

**SOUTH AYRSHIRE LICENSING BOARD/
SOUTH AYRSHIRE LOCAL LICENSING FORUM.**

Minutes of the Joint Meeting in County Hall, County Buildings, Ayr,
on 26th February 2010 at 2.20 p.m.

Present: Councillors Douglas Campbell (Chair of Licensing Board and member of Forum), Andy Campbell, Ian Douglas and Alec Oattes.

Apologies: Councillors Ian Fitzsimmons, Ann Galbraith, Bill Grant and Tom Slider.

Attending for: V. Andrews, Clerk to the Licensing Board; M. Douglas, Licensing Policy South Ayrshire Officer; and J. McClure, Committee Administrative Officer.
Council:

Attending for: R. Russell (Chair); Sergeant A. Kelly; A. Campbell; F. Murfet (for Dr. Lind); Local Licensing M. Caird, R. Rennie; S. Horne; M. Ankers; A. Monkhouse; P. Robertson; Forum: and A. Kelly.

Apology: M. Anderson.

Also Attending: H. Ankers.

1. Chair's Remarks.

Councillor Douglas Campbell, Chair of the Licensing Board welcomed members of the Licensing Board and the Local Licensing Forum to this joint meeting.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting of the Local Licensing Forum.

The Minutes (issued) of the Local Licensing Forum of 20th November 2009 were submitted.

Decided: to note the Minutes of the previous Forum meeting.

3. Licensing Board's Policy on Extended Hours.

The Chair advised that he had outlined the Board's policy to the Forum, the context in which the Board had been granting licences for extended hours and the entertainment considered unacceptable to the Board to be granted extended hours.

Having heard members of the Forum enquire

- (1) as to the effect on the community and other licensed premises of the premises in Prestwick being granted extended hours, the Chair advised that a report had been submitted to the Licensing Board on 25th February 2010 by the Licensing Standards Officer which had outlined that no complaints had been received by the Out-of Hours Noise Team or Strathclyde Police;
- (2) why a charge was made for entry into the licensed premises with extended hours, the Chair advised that the Licensing Board's Policy outlined that access required to be controlled by ticket or payment method and that these premises had decided to charge for entry and Sergeant Kelly further advised that complaints had been received by members of the public regarding the charge for entry but the policy had been explained to these people and he further outlined that there had been no issues of violence or disorder since the additional hour had been granted;
- (3) if the Board did not feel responsible for premises being put out of business due to granting extended hours to certain premises, the Chair advised that the Board's purpose was to regulate Operating Plans and that the Board could not refuse an application because it would have an impact on other premises;
- (4) what entertainment the premises granted the extended hours was offering, the Licensing Policy Officer advised that the whole venue was an entertainment premises whereas other premises which submitted applications only provided a small part of the premises for a dance area as their entertainment; and
- (5) whether the Board took into consideration the effect on smaller premises when granting extended hours, the Chair advised that the Board viewed this as a competition argument and businesses had to respond to competition by way of services and improvements and it was not the Board's responsibility to regulate competition, however, the premises which had closed since the introduction of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 was a concern for the Board and the Licensing Policy Officer further advised that requests for variations of the Operating Plan were advertised on the premises for three weeks and also on the Council website and were issued to Community Councils and that the Board had only received one objection to an application for variation to date.

Decided: to note that the Board would be discussing proposed amendments to its Policy and consulting various interested parties on this.

4. **Alcohol Etc. (Scotland) Bill Proposals.**

The Chair advised that, having discussed the key issues in the Bill, the Board had written to local MSPs regarding minimum pricing and had received two responses thanking the Board for its support on this issue.

F. Murfet of the South Ayrshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) then outlined ADP's response to the Alcohol Etc. (Scotland) Bill (attached as an Appendix to the report) and the reasons for the responses.

Questions were asked by members of the Forum regarding whether Boards' powers would be increased; and whether the floor space in supermarkets for selling alcohol was restricted and the Chair, Sergeant Kelly and Licensing Policy Officer responded accordingly.

Decided: that the Chair of the Licensing Forum and the Clerk to the Board liaise to compile a letter to local MSPs from the Forum outlining its support of the proposed minimum pricing policy.

5. **Chair's Remarks.**

Councillor Campbell thanked all members for their attendance and contribution.

The meeting ended at 2.50 p.m.