

Licensing Committee – 28 June 2011

Present Councillors Allgrove, Beaven, Brooks, Coles, Miss Durdan, Mrs Hill, Hunt, Miss James, R Lees, Mrs Lees, Meikle, Nottrodt, Mrs Reed and Mrs Waymouth

Officers: Charlotte Dale (Environmental Health Lead), Ian Carter (Licensing Manager), John Rendell (Licensing Officer), Olivia Walton (Licensing Officer) and Richard Bryant (Democratic Services Manager)

Others: Councillor Mrs Warmington
Councillors Davies, Dewdney, Hadley, Lillis, May and Westcott from West Somerset District Council

(The meeting commenced at 4.30 pm)

25. Appointment of Chairman

Resolved that Councillor Mrs Allgrove be appointed Chairman of the Licensing Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

26. Appointment of Vice-Chairman

Resolved that Councillor Coles be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Licensing Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

27. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 9 March 2011 were taken as read and were signed.

28. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Brooks and Mrs Waymouth declared personal interests as Members of Somerset County Council. Councillor Mrs Hill declared a personal interest as an employee of Somerset County Council.

29. Licensing Update

Considered report previously circulated, concerning the activities of the Licensing Service under the Licensing Act 2003, Gambling Act 2005 and Taxi Legislation, together with other general licensing matters.

Although there had been a downward trend in Licensing applications in recent months, there had been little change in the number of Premises Licences and Club Premises Certificates within Taunton Deane. Application numbers for personal licences had held steady while Temporary Event Notices had shown a slight increase.

One Licensing Sub-Committee had been held in the last three months and mediation resulted in an agreed position that was put before the Sub-Committee. The Premises Licence had subsequently been varied and issued.

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill was currently at the House of Lords stage. The Licensing Manager, Ian Carter, provided Members with an update on the potential implications of the matters within the Bill that related to the Licensing Act.

Further reported that there had been no significant change in the number of Gambling Act 2005 permits. The number of Permits, Registrations and Licences held in Taunton Deane remained low.

The licensed Taxi fleet within Taunton Deane had shown a small increase in vehicles since January 2011, but the number of drivers had fallen. The Licensing Team were conducting a pro-active operation to prevent drivers smoking in taxis.

Three meetings of the Taxi Forum had been held. Membership of the Forum was made up of representatives from licensed drivers and operators, Licensing Officers and Members of the Licensing Committee.

There had been a number of new Street Trading Consents and one new Pavement Café Permit issued since January 2011, but the overall numbers remained unchanged. Two applications requesting an extension of the timings into the evening for pavement cafes had been approved.

It was anticipated that the next Street Traders Forum would take place at the end of the Summer 2011.

Reported that the number of Animal Welfare licences held within Taunton Deane had dropped slightly. Details of the total number that had been issued were reported.

Twelve applications for Royal Wedding Street Parties had been received and one for the Big Lunch in June 2011. The team adopted the guidance from Central Government and worked with Democratic Services and the Police to provide an easy to use process for the parties and associated road closures.

Several areas of Licensing had seen increases in applications, but were generally in areas that attracted no fee. The income position was being closely monitored although it appeared that expected levels across the whole of Licensing were not likely to be as low as originally feared.

Resolved that the report be noted.

(The meeting ended at 5.12 pm.)

