



Licensing Committee

Date: Thursday 20 January 2011

Time: 7:00pm – 9.05 pm

PRESENT: Councillor A Hussain JP (in the Chair)

Councillors D Barnes, J M Blanksby, R H A Gaffney, A R Green, D A B Green, A E Hill, D P Lambourne and Ms J Mann

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D A C Cox, S Fowke*, I L McEnnis and R Wilson*)

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr M Bruver, Thames Valley Police Licensing Officer (High Wycombe) and Ms E Herkes, Thames Valley Police Licensing Officer (Milton Keynes)

11. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 4 November 2010 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

13. LICENSING TRAINING

A programme of training had been prepared for the Committee, aiming to bring as many Members as possible up to date with training needs and to offer a refresher of the processes involved in Licensing Panel hearings.

A presentation covering legal and procedural aspects began the programme and this was followed by a mock hearing, at which Members and Officers played the roles of individuals and representatives typically present at a hearing. Whilst the scenario of the mock hearing offered a light hearted and often humorous approach, it enabled key issues to be highlighted and discussed and for questions to be addressed in an informal training environment.

At the end of the mock hearing, there was an open discussion of the points raised and the implications of the evidence heard, leading to an opportunity for Members to assess whether or on what basis a fictional licence should be granted.

The Licensing Manager praised the record of Members' decisions at Licensing Panel hearings, informing Members that, since the introduction of the current Panel processes in 2005, the Council had achieved one of the lowest appeal rates in the country and no decision had been successfully challenged at appeal at the Magistrates Court.

Drawing the programme to a close, the Chairman said it had offered a very helpful opportunity for Members to express views and make observations and he thanked Officers, including the guests from Thames Valley Police, for their participation and hard work in preparing the evening's proceedings.

RESOLVED: That Officers and guests be thanked for preparing and presenting the evening's training programme.

14. LICENSING PANEL HEARINGS

The Committee received the schedule of Licensing Panel Hearings held since the previous meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Schedule of Panel Hearings held since the previous meeting, as detailed in Appendix 5 to the agenda, be received.

Chairman

The following officers were in attendance of the meeting:

Mrs K Khanna -	Principal Solicitor (Litigation & Contracts)
Mrs C Steven -	Licensing Manager
Mr B Whittall	Licensing Officer
Mrs D Davis -	Democratic Services