

## **Licensing Forum Minute**

**20 March 2018**

Attendees – F. Burgerseed, Vice Chair - On Sales representative – The Venue  
C. Elliot, Depute Clerk, Perth & Kinross Council  
L. Cormack, Licensing Standards Officer, Perth & Kinross Council  
S. Michie, Licensing Officer, Perth & Kinross Council  
D. Black, Police Scotland  
M. Stuart, On Sales Representative – The Sandeman/CHX Committee  
D. Peterson, On Sales Representative – Greyfriars, Bar 44, Kirkside  
A. Cameron – Bar 44  
F. Hunter, Co-ordinator, Perth Street Pastor

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

On behalf of the Licensing Forum, F Burgerseed welcomed everyone present and explained in the absence of K. Ogilvy he would be chairing the meeting.

New members present included D. Peterson and A. Cameron who represent the On-Sales Licensing Trade.

### **2. Apologies**

Apologies received from K. Ogilvy (Chair) D. Merchant, C. Lamont, L. McLaughlin and I. Kinnear

### **3. Approve Minutes of meetings held on 16 January 2018 and 27 February 2018**

LC asked if those present were mindful to approve the Minutes of the two previous meeting held on 16 January and 27 February 2018 respectively, however highlighted a typing error in the date of the first meeting which was 16 January not 16 February. Minutes agreed by those present.

### **4. Perth & Kinross Licensing Board – Policy Statement**

F. Burgerseed suggested that the Forum look at the Survey carried out by City Centre Management on Licensing Hours.

A discussion took place on the value of opening times and a suggestion was made for later hours Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday to a closing time of 12am or 1am to reflect that of Dundee

D. Black explained that any additional hours would have an impact on policing resources.

F. Burgerseed said that opening at the beginning of the week is something that happens during the Festive Period.

M. Stewart explained that he did not take advantage of the festive hours until the second week in December. If increased hours were implemented he would probably only open during the summer months when tourists visited Perth, however it would give the trade the option to open if they wanted.

M. Stewart also mentioned that Dundee Licensing Board had issued a list of dates when extended hours would be granted during 2018 and over the Festive Period which runs between 01 December 2018 and 02 January 2019.

L. Cormack explained that whilst Perth & Kinross Council did not have a list of specific dates for the forthcoming year in respect of recognised events and holidays, an application for Extended Hours could be made and considered by the Licensing Board.

C. Elliot interjected at this point to explain the reason for his attendance was to give the Licensing Forum an overview of the Licensing Boards thinking in respect of their Policy Statement and the process that follows prior to their final decision.

It was hoped that an informal meeting with the Forum and Board could be arranged for late April, early May with the Convenor and Vice Convener of the Licensing Board. The meeting would allow the Forum to give their balanced view of specific areas within the Policy Statement.

C. Elliot suggested the Forum go through the existing Policy Statement section by section and to focus on which points they wished to convey during their meeting with the Licensing Board. This should be in a format that explains exactly what the Forum want, why they want it and what evidence do they have to support their recommendations.

The Forums should be mindful that their views are a collective and balanced opinion and that the Licensing Board has to consider of Perth & Kinross area as a whole when making their decision.

C. Elliot also explained to the Forum the process

Informal meeting  
Board draft their Policy Statement  
6 week Public Consultation

Consultation responses received

C. Elliot writes a report to the Board

Board make their final decision

C. Elliot went on to say the Licensing Board had given no indication as to making any radical changes to The Policy Statement, such as amending the Licensing Hours, however they may consider other areas such as supporting an increase in the hours for Pavement Cafes.

The Board would be also looking at their Noise Policy, the possibility of limiting the number of Occasional Licenses issued to same premises, Extended hours for Weddings, Sunday through Wednesday and Restaurants and Off sales ie The Board may look to take out the restriction where an off sales facility is sought, the sale of alcohol; for consumption off the premises will only be allowed if the customers have consumed food.

M. Stewart said that on-sales are heavily regulated whereas off sales has a greater impact on people getting drunk as they can purchase 3 cases of alcohol from a supermarket.

Lengthy discussions then followed with regards to area in which the Forum wished to address

Core Hours (increase in licensing hours)

F. Burgerseed would like to see social demand hours increased to 12/12.30am 7 days per week, however C. Elliot said if social demand hours were changed then where do you go with Function and Entertainment Hours?

L. Cormack raised the topic of the close down policy as the Forum had raised this at the previous meeting

C. Elliot said the Board may consider looking at the close down and that the Forum should provide options

- Keep hour
- Reduce to ½ hours
- Remove completely

F. Burgerseed proposed close down the bar area for 15 minutes as an alternative.

C. Elliot also said the Forum would need to consider the diverse nature of business within Perth & Kinross as closing down a bar for a wedding work for all.

C. Elliot explained that this is quite a departure from current policy and that the Forum would be required to persuade the Board to move away from what they currently have by giving a general and balanced view.

Social demand hours were raised again and F. Burgerseede suggested the following

Social Hours - 12.30am x 7 days

Function Hours – 1.30.am x 7 days

Entertainment Hours – 3am x 7

In addition, C. Elliot said that the Forum should consider having a reserve position with regards to changes they would like to say made ie this is what we want, however would you consider this as an alternative ie

Social Hours - 12.00am x 7 days

Function Hours – 1.00am Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and 130.am Thursday Friday and Saturday days or look at 1.00am x 7 days

C. Elliot explained that the Board has to look at the whole of Perth & Kinross area

C. Elliot concluded by saying that the Forum would have a second opportunity to make any comment when the consultation process takes place.

The Forum agreed to look at the following areas in more detail and will discussed at the meeting to be held these prior to meeting with members of the Licensing Board

Core Hours

Pavement Cafes

Close Down Policy

**Action: Forum**

## **5. Any Other Business**

## **6. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will take place at the Venue on Tuesday 10 April 2018 at 2pm.