

Minute

Orkney Local Licensing Forum and Orkney Islands Area Licensing Board

Wednesday, 6 November 2019, 11:00.

Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Place, Kirkwall.



Present

Orkney Local Licensing Forum:

David Brown, Barry Cockerham, Angela Crawford, Raymond Fallon, Andy McGinn, Katie Spence, Sergeant Richard Morris.

Orkney Islands Area Licensing Board:

Alexander G Cowie, Norman Craigie, Robin W Crichton, Barbara Foulkes, Steven B Heddle, J Harvey Johnston, Owen Tierney and Duncan A Tullock.

Clerk

- Hazel Flett, Senior Committees Officer.

In Attendance

- Orkney Islands Council:
 - Gillian Morrison, Executive Director of Corporate Services.
 - Gavin Mitchell, Head of Legal Services and Clerk to the Orkney Islands Area Licensing Board.
 - Elaine Sinclair, Legal Clerk.
- Dougie Campbell, Station Manager, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.
- Steven Groat, Chair, Orkney Pubwatch.
- Constable Simon Hay, Police Scotland.

Apologies

- Orkney Local Licensing Forum:
 - Bob Mackenzie.
 - Kelly-Marie McGuigan.
 - Malcolm Stout.
 - Dr Louise Wilson.
- Chief Inspector Matthew Webb, Police Scotland.

Not Present

- Orkney Local Licensing Forum:
 - Jean Tulloch.

1. Appointment of Chair

The Senior Committees Officer asked for nominations for Chair.

Duncan A Tulloch was appointed Chair for this meeting and took the Chair.

J Harvey Johnston joined the meeting at this point.

2. Minute of Previous Meeting

There had been previously circulated the draft Minute of the Joint Meeting of the Orkney Local Licensing Forum and Orkney Islands Area Licensing Board held on 16 January 2019.

On the motion of Duncan A Tulloch, seconded by Barbara Foulkes, the Minute of the Joint Meeting of the Orkney Local Licensing Forum and Orkney Islands Area Licensing Board held on 16 January 2019 was approved as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the Minute of the previous Joint Meeting held on 16 January 2019.

4. Pubwatch

Constable Simon Hay gave a powerpoint presentation on Pubwatch.

He introduced himself as the Preventions Intervention Officer, which was a partnership role, selecting different groups to work with in order to reduce crime. He had attended a meeting of Pubwatch in November 2018, when it was noted that, although Pubwatch was established in 2012, attendance at committee meetings had subsequently dwindled. Steven Groat had recently been appointed Chair and advised that he wanted to see Pubwatch rejuvenated with proper banning and appeals processes. Although Angela Crawford had started Pubwatch, initially all the admin work had fallen to her and, although efforts had been made to modernise, this had not happened.

Pubwatch had subsequently secured funding from the Alcohol and Drug Partnership which was used to purchase smartphones for all members, which replaced the radio system. Working in a noisy pub, it was often difficult to hear the radio. The smartphones were all locked with group chats for members to know what was going on. The Street Pastors also had a smartphone so they could be in the right place and focus their efforts. Police Scotland also had access to a smartphone; again to know where to focus efforts, rather than participating in any group chat with Pubwatch members.

Pubwatch had also received funding for an upgraded website, with a public facing side as well as a members area. Often customers would speak to bar staff about various issues, and the staff could signpost them to the website, where helpful contacts were also listed.

Constable Simon Hay then explained the previous banning system and how the members' area of the website had been developed to include an online process where, should someone wish to ban a person, a banning suggestion form was submitted online, with the other members then asked whether they agree or disagree with the ban and the length of ban. All personal detail was redacted. The majority decision was then communicated in letter form from the person. The appeal system was also explained, as there could be mitigating circumstances for an individual incident which had led to a ban. All letters contained links to the Orkney Alcohol and Counselling Advisory Service.

The website also contained policy documents, taken from the national Pubwatch scheme and refreshed and updated to be relevant to the local situation. The Duty of Care policy (a short document at only 50 words) discussed at previous meetings had now been adopted by Pubwatch. The Drugs policy was unique to Pubwatch.

Pubwatch was also in the process of registering with the Information Commissioner's Office, as well as looking at appropriate insurance cover.

An application would be made to the next round of funding from the Alcohol and Drug Partnership, including insurance at approximately £300 per annum, registration with the ICO at £45 per annum and upkeep costs for the website.

Duncan Tullock thanked Constable Hay for the very informative presentation.

Barbara Foulkes welcomed the rejuvenated Pubwatch and asked on current numbers of bans. Constable Hay confirmed that one person was currently banned with 7 or 8 warnings in place, as it was hoped this would stop any situation before it escalated to a ban, something which Pubwatch had not operated previously.

Harvey Johnston asked how Pubwatch operated financially. Constable Hay advised that Pubwatch had received funding of £4,750 to purchase the smartphones and set up the website. The smartphones all ran on wi-fi and did not leave the premises. A membership fee of £50 per annum had been agreed, however, if ongoing funding could be sourced, it was hoped that membership would become free, in order not to discourage premises from joining.

Regarding the banning process, Steven Heddle asked how a repeat offender could be identified, if certain information was redacted. Constable Hay advised that, as current administrator of the website system, he could tick a box if previously banned and/or warned and retain that information.

Steven Heddle suggested that various business cards could be available in pubs for customers and Constable Hay advised that he sat on the Community Alcohol Partnership who were currently looking to develop a Z card for that very purpose.

Andy McGinn thanked Constable Hay for the informative presentation and advised that the Forum wished to see membership of Pubwatch as a mandatory condition on licences, which he realised would require consultation and a decision ultimately by the Orkney Islands Area Licensing Board.

5. Orkney Street Pastors

Barry Cockerham gave a presentation on the work of Orkney Street Pastors. Good relationships were maintained with the local Police, with the Street Pastors able to respond to situations which the Police were reluctant to get involved with. For instance, they could assist intoxicated revellers to telephone for and get into taxis before they became a nuisance. The Street Pastors patrolled the streets of Kirkwall in a team of at least three people on Saturday nights between 00.00 and 03:00 or until the crowd outside Fusion dispersed. Each team must consist of at least one male and one female.

Records showed that, so far in 2019, the Street Pastors had:

- Provided support for 47 people.
- Calmed the situation in 17 incidents.
- Administered basic first aid to 7 people.
- Helped people into taxis on 11 occasions.
- Called an ambulance to one incident.
- Called the Police to attend four incidents.

On average each month the Street Pastors had handed out the following:

- 260 lollipops as tension breakers.
- 20 pairs of flip-flops to young women having difficulty in walking.
- 10 bottles of water.
- 3 survival blankets.

In addition, the Street Pastors had picked up over 50 discarded bottles and drinking glasses, with 10% on average broken.

There were currently 20 fully trained Street Pastors who were all active members of a local church.

Harvey Johnston asked if any of the Street Pastors had been verbally or physically attacked. Barry Cockerham advised that he personally had been involved in an incident in 2012, when the Street Pastors started out, but now folk were very appreciative and they would often seek out the Street Pastors the following week and thank them for assistance provided.

6. Any Other Competent Business

Members had no other competent business to raise.

7. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next joint meeting be held in November 2020 on a date to be confirmed.

8. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting concluded at 11:35.