



LICENSING COMMITTEE

4.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m.

4 December 2008

Present: Councillors Driver (Chair), Cannell, Divers, Dylan, Jago, A. Little
(from Item 3), Stephenson

Apologies: Councillors Ramsay (Vice-Chair), Banham, Hooke, Lay

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of 19 June 2008.

2. ENFORCEMENT ISSUE – SERVING OF ALCOHOL IN HAIRDRESSERS

The Chair agreed to take this item as urgent business in view of the recent press coverage.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services referred to an article that had appeared in the national and local press as a result of a complaint that had been received by the Enforcement Officer about a hairdresser in the City serving alcohol to customers. In response, a junior member of staff had written to all hairdressers in the City to say that this action was illegal, warning of the serious penalties involved in serving alcohol without a license and referring to sending enforcement officers to premises.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services said that this letter was sent in error and the matter should have been investigated as a complaint and not an enforcement issue. He said that a statement of apology had been issued to the press by himself and the Leader of the Council. He apologised to members for the embarrassment caused to the Council and said that measures had been put in place to ensure that it did not happen again.

RESOLVED to note the position.

3. NORWICH ALCOHOL BOARD

Daniel Harry of the Norwich Alcohol Board attended the meeting for this item.

Daniel Harry informed members of the action plan of the Norwich Alcohol Board for 2008/09, details of which were included in a report that had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.

He advised members of the background and origin of the Norwich Alcohol Board and said that the bulk of the action plan involved raising its profile. He explained the action plan and said that the Drink Aware Trust Unit Calculator Wheel as shown on page 6 of the report would be distributed to all households in the City in a future edition of the Citizen and in the local press.

He said that the research into alcohol use would include usage in age ranges of up to 16 years old, from 16 to 24 years and then upwards. This research would also include the use of alcohol during pregnancy and by the elderly.

The Chair asked if any work would be undertaken to educate people on responsible drinking including drinking at lunchtime and drinking around children. Daniel Harry said that they would be looking at producing sensible guidelines for safer and responsible drinking including the education of young women to make them aware of the dangers of the night time economy such as dressing appropriately to avoid the risk of hyperthermia and the issues of pedestrian and river safety for all.

Discussion ensued on the responsibility of licensees in pubs and nightclubs and what measures they could take to try to control the amount of alcohol consumed. As alcohol was cheaper in supermarkets it was found that a lot of people drank at home and then went out to pubs and clubs already heavily intoxicated. Daniel Harry said that despite frequent attempts he had so far been unable to arrange a meeting with representatives from certain supermarkets to discuss the matter.

The Licensing Manager advised members of new government legislation banning 'all you can drink' promotions in pubs and bars. This announcement followed an independent review which found that many retailers were not adhering to their own voluntary standards for selling and marketing alcohol responsibly.

Discussion ensued in regards to the issues of the general attitude of people to alcohol and the change in drinking culture over the years. Daniel Harry said that there was a lot of work taking place in schools to try to educate youngsters on the dangers of alcohol.

Daniel Harry circulated alcohol awareness cards to the Committee and advised that he would be meeting with the Licensing Manager on an informal basis to discuss the matter further.

RESOLVED to:-

- (1) note the report
- (2) thank Daniel Harry for attending the meeting.
- (3) ask Daniel Harry to provide the Licensing Manager with minutes from future meetings of the Norwich Alcohol Board and to update the Committee with any progress.

4. DCMS STATISTICAL BULLETIN

The Licensing Manager informed members of the statistical report issued by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), on alcohol, entertainment and late night refreshment licensing in England and Wales for the period April 2007 to March 2008.

He advised that nationally a total of 6,300 premises currently held 24 hour licenses and updated members on the direction licensing had taken on a national level.

In response to a question, the Licensing manager said that there were no pleasure boats that held a premises licenses operating in the City.

In response to a question, the Licensing Manager said that out of the 640 pubs, bars and nightclubs that held 24-hour licenses, 2 were in Norwich but at the present time did not utilise the licenses.

RESOLVED to note the report.

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED to hold the next meeting at 4:30pm on Thursday 19 March 2009.

CHAIR