

LICENSING COMMITTEE

10 June 2003

(7.00 p.m. to 7.03 p.m.)

PRESENT:-

Vice-Chair in the Chair:- Councillor Canavon

Committee Members:- Councillors Barrett, Mrs. Cheale, Curtis, Harris, Mrs. M.S. Jones, Lawrence, Maney, Rice, Sear and Sharpe

1. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Councillor Canavon welcomed guests to the meeting who were there to learn about democratic processes. He explained that the Council had set up a new Licensing Committee as the Licensing Bill 2003 was likely to be passed this summer which would bring about a significant enlargement of the licensing responsibility for the Authority.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. Betts, Curtis and R. Southam. The Committee expressed their best wishes to Councillor Mrs. Betts who was currently unwell.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor Mrs. M.S. Jones declared a personal interest as she was a Magistrate.

4. APPOINTMENT OF LICENSING APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE

The Committee was asked to make appointments to a Licensing Appeals Sub-Committee which would hear and determine appeals made by employees under the Council's Human Resources procedures, hear appeals in relation to refusal for registration as a door supervisor and also hear appeals against decisions in respect of discretionary housing payments.

RESOLVED:- That

the Chair, Councillor Mrs. Betts and Vice-Chair, Councillor Canavon and Councillors Mrs. Cheale, Lawrence and Sear be appointed to serve on the Licensing Appeals Sub-Committee.

Action:- Democratic Services

5. LICENSING ACT 2003 – PROGRAMME OF WORK

Consideration was given to an outline programme of work to prepare for the introduction of the new alcohol and entertainments licensing Regime. It was anticipated that the Licensing Bill 2003 would perhaps receive Royal Assent in early July with the main changes coming fully into place by the middle of 2004. These changes represented a significant enlargement of the licensing responsibilities of the local authority. In the future the authority would be responsible for granting premises licences to authorise the sale or supply of alcohol, the provision of "regulated entertainment" and provision of late night refreshment (sale of hot food or drinks between 11.00 p.m. and 5.00 a.m.). Between July and December 2003 the Authority would have to prepare and approve its Licensing Policy. It was anticipated that 1st January 2004 would be the first transitional date for existing licence holders to register their licences under the new system and to apply for variations, with the second transitional date occurring twelve months on from Royal Assent, when the Authority would assume full control of this function.

RESOLVED:- That

the outline programme of work, required to be undertaken by the Licensing Committee this year, to prepare for the introduction of the new alcohol and entertainments licensing regime be noted.

6. MEMBER DEVELOPMENT : LICENSING

The Committee advised that there would be significant training demands to understand the new act, regulations and guidance, and Members serving on the Licensing Committee and its Sub-Committees would have an important role in determining the many contested applications likely to arise under the new regime. It would be essential that the authority could demonstrate that it had a programme of on-going training to ensure that Committee Members were competent to perform this quasi-judicial function.

An all day Member Development session on alcohol and entertainments licensing had been arranged for Wednesday, 3rd September 2003. It was anticipated that the Local Authorities Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS) and the British Institute of Innkeeping would be promoting one day seminars for Council Members, which would hopefully be available later this year.

RESOLVED :- That

the arrangements that had been put in place for a Member Development Session in relation to the new licensing framework be noted. Alternative training opportunities will be sought for any Committee Members who cannot attend the seminar on 3rd September 2003.

C H A I R