

Minute

Orkney Local Licensing Forum

Wednesday, 6 November 2019, 10:00.

Committee Room 1, Council Offices, School Place, Kirkwall.



Present

- Representatives of Holders of Premises Licences and Personal Licences:
 - Angela Crawford.
 - Malcolm Stout.
- Representatives of Persons having functions relating to Health, Education or Social Work:
 - Katie Spence.
- Representatives of Persons Resident within the Forum's Area:
 - Barry Cockerham.
 - Andy McGinn.
- Representative of the Chief Constable of Police Scotland:
 - Sergeant Richard Morris.
- Licensing Standards Officer:
 - David Brown.

Clerk

- Hazel Flett, Senior Committees Officer, Orkney Islands Council.

In Attendance

- Orkney Islands Council:
 - Gillian Morrison, Executive Director of Corporate Services.
 - Elaine Sinclair, Legal Clerk.
- Police Scotland:
 - Police Constable Simon Hay.
- Steven Groat, Chair, Orkney Pubwatch.

Observing

- Orkney Islands Area Licensing Board:
 - Alexander G Cowie, Barbara Foulkes and Duncan A Tullock.

Apologies

- Representative of Holders of Premises Licences and Personal Licences:
 - Kelly-Marie McGuigan.
- Representative of Persons having functions relating to Health, Education or Social Work:
 - Dr Louise Wilson.
 - Bob Mackenzie.
- Representative of the Chief Constable of Police Scotland:
 - Chief Inspector Matthew Webb.

Not Present

- Representative of Holders of Premises Licences and Personal Licences:
 - Jean Tulloch.
- Representative of Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

Chair

- Andy McGinn, Convener.

1. Welcome

The Convener, Andy McGinn, welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly Steven Groat, Chair, Orkney Pubwatch; and PC Simon Hay, Police Scotland.

2. Minute of Previous Meeting

There had been previously circulated the draft Minute of the Meeting of the Licensing Forum held on 16 January 2019.

On the motion of David Brown, seconded by Angela Crawford, the Forum resolved to approve the Minute of the Meeting of the Licensing Forum held on 16 January 2019.

3. Matters Arising

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

4. Chief Constable's Report

There had been previously circulated the Chief Constable's Report to the Licensing Board for the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019.

Andy McGinn referred to page 6 of the Chief Constable's Report and asked how many meetings the Licensing Standards Officer held with the Police. David Brown advised that there was not a regular meeting schedule, however there were regular catch up meetings, as well as follow up meetings as a result of intelligence.

Andy McGinn referred to the visits to licensed premises and queried whether the 2,012 visits were across all of Orkney. PC Simon Hay confirmed that the majority of visits were to licensed premises on the mainland; however, should the Police be visiting any of the islands on Police business, they would combine this with a visit to licensed premises, should circumstances and timing allow.

Finally, Andy McGinn referred to the statistics on page 9, whereby the crimes and offences in and around licensed premises remained low, within only one recorded crime/offence in the six categories, being in the “refuse to quit licensed premises” category.

The Forum noted the Chief Constable’s Report to the Licensing Board for the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019.

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 in. 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.

The Street Pastors had an observer role on the Orkney Pubwatch committee and had a Pubwatch smartphone. The Street Pastors had been in operation since 2012 and there had been a definite reduction in anti-social behaviour, particularly at the rear of Fusion.

On behalf of Police Scotland, PC Simon Hay gave his appreciation of the services of Orkney Street Pastors, commenting that many other areas were envious of the level of service they provided locally. The Street Pastors certainly assisted in reducing anti-social behaviour in that they could approach a situation and have a calming influence, whereas a Police uniform sometimes had the opposite effect. PC Hay concluded by confirming the appreciation of the service, particularly as the Street Pastors were out in all weathers, in their own time and on a voluntary basis.

6. Licensing Standards Officer

David Brown provided a short update on the work of the Licensing Standards Officers, whereby, up to the start of September 2019, a total of 32 inspections had been carried out. In comparison, a total of 76 inspections had taken place during 2018. The reduced number was due to the current staffing situation within the overall Environmental Health service, resulting in himself and one other Environmental Health Officer in post. Accordingly, a decision had been taken to suspend routine inspections, although any complaint or other issue would be investigated, as the service focussed on other priorities in the short term.

Regarding the staffing vacancies, a third round of recruitment was about to commence, with the possibility of contracting the work also being investigated. The previous vacancy within Environmental Health had taken over two years to fill, therefore with the two current vacancies, this could take some time.

7. Any Other Competent Business

David Brown referred to an article in the Retailers' Bulletin, issued on 30 October 2019, in relation to Suicyder, provided by The Bearded Brewery. He was not aware of this product being sold in Orkney, however, should intelligence become known, the information would be circulated to the licensed trade accordingly.

8. Dates for Future Meetings

It was agreed that the Licensing Forum should meet in January, April, August and November 2020, with the joint meeting with Orkney Islands Area Licensing Board also in November 2020. The Clerk would circulate potential dates, noting that 10:00 on Wednesday suited most members.

9. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Convener declared the meeting concluded at 10:15.