



NORWICH City Council

MINUTES

LICENSING COMMITTEE

4.30pm to 5.20pm

13 March 2013

Present: Councillors Gayton (chair), Haynes (vice chair), Barker, Button, Gihawi, Harris, Henderson, Maxwell, Price, Stammers, Stephenson, Thomas, Wright

Also present: Councillors Wright and Driver and Superintendent Paul Sanford (Norfolk Constabulary)

1. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Councillor James Wright on behalf of the University of East Anglia (UEA) 'Stop the Traffik' society.

"Stop the Traffik is an organisation that represents a global movement of individuals, communities and organisations fighting to prevent human trafficking around the world.

Last week I had the privilege of speaking at a conference about Human Trafficking organised by the UEA Stop the Traffik Society. We heard from them that they have worked with Broadland District Council as part of an awareness campaign which involved BDC distributing stickers to their taxi drivers and requesting that they are displayed in the taxis. The society raised the funds to provide the stickers; therefore there was negligible cost to the council in supporting this initiative.

Can I get commitment from Norwich city council that the authority will also support the campaign and provide assistance to the UEA stop the traffik society in raising awareness, and ask that the licensing committee backs this work?"

The chair replied:

"Labour party activists, including Councillor Maxwell, together with Unison and UEA students, have been campaigning since last autumn, working with taxi drivers who are possibly the first or only people to see something suspicious"

Examples of the proposed stickers were then handed around alongside a photograph showing the positioning of the stickers within the hackney carriage.”

RESOLVED to approve permission for stickers to be displayed within licensed hackney carriages, as illustrated in the photograph circulated.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 20 December 2012.

4. POLICE REFORM AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT 2011 : EARLY MORNING RESTRICTION ORDERS AND LATE NIGHT LEVY (Report of the head of citywide services)

The licensing manager presented the report.

In response to a member’s question, Superintendent Paul Sanford explained that the voluntary agreement entered into by bars and clubs along Prince of Wales Road agreeing to close at 4am had proved successful. As such, the introduction of the early morning restriction order (EMRO) would legally cement the last sale of alcohol at 03:00 Monday to Friday and 03:45 Saturday and Sunday in the EMRO area. Although earlier times had been discussed, setting the hours any earlier would mean a sudden exit of larger numbers of customers from clubs and bars. This would place extra strain on policing resources, increasing risk to the safety of all involved. He also explained that during this process, economic factors had had to be considered and that the stated times represented the best balance of all factors. He also said that not all bars currently included within the 4am voluntary closure scheme would be covered by the introduction of the EMRO; however, the small number of venues outside the EMRO zone that offer alcohol and entertainment do not generate sufficient crime levels to warrant the extension of the EMRO zone.

In response to a further question, Superintendent Sanford explained that whilst the SOS bus initiative provided an excellent service, it was staffed by volunteers and as such could not be run after 3am.

RESOLVED to recommend to council that it asks the head of law and governance to advertise in accordance with section 172B(1)(a) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 the three proposed EMROs within the zones detailed within the report.

5. LICENCE AND REGISTRATION FEES

The licensing manager presented the report, adding that the fee for sexual entertainment venues would initially remain unaltered for 2013 – 14. He explained that the council was awaiting the outcome of an appeal by Westminster council which requests that the costs of enforcement against unlicensed premises be encompassed within an increased charge to licensed premises. He also explained that the increase in employee tattoo licences issued is down to the increasing popularity of the Norwich body art festival, leading to larger numbers of visiting tattooists working in the city.

In response to a member's question, the licensing manager explained that not only had there been a drop in the number of hackney carriage renewals during 2012 – 13, there had been an increased attrition rate of older drivers leaving the business. This trend was expected to be maintained during 2013 – 14.

RESOLVED to approve the fees detailed in the column headed 'Recommended Charge' of Appendix A.

6. STANDING ITEM – REGULATORY SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the regulatory subcommittee meetings held on 17 December 2012, 21 January 2013 and 18 February 2013.

CHAIR