
Licensing Committee

Report of the meeting held on 27th January 2010

Matters for Information

4. SECRET GARDEN PARTY

The Committee has been acquainted with the extensive measures put in place by the licensing authority to minimise the impact of the Secret Garden Party on the area following the granting in perpetuity of a premises licence for this large annual outdoor event with an attendance of 26,000 people.

Members have been reminded that in previous years, following representations from interested parties, the application has necessitated a full day's hearing by a Sub-Committee but as no representations have been received in respect of the latest application, the licence now has been granted in perpetuity with conditions attached.

Members have acknowledged that whilst this well managed event makes a major contribution to the local economy it also impacts on the resources of the Democratic and Central Services and Environmental and Community Health Divisions of the Council.

5. CHANGES TO LICENSING PROCESSES UNDER THE LICENSING ACT 2003

The Committee has authorised the Head of Democratic and Central Services to respond to a Government consultation proposing to simplify requirements under the Licensing Act 2003 in respect of three processes recognised by stakeholders to be unduly restrictive and burdensome.

The proposals include the removal of the requirement for licensing authorities to determine and publish a Licensing Statement every 3 years, extending the period of notification for Interim Authority Notices and Reinstatements on Transfer and the later notification of Temporary Events Notices which, if approved, will simplify processes and reduce unnecessary work.

6. CHANGES TO POLICE AND CRIME ACT

The Committee has been acquainted with amendments to the Licensing Act that will allow members of licensing authorities to act as interested parties, allowing them to make representations in respect

of applications for and variations to, premises licences and club premises certificates and to make applications for a review of such licences or certificates without the need to reside within the vicinity of the premises. Members have acknowledged the benefits of such changes for those residents wishing to highlight issues whilst preferring to maintain anonymity. Information on the procedure involved will be circulated shortly to Members by the Licensing Section.

The Committee has also been informed of changes to the offence of persistently selling alcohol to children which will have been committed if alcohol is sold at the same premises to an individual under 18 years on two or more occasions within three months. While an offence is committed if any alcohol is sold to an under 18, the penalty for selling persistently is significantly higher. Under 18s can also now be prosecuted if found in possession of alcohol in a public place on three or more occasions within a 12 month period.

7. SMALL LIVE MUSIC EVENTS

The Committee has authorised a response to a consultation exercise being undertaken by the Department of Culture Media and Sport on a Government proposal to exempt small live music events from having to obtain authorisation under the Licensing Act 2003 by way of a variation to an existing licence or certificate.

The proposal for the exemption has been made following an evaluation of the impact of the Licensing Act on live music performances by the Live Music Forum. The Committee has been advised that following concerns raised by local authorities and police over the impact of the exemption on the licensing objectives, the Government has proposed that local residents, businesses and responsible authorities would be able to apply for specified premises to be excluded from the exemption which may result in a number of applications.

8. LICENSING COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENTS POLICY

The Committee has reviewed this policy statement in a similar vein to the Licensing and Protection Panel, reported earlier in the meeting.

J M Sadler
Chairman