

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
LICENSING COMMITTEE (LICENSING ACT 2003 FUNCTIONS)

4.00PM 27 JUNE 2019

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors O'Quinn (Chair), Henry (Deputy Chair), Simson (Group Spokesperson), Appich, Atkinson, Brown, Davis, Ebel, Hill, Janio, Osborne, Rainey, Wares and West.

Apologies: Councillors Bagaeen, Fowler and Lewry.

PART ONE

1 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

1a Declarations of Substitutes

1.1 Councillor Brown was present in substitution for Councillor Bagaeen; Councillor Janio was present in substitution for Councillor Lewry; Councillor West was present in substitution for Councillor Deane and Councillor Fowler had submitted her apologies.

1b Declarations of Interest

1.2 There were no declarations of interests in matters listed on the agenda.

1c Exclusion of Press and Public

1.3 The Committee considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of any of the items listed on the agenda.

1.4 **RESOLVED:** That the press and public not be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the any item contained on part the agenda.

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

2.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the Licensing Committee (Licensing Act 2003 Functions) Meeting held on 14 March 2019 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

3 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

Gambling Commission Conference – “Gambling and Public Health”

3.1 The Chair, Councillor O'Quinn referred to the fact that agenda Item 8 "Gambling Act 2005 – Revised Local Area Profile 2019, Update" provided an update on current Gambling Legislation. In connection with that she wanted to mention that the Gambling Commission had held an event in Brighton the previous week entitled "Gambling and Public Health" with nationwide speakers, including some of the Council's own Licensing Team. The event had been well attended by Police, council and licensing authority officers, adult social care, treatment providers and Brighton and Hove City Councillors.

3.2 **RESOLVED** – That the content of the Chair's Communications be noted and received.

4 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

4.1 There were no items.

5 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

5.1 There were no items.

6 PRESENTATION -PRIDE VILLAGE PARTY AND BRIGHTON AND HOVE PRIDE

6.1 Jayne Babb, Operations Manager for "Pride" gave a presentation outlining the arrangements which had been put into place and were now well advanced for the "Pride Festival 2019" which included the "Village" in St James's Street and Kemptown.

6.2 Ms Babb explained that based on the experience of previous years arrangements were in place with partners in order to manage the movement of the large number of people expected around the city safely and to facilitate the clearance of waste particularly from Preston Park and to return these areas to public use as soon as possible after the Pride weekend. The event had become a year round campaign working in concert with local retailers, restaurants, hotels and other businesses which promoted the Brighton retail and hospitality economy. Those businesses who benefitted from the weekend £20.5m was spent over Pride weekend had been encouraged to support the City Angels campaign which was being launched this year.

6.3 For 2019 a reusable cup scheme was being introduced in Preston Park, the Pleasure Gardens and PVP sites. The aim of this scheme was to reduce the volume of single use plastic deriving from the festival bars. Bottled water for sale to festival goers was also to be replaced by Aquapak cartons in order to seek to reduce the use of single use plastic and all plastic bottles would be replaced by cans at all bars and concessions. Mixed recycling bins would be provided at Pride in the Park for the first time, with bins clearly labelled separate bins provided for mixed waste with a team of volunteers stationed at each pod to ensure that festival goers separated their waste accordingly.

6.4 Councillor West was pleased to note the robust arrangements which had been put into place stating that problems of waste and anti-social behaviour had on occasion given rise to criticism of what was an important community event. He asked how the message about use the sustainability arrangements being put into place was going to be conveyed and it was explained that in addition to information provided in the Pride brochures and other literature information would be posted at key locations around the park and messages would be placed on screen throughout the weekend.

- 6.5 Councillor Wares sought confirmation regarding “clear-up” arrangements following the weekend and it was confirmed that these would be put into place immediately at the conclusion of each event.
- 6.6 In answer to questions by Councillor Ebel in relation to use of the reusable cups it was confirmed that they would be collected, cleaned and stored for use in future years.
- 6.7 Councillor Henry noted the arrangements which had been put into place stating that it was pleasing to note that they had been improved upon year on year and had been instrumental in shaping this weekend event into the great community event which it had become.
- 6.8 The Chair, Councillor O’Quinn thanked Ms Babb for her comprehensive and informative presentation.
- 6.9 **RESOLVED** - That the contents of the presentation be received and noted.

7 SAFEGUARDING IN THE NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

- 7.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Neighbourhoods, Communities and Housing detailing current safeguarding initiatives operating within the Night Time Economy and seeking to apprise Members of local and national issues.
- 7.2 The Regulatory Services Manager referred to the initiatives in place which included:
- The Alcohol Programme Board;
 - Public Health Framework for assessing alcohol licensing decisions (Revised 2019);
 - Test Purchases;
 - Police and security initiatives;
 - Partner Agency initiatives;
 - Exploitation Group;
 - Joint Intelligence meetings
- 7.3 Councillor Atkinson commended the report which he considered to be very informative referring to the various services available including Safe Space which were available across the city asking what measures were in place to ensure that these were widely publicised. It was explained in answer to further questions that an effective inter-agency approach was in place to ensure effective working and information sharing with meetings taking place monthly.
- 7.4 Councillors Appich and Ebel also commended the Safe Space and other initiatives but expressed concern that the Beach Patrol service which carried out such excellent could be compromised due to lack of funding. The Chair, Councillor O’Quinn, stated that other members had echoed those concerns and that the issue of whether this service could be afforded charity status and means by which further funding could be secured were being actively pursued. Currently no companies located on the seafront helped to fund this service and it was considered that other businesses ought to be invited to contribute

as those who were vulnerable or intoxicated having consumed alcohol across the city were drawn to the sea.

7.5 Councillor Janio stated that it was very important that the current multi-agency approach continue as clearly it was effective and worked very well.

7.6 **RESOLVED:**

(1) That the Committee notes the contents of this report; and

(2) That officers continue to monitor trends of applications and illegal activity to inform future policy.

8 GAMBLING ACT REVISED LOCAL AREA PROFILE 2019 AND RECENT GAMBLING UPDATE

8.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Neighbourhoods, Communities and Housing which highlighted the recent revised Local Area Profile (LAP) and gave an update on recent gambling developments.

8.2 The Regulatory Services Manager referred to the following legislative changes at national level:

- FOBT (Fixed Odds Betting Terminal) stake cuts regulations published - The Gaming Machine (Miscellaneous Amendments and Revocation) Regulations 2018 were made on 20 December 2018 and came into force on 1 April 2019.

At local level:

- The Gambling Policy 2019 – 20121 had been published;
- The Local Area Profile had been put together;
- The Risk Rate Inspection Scheme was in place;
- Test Purchases had continued;
- A Gambling/Public Health round table meeting had taken place on 19 June 2019

8.3 Councillor Atkinson stated that it was very disappointing to note the 70% failure rate on age restricted machines across the city. The measures taken to address this problem were welcomed.

8.4 Councillor Brown concurred with Councillor Atkinson stating that whilst disappointing she was unsurprised by the scale of the problem.

8.5 Councillor Appich referred to issues in respect of on-line gaming and the Regulatory Services Manager stated that it was very difficult to know the potential scale of the problem or deal with it effectively as it did not fall under the control of the local licensing authority. There had been a lot of media coverage and interest, however, and discussions were taking place at government level to determine measures which could be put in place.

8.6 Councillor Janio stated that issues by government to address the issues around gambling for instance reduction in the level of stakes that could laid on fixed-odds machines were welcome. He noted the information detailed regarding the follow-up arrangements in place when there had been failed test purchases for example and was pleased to note that this would be subject to on-going monitoring which fell under this committees' responsibilities.

8.7 **RESOLVED:**

(1) That the committee notes the contents of this report; and

(2) That officers should continue to monitor trends of applications and illegal activity to inform future policy.

9 SCHEDULE OF APPEALS

9.1 The Committee considered a schedule prepared on behalf of the Executive Lead for Strategy, Governance and Law covering the period since the last meeting of Committee.

9.2 Councillor Wares sought clarification of the grounds on which an appeal had been lodged by "Twisted Lemon" and it was explained that the applicant would be arguing that the Council's policy had been mis-applied.

9.3 **RESOLVED:** That the contents of the report be noted.

10 ITEMS REFERRED FOR COUNCIL

10.1 There were none.

The meeting concluded at 5.25pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

