

Taunton Deane Borough Council

Licensing Committee – 26 June 2012

Licensing Update Report

Report of the Licensing Officer

(This matter is the responsibility of Executive Councillor Ken Hayward)

1. Executive Summary

The report provides an update on the activities of the Licensing Service under the Licensing Act 2003, Gambling Act 2005 and Taxi Legislation together with other general licensing matters.

2. Background

- 2.1 This report is produced to keep the Council's statutory committee up to date with current arrangements and statistics relating to the Licensing Service.

3. Report

Licensing Act 2003

The number of premise licences granted during the period from February 2012 to April 2012 was up compared to the number of licences granted in the same period during 2011. There was a slight decrease in the number of Temporary Event Notices during March 2012 compared with last year this is most likely linked to the Royal Wedding which happened in April 2011. The number of Temporary Event Notices for April 2012 were slightly increased compared to April 2011 this is again most likely linked to the Queens Diamond Jubilee Celebrations taking place in June 2012. The total numbers of licences issued and notices given up to the end of April 2012 are set out in **Appendix 1**.

Gambling Act 2005

There was a decrease in the number of Permits, Registrations, Occasional Use Notices and Licences held with Taunton Deane from seven in the period of February to April 2011 to two in the period from February to April 2012. The total numbers of Permits, Registrations and Licences issued from February 2012 to the end of April 2012 are set out in **Appendix 2**.

Taxis

The number of Hackney Carriages & Private Hire Drivers licensed and renewed slightly increased in the period from February to April 2012 compared to the same period in 2011. Overall there was an increase in the number of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle grants, transfers and renewals and Private Hire Operators numbers remained static compared to the same period in 2011. The total numbers of Licences issued and applications received up to the end of April 2012 are set out in **Appendix 3**.

Taxi Forum

The 6th Taxi Forum was held on 19 June 2012. Membership of the Forum is made up of representatives from licensed drivers and operators put forward by the trade themselves, Licensing Officers and members of the Licensing Committee.

The Licensing Team would be happy to send notes of the meeting, when published, to any members who would like to see them.

A verbal report of topics discussed and the actions taken since the last Forum will be presented to the Committee.

Street Trading & Pavement Cafes

Enquiries into positions available in the High Street for Street Trading remain high. The total number of permits and licences issued up to the end of April 2012 are set out in **Appendix 4**.

The Licensing Team together with Economic Development, Project Taunton and Taunton Tourist Information Centre are working closely together to generate new areas for markets and street trading in Castle Green, Somerset Square and Goodlands Gardens. A meeting was held on 24 May 2012 with Taunton Farmers Market where we discussed the market trading in Somerset Square on a Saturday as well as continuing to trade in the High Street on Thursday. It is hoped that this will begin in July 2012. Blackdown Hills Market is also interested in holding a market in this area promoting local artisans.

Animal Welfare Licensing

The number of animal boarding (cats and dogs) has remained the same since the same period in 2011. The total numbers of licences consents and permits issued up to the end of April 2012 are set out in **Appendix 5**.

Other Licensing

The total number of licences, consents, registrations and permits issued at the end of the last quarter are set out in **Appendix 6**. These figures show an increase in the number of House to House Collections and Street Collections in the Borough significantly for Street Collections during February 2012 compared to the same period in 2011. As members will be aware there are no fees issued for these.

Jubilee Weekend

The Licensing Team carried out monitoring together with Cllr Kelly Durdan over the Jubilee Bank Holiday Weekend at Taunton Racecourse for Cosmo Festival, Somerset County Cricket Club for Elton John and also included visits to Taunton Taxi Ranks, Late Night Refreshment Premises in Taunton and Wellington and Street Trading in Taunton. A verbal update will be given at the Committee.

4. Finance Comments

None

5. Legal Comments

The legal implications are set out within the report.

6. Links to Corporate Aims

As an update report there are no links to specific corporate aims. However if the Licensing function were not carried out in an efficient manner, complaints or legal challenges may be brought that could undermine the work being done to support the Council's Corporate Strategy.

7. Environmental and Community Safety Implications

None identified.

8. Equalities Impact

Not required.

9. Risk Management

No risk identified.

10. Partnership Implications (if any)

None identified.

11. Recommendations

That the report be noted.

Contact: Olivia Walton
Licensing Officer

Tel: 01823 356343

E-mail: o.walton@tauntondeane.gov.uk

Licensing Act 2003

Licences Issued and Notices Given

	2011	2012
Premises Licences	384	397
Club Premises Certificates	29	29
Personal Licences	968	642
Temporary Event Notices	1664	1994

Applications Received and Notices Given

	February		March		April	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
Grant of a Premises Licence	2	4	1	6	3	2
Variation of a Premises Licence	1	1	1	6	2	1
Transfer of a Premises Licence	4	5	3	1	3	5
Change of Designated Premises Supervisor	9	6	3	9	7	11
Minor Variations	0	0	3	2	0	0
Grant of a Personal Licence	2	3	8	4	7	8
Temporary Event Notices given	21	24	32	19	33	35

Gambling Act 2005

Licences Issued and Notices Given

	2011	2012
Club Machine Permit	8	8
Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permits	5	7
Occasional Use Notices	13	19
Premises Licences	16	17
Prize Gaming Permits	0	0
Society Lotteries	190	190
Temporary Use Notices	0	0
Unlicensed Family Entertainment Centres	2	4
Notification of 2 or less Gaming Machines	60	60

Applications Received and Notices Given

	February		March		April	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
Applications for a Permit	0	0	0	0	0	0
Application for a Licence	1	0	0	0	0	0
Notification of Intent to have Gaming Machines	0	0	1	0	0	0
Occasional Use Notice	3	1	1	1	1	0

Taxis

Licences Issued

	2011	2012
Hackney Carriages	167	159
Private Hire Vehicles	30	30
Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Drivers	239	253
Private Hire Operators	27	29

Applications Received

	February		March		April	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
Hackney Carriage Licence (including renewals, transfers and vehicle changes)	25	20	8	13	21	19
Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Drivers Licence (including renewals)	15	18	26	24	7	18
Private Hire Vehicle Licence	2	3	4	4	1	2
Private Hire Operator Licence	1	0	0	1	2	1

Street Trading

Consents & Permits Issued

	2011	2012
Street Trading Consents	50	53
Pavement Café Permits	16	15

Applications Received

	February		March		April	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
New Consents	2	1	3	2	7	4

Animal Licensing

Licences Issued

	2011	2012
Zoo Licences	0	0
Pet Shop Licences	13	14
Dog Breeding Licence	2	2
Animal Boarding Licence	12	13
Riding Establishment Licences	8	10
Dangerous Wild Animal Licences	2	2

Applications Received

	February		March		April	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
Zoo Licences (including renewals)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pet Shop Licences (including renewals)	0	0	0	0	1	0
Dog Breeding Licence (including renewals)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Animal Boarding Licence (including renewals)	1	0	0	0	0	0
Riding Establishment Licences (including renewals)	0	0	1	0	0	0
Dangerous Wild Animal Licences	0	0	0	0	0	0

Other Licensing

Licences, Registrations and Permits Issued

	2011	2012
Caravan Site Licences	42	42
House to House Collection Permit	78	93
Motor Salvage Operator	4	4
Scrap Metal Dealer Registration	13	17
Sex Shop Licences	2	2
Skin Piercing Registrations	175	181
Street Collection Permits	229	253

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Applications Received

	February		March		April	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
Caravan Site Licences	0	0	0	0	0	0
House to House Collection Permit	0	3	3	4	3	3
Motor Salvage Operator	0	0	1	0	0	0
Scrap Metal Dealer Registration	0	2	1	0	1	0
Sex Shop Licences	0	0	0	0	0	0
Skin Piercing Registrations	1	0	7	1	1	2
Street Collection Permits	3	10	23	7	2	2