

THE FIFE COUNCIL - FIFE LICENSING FORUM – REMOTE MEETING

11 August, 2022

2.00 pm – 3.30 p.m.

PRESENT: John Barclay (Convener), Jim Bett, Catherine Chudleigh, Izzy Corbin, Ian Davidson, Chris Dickson, Neil Ewing, Douglas Hardaker, Stewart Ness, Paul Smith and Jo Worrall.

ATTENDING: Rebecca Shovlin, Policy Officer, Health and Social Care; Neil Macdonald, Team Manager - Legal Services and Elizabeth Mair, Committee Officer, Legal & Democratic Services.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Jeff Ellis, Gregor Hannah and Fiona Rattray.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

John Barclay welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made for the benefit of newer members.

2. MINUTE

The Forum considered the minute of meeting of 9 June 2022.

Decision

The Forum agreed to approve the minute.

3. APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBER

Chris Dickson, General Manager of the Dean Park Hotel, Kirkcaldy was in attendance, having previously expressed an interest in joining the Forum.

Decision

It was agreed unanimously that Chris Dickson be appointed as a member of the Forum.

4. LOCAL LICENSING FORUM SURVEY

The Forum considered a survey which had been issued by the Scottish Government in conjunction with Alcohol Focus Scotland to identify current levels of Forum activity and to seek other relevant information.

Decision

The Forum:-

1. completed the survey; and
2. agreed that any further comments or suggestions could be submitted for inclusion in the response to be submitted by the closing date in October.

5. LICENSING STANDARDS OFFICERS UPDATE

Douglas Hardaker advised that two new Licensing Standards Officers had been recruited and would be starting work in the next couple of months. The team were currently investigating noise complaints arising from music being played through speakers in gardens throughout the warmer weather. Officers were also providing advice and guidance to local licensees and new shopkeepers.

Decision

The Forum noted the update given.

6. POLICE REPORT

Neil Ewing gave an update on the work which had been carried out since the previous meeting. He advised that the Open golf championship in St Andrews had gone smoothly with very few issues. Like the LSO's, officers were providing guidance to licensees and shopkeepers. There had been some issues with test sales in new shops but help and advice was given. A meeting had been held in Kirkcaldy to set up Pub Watch in the town.

It was mentioned that some pubs were selling alcohol free drinks to youths under 18 and there may be an issue with public perception related to this. Neil advised that this practice was not illegal. Rebecca Shovlin advised that marketing of these products was a concern as there had been problems with underage drinking in Fife in the past and the region was one of the worst in Scotland for this problem. It was suggested that the increasing sales of low or zero alcohol drinks was, in the main, a positive step rather than the consumption of more alcoholic drinks but there was the issue of distinguishing and controlling the two different types of drink.

Decision

The Forum noted the update given.

7. ALCOHOL FOCUS SCOTLAND - EFOCUS NEWSLETTERS

The Forum noted that eFocus newsletters could be accessed directly through the Alcohol Focus Scotland website and a link was provided.

8. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

(1) Late Night Opening/Alcohol Delivery

Izzy Corbin advised that there had been a recent upsurge in applications for 3.00 am opening in St Andrews, seen through applications submitted for comment to the Community Council. Paul Smith advised that this should only be for late opening premises such as nightclubs. It was reported that some hot food delivery premises were also delivering alcohol with food deliveries beyond the current licensing restriction times. Douglas Hardaker advised that orders could only be taken up to 10.00 pm and alcohol must be delivered by midnight. Neil Ewing advised of the rules governing late opening times relating to the provision of first aid, CCTV and the attendance of a license holder and also advised that the police made comments on applications received for late opening.

(2)/

2022 FLF 3

(2) Alcohol Related Deaths

Rebecca Shovlin advised that alcohol related death rates had been released and that the Fife rate was up by 5%. The majority of deaths were men.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Forum agreed that the next meeting be held on Thursday, 24th November at 2.00 pm.
