally. The Committee agreed that this was a national problem.

In response, the Health and Safety Manager reported upon a nationwide police initiative to clamp down on such behaviour, particularly in the build up towards the Christmas period. He explained that it would be necessary for Flintshire County Council in its role as the Licensing Authority, to support this initiative and this was welcomed by the Committee.

The Chairman commented upon his concerns on such matters and the tight controls that the Licensing Sub-Committee put in place when determining licensing applications. In concurring with the views expressed by Members, he reiterated the role of the Police in dealing with the anti-social behaviour caused by excessive consumption of alcohol.

A Member who was a former service Police Officer commented upon the role of the police and the difficulty they had, particularly in court proceedings, in such matters and this contribution was much appreciated by the Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the County Council be recommended to adopt the Licensing Act 2003 – Statement of Licensing Policy to come into effect on 1st January 2008 for a three year period, based on the recommendations contained in the report of the Acting Director of Environment and Regeneration.

4. **DURATION OF MEETING**

The meeting commenced at 9.30 a.m. and ended at 9.55 a.m.

5. **MEMBERS OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

There was one member of the press present.

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Chairman

SUMMARY OF DECLARATIONS MADE BY MEMBERS
IN ACCORDANCE WITH FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S
CODE OF CONDUCT

LICENSING COMMITTEE	DATE: 12TH November 2007
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MEMBER	ITEM	MIN. NO. REFERS
NO DECLARATIONS WERE MADE		