

MINUTES OF LICENSING COMMITTEE HELD ON

10 August 2009

7.30pm – 8.10pm

PRESENT

COUNCILLORS

Sarah-Jane Dangerfield (Chairman)

Lee Dangerfield
Maggie Hulcoop

Mark Gough
Muriel Jolles
John Strachan

Tony Hall
Russell Perrin

APOLOGIES

Nick Churchill
Andrew Johnson

Jean Clark
Eleanor Macy
Robert Thurston

Bob Davis
Linda Pailing

13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

14. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2009 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

15. MATTERS ARISING

A request was made for the agenda and reports to be e-mailed to the committee before the meeting.

16. WRITTEN QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

None.

17. COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PLAN

The Committee received the forward work plan for 2009/10.

RESOLVED to note the forward work plan.

18. **REVIEW OF RANDOM ALCOHOL TESTING - PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS**

The Committee received a report providing follow up information on the introduction of random alcohol testing for private hire drivers.

RESOLVED that random alcohol testing for private hire drivers continue.

19. **REVIEW OF RANDOM DRUG TESTING - PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS**

The Committee received a report on the review of the first four months of random drug testing for private hire drivers.

A Member asked why we give up to 48 hours notice as softer drugs like marijuana may only stay in the system for 36hrs and harder drugs up to 48 hours. The Safety and Licensing Manager replied that the timing was largely based on advice from Harlow Occupational Health Service.

A discussion took place on reducing the notice time for a test to no more than 24 hours. The Safety and Licensing Manager indicated that although we try to achieve 24 hours it would not be operationally feasible to guarantee this time frame.

RESOLVED that

- (a) random drug testing for private hire drivers continue;
- (b) wherever possible the amount of time given to a private hire driver for a random alcohol test be no more than 24 hours;
- (c) the Safety and Licensing Manager to arrange for Harlow Occupational Health Service to give a short presentation at a future meeting.

20. **LICENSING ENFORCEMENT**

The Committee received a report providing general background to the type of licensing enforcement work that is undertaken, and an update on enforcement activities during the period 1 October 2008 and 31 March 2009.

Members asked that their thanks to the Licensing Department for all the good work they are doing in respect of licensing enforcement be minuted.

Following a question the Safety and Licensing Manager outlined what was being done in respect of alcohol designation orders and indicated that a report will be going to the October meeting.

It was reported that Tesco at Church Langley are concerned about the amount of alcohol which is consumed around their car park and green wedge behind the store. Concern was also expressed regarding drinking in the Stow area. The Safety and Licensing Manager agreed to look into feasibility of designation orders for both areas. The play area at Potter Street is due to be moved and when this happens a change to the current designation order will be considered.

Further discussion took place on the operations involving underage access to alcohol. The Safety and Licensing Manager indicated that extra focus was needed in respect of proxy sales.

The Safety and Licensing Manager reported that underage alcohol operations are being reviewed in order to ensure that young persons found to be under the influence of alcohol are not just left on the street but are taken to a place of safety. It was suggested that Social Services should be approached in order to get their involvement in some of these operations.

RESOLVED that

- (a) the report be noted;
- (b) the feasibility of designation orders for areas around the Stow and the car park and green wedge behind the Tesco store at Church Langley be investigated.

21. **REFERENCES FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

None.

22. **MATTERS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE