

**MINUTES of MEETING of LOCAL LICENSING FORUM held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER,
KILMORY, LOCHGILPHEAD
on WEDNESDAY, 11 APRIL 2012**

Present:

Kenneth Harrison (Chair)

Alistair Davidson, Strathclyde Police
Eric Dearie, Licensing Standards Officer
Raymond Park, Licensing Standards Officer

- Why some Forums worked better than others
- What the learning points were; and
- Working together.

Alcohol Focus Scotland (AFS) was available to provide advice to LLFs if requested, but a Forum was under no obligation to contact them. However, AFS was unable to tell a Forum on how it should operate within their area.

She went on to suggest that the Forum consider the 5 Licensing Objectives and identify a key area(s) from which a particular issue(s) could be identified for development and recommendation to the Licensing Board (LB). This could potentially involve individual members taking ownership of a topic, discussing and researching the issue within their own and partner organisations and bringing it together in a cohesive format for presentation to the LB.

When presenting proposals to the LB, she suggested that the Forum put it in writing in a clear and concise manner, collect evidence and provide two or three recommendations for consideration. This would go some way to ensure improved communication and understanding between the Forum and the LB, and potentially help prevent the difficulties previously encountered during discussions.

She concluded her presentation by highlighting that the key to a successful relationship between a LLF and LB was communication. Members were then invited to ask questions.

Responding to a query on why some LLFs performed better than others, it was highlighted that they tended to be Forums which had dedicated administrative support, and members who had the time and capacity to collate evidence and present it to the LB in a cohesive format.

Decision

The Forum noted what Linda had said and thanked her for her interesting, informative and helpful presentation.

4. RE-THINKING OF ALCOHOL LICENSING - INTRODUCTION OF CURFEWS AND STAGGERING OF VENUE CLOSING TIMES

The Chair referred to a letter received from Mary Ellmers, Head of Training and Development, Alcohol Focus Scotland. In it she referred to the meeting of the Forum held on 26 October 2011 and the discussion held on the “Re-thinking Alcohol Licensing” report.

She wished to clarify to the Forum that the report was concerned with the links between licensing and the significant rise in the consumption of alcohol from the 1960s onwards and the associated rise of alcohol-related harms. The report did not contain any support for the idea of extending licenses hours and she was surprised that discussion on the report had led to a discussion on the possibility of extending licensing hours.

The Chair explained that there had been discussion at the meeting on Argyll and Bute Local Licensing hours, but that this had not taken place directly in conjunction with the report. It was noted that the Chair would respond to her concerns.

Following this, Raymond Park, LSO, explained that visits by the police to licensed premises tended to take place following notification from a LSO.

There had been an increase in licensee holders attending training, such as courses run by Servewise, which had helped to reduce problems in premises. Licensees had a better understanding and awareness of their responsibilities for persons within and leaving their premises, and the impact on the surrounding neighbourhood.

Decision

Noted that the position and that further police statistics would be brought to the next meeting of the Forum.

7. UPDATE FROM LSO

The Forum noted the update from Eric Dearie.

Decision

Members noted the position and thanked him for his report.

8. ISSUE TRACKER

The Forum noted the following updates;

- (i) National Outcomes for LLF – Second interim report would be out shortly;
- (ii) Promotion of LLF – work was on going;
- (iii) Local Licensing Forum Conveners – Linda Bowie invited the Chair to attend these meetings; and
- (iv) Educational DVD – Don't make the same mistakes we did – Ongoing

Caroline Church gave an update on the National Communities Project. She provided a range of statistics which had been gathered from the questionnaire issued to local residents in the Lochgilphead/Ardrishaig area. These were subject to change as further responses were returned.

9. FUTURE MEETING DATES

The Forum noted the following future meeting dates;

- Wednesday 18 July 2012
- Wednesday 17 October 2012