

# LICENSING AND GAMBLING ACTS COMMITTEE

**Wednesday 15 June 2011**

**COUNCILLORS PRESENT:** Councillors Brett (Vice-Chair), Campbell, Clarkson (Chair), Cook, Goddard, Lloyd-Shogbesan, Lygo, Rowley, Royce, Sanders and Timbs.

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Julian Alison (Licensing Team Leader), Tony Payne (Licensing and Development Manager), Lois Stock (Democratic and Electoral Services Officer) and Andrew Thomson (Environmental Development)

## **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Brundin and Williams, and Councillor Brett apologised for his expected late arrival.

## **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None declared

## **3. UPDATE ON LICENSING AUTHORITY ACTIVITY JANUARY 2011 - MARCH 2011**

The Head of Environmental Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) concerning licensing activity from January to March 2011.

Julian Alison (Licensing Team Leader) presented the report to the Committee and explained the background. He explained that Thames Valley police were now aware that any incidents linked to a particular licence should be investigated thoroughly, and that evidence should be properly proven before a request for a review was made. Meanwhile, enforcement activity continued apace. Sometimes a licence holder simply needed to be reminded of best practice. The following additional information was provided:-

- Appeal hearings were held at the Magistrate's Court, which was open to the public, and Councillors were free to attend if they wished;
- Test purchases [for sales of alcohol to under-age people] were expected to start again shortly. Thames Valley Police had asked if the Oxford Community Safety Partnership was able to assist with funding for the operations, however funding had not been provided centrally to either organisation. Julian Alison suggested that Councillors inform the Licensing Team of any concerns they had, and the Licensing Team would speak directly with the premises;
- It was suggested that attention should also be paid to the admission of underage people to some clubs in the City;
- Premises for inspection or test purchasing were identified as a result of intelligence supplied to Thames Valley Police and the Licensing Team;

- Julian Alison hoped to meet Katy Barrow-Grint the new Inspector for Oxford City centre shortly;
- It was noted that the Police Licensing Team had relocated to the Police headquarters at Kidlington. The Thames Valley Police Licensing Officer, Alex Bloomfield, had attended recent enforcement actions carried out by the City Council, and would be attending the Member Training on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2011;
- Julian Allison reminded the Committee that a training session on licensing would be held on 8<sup>th</sup> July in the Town Hall. Leo Charalambides, a barrister, would be providing the training, and members were urged to attend. It was intended that there would be shorter evening training sessions as back up later in the year. Councillors generally welcomed the provision of licensing training.
- It was suggested that the Chief Constable should meet with the Committee at least once a year in order to explain how the Police intended to run its licensing activities. Julian Alison would investigate this suggestion.

Resolved to note the report.

#### **4. MINUTES**

Resolved to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on 1<sup>st</sup> March and 19<sup>th</sup> May 2011.

It was noted that Licensing Hearings had been scheduled at 6 weekly intervals, subject to applications received. Julian Allison would circulate the dates to members of the Committee.

#### **5. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Resolved to note the following dates:-

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2011

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2012

**The meeting started at 5.00 pm and ended at 5.30 pm**