

2024 FLF 8

THE FIFE COUNCIL - FIFE LICENSING FORUM – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - BLENDED MEETING

Committee Room 2, Floor 5, Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes

11 April 2024

2.00 pm – 3.45 pm

PRESENT: Gregor Hannah (Convener - Premises/Personal Licence holder), Dr Esther Curnock and Clare Campbell (NHS Fife), Izzy Corbin (Fife Resident), Gillian Dewar (Social Work, Fife Council), Morag Douglas (Premises/Personal Licence holder), Douglas Hardaker (Lead Officer, Environmental Health/Public Protection, Fife Council), Helen Hutton (Premises/Personal Licence holder), Peter Reid (Fife Resident), Paul Smith (Premises/Personal Licence holder), James Torrance (Premises/Personal Licence holder) and Jo Worrall (Twist Training/Licensing Training)

ATTENDING: Councillor Tom Adams (Observer - Chair of Fife Licensing Board); Rebecca Shovlin (Observer - Policy Officer, Health and Social Care Management); Kimberley Langley, Solicitor and Wendy MacGregor, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services, Fife Council.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Jeff Ellis (Premises/Personal Licence holder); Neil Ewing (Police Scotland – Fife Division) and Stewart Ness (Fife Resident).

23. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Convener welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies.

24. CONVENERS ANNUAL REPORT

The Forum considered the annual report 2023-24 by the Convener, providing an overview of the work of the Forum over the past year.

The Convener, acknowledged the recent sad passing of John Barclay former member and one of the founding members of the Forum. John was remembered as someone who was very supportive and welcoming and was a willing contributor at meetings, which was echoed by the Forum members. The Convener, on behalf of the Forum, extended condolences to John's family and friends.

The Annual Report highlighted various issues, such as - difficulties arranging meetings due to the lack of quorum, increase in business rates in Fife, rising costs of energy, restriction of alcohol advertising, failure of the deposit recycling service. Discussion followed, with members expressing varying opinions on the issues raised.

Decision

The Forum noted the Convener's Annual Report 2023-24.

25. APPOINTMENT OF CONVENER

In accordance with the constitution, nominations were sought for the appointment of the Convener for the following year. Paul Smith, seconded by Peter Reid, nominated Gregor Hannah.

Decision

The Forum agreed to appoint Gregor Hannah as Convener for the following year.

26. REAPPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

The Forum noted the update that Dr Esther Curnock had temporarily replaced Catherine Chudleigh while she was on maternity leave, as the NHS Fife Public Health Consultant and that there were two vacancies on the Forum membership.

A discussion followed regarding the requirement to fill both vacancies on the membership. Clare Campbell nominated Rebecca Shovlin to fill one of the vacancies. Jo Worrall advised that there were already two members from NHS Fife on the current membership and there would be benefit in finding a replacement from the Licensed Trade. Rebecca Shovlin confirmed she was employed by the Health and Social Care Partnership and not NHS Fife and could provide a different perspective. Clare Campbell requested that members be informed of the current membership sectors so the Forum could better decide which representation would be required to fill the vacancies.

Decision

The Forum agreed:

- (1) the Committee Officer would circulate a list to members, which showed the current representation of the membership of the Forum;
- (2) going forward, that minutes of the meetings of the Forum would include the name of the service/sector they were representing; and
- (3) a short meeting would be held prior to the Joint meeting of the Fife Licensing Forum and Fife Licensing Board on 2 May 2024, regarding filling the two remaining vacancies on the Forum membership.

27. MINUTE

The Forum considered the minute of the meeting of the Fife Licensing Forum of 23 November 2023.

Decision

The Forum agreed to approve the minute.

28. POLICE REPORT

The Forum considered the update report from Neil Ewing, Licensing Sergeant, Police Scotland advising that the licence of one retail premises was under review due to the sale of alcohol to someone under the age of 18 years and that issues with youth groups continued, often fuelled by alcohol.

2024 FLF 10

A campaign would be implemented to target proxy sales and Police officers continued to carry out regular visits to premises, often accompanied by Licensing Standards Officers, where issues were identified.

The Kirkcaldy Links Market would operate from 17 April 2024, with increased Police presence in the area and around Kirkcaldy to combat anti-social behaviour during this period.

Police Scotland continued to work with local organisations in relation to events planned across Fife in the coming months.

Decision

The Forum noted the update.

29. LICENSING STANDARDS OFFICERS UPDATE - VERBAL

Douglas Hardaker advised that the Licensing Standards team was at full complement with the recent appointment of a new Licensing Standards Officer. The team had been carrying out routine visits to licensed premises and dealing with complaints as required. The number of noise complaints from members of the public had reduced.

Decision

The Forum noted the update.

30. UPDATES FROM FIFE LICENSING BOARD

The Forum considered the minutes of meetings of Fife Licensing Board of 4 December 2023 and 5 February 2024.

Decision

The Forum noted the minutes of the Fife Licensing Board meetings.

31. MEETING DATES FOR 2024 -

The Forum considered draft dates for meetings in 2024 - 2 May - Joint meeting with the Fife Licensing Forum and Fife Licensing Board, 5 September and 21 November. The meetings would be held on a Thursday at 2.00 pm in Fife House, Glenrothes.

Decision

The Forum agreed that future meetings would be held on 2 May, 5 September and 21 November 2024.

32. ALCOHOL FOCUS SCOTLAND - EFOCUS NEWSLETTERS

The Forum noted that Alcohol Focus Scotland - eFocus newsletters could be accessed directly through the Alcohol Focus Scotland website using the link provided.

33. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

The Forum:-

- (1) noted that members were encouraged to contact the Convener with items for discussion at the joint meeting with the Board on 2 May 2024;
- (2) agreed the Convener would contact the Licensing Board, providing a statement noting concerns raised at the Forum meeting on 23 November 2023, as to whether training could be implemented for third party delivery drivers supplying/delivering alcohol, to decrease the risk of deliveries being made to anyone under 18 years of age;
- (3) noted an update from Kimberley Langley, Solicitor, advising the Board were aware of the risks in delivering alcohol, the matter had been raised with the Scottish Government and that the Board had tried to strengthen governance of the delivery of alcohol through the Licensing Policy in Fife. Kimberley agreed to forward the statement to the Board members prior to the Joint meeting;
- (4) requested a copy of the Fife Licensing Board Policy Statement and agreed that Kimberley would issue the relevant sections to the Forum; and
- (5) agreed to hold a meeting directly before the Joint meeting with the Board on 2 May 2024 so that the membership of the Forum and vacancies could be discussed. The Committee Officer would issue a separate meeting appointment to members of the Forum.