
CENTRAL LICENSING COMMITTEE, 16.09.13

Present: Councillor W. Tudor Owen (Chairman)
Councillor Eryl Jones-Williams (Vice-chairman)

Councillors: Eddie Dogan, Huw Edwards, Annwen Hughes, Christopher O'Neal, Peter Read, Angela Russell, Ann Williams, Elfed W. Williams

Also Present: Aled Davies (Head of Regulatory Department), John Reynolds (Senior Public Protection Manager), Siôn Huws (Language and Compliance Manager), Gwenan M. Williams (Licensing Manager) and Lowri Haf Evans (Member Support and Scrutiny Officer).

Councillor W. Tudor Owen welcomed everyone to the Committee.

1. Apologies - Councillor Gruffydd Williams

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received from any members present.

3. MINUTES

The Chairman signed the minutes of the previous meeting of this committee held on 24 June 2013 as a true record.

5. MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEES

Submitted - for information, the minutes of meetings of the Central Licensing Sub-committee held on 5 June, 4 July and 31 July 2013.

RESOLVED to accept the information.

6. LETTER FROM BANGOR CITY COUNCIL – FOR DISCUSSION

A letter had been received from Gwyn Hughes, Clerk of Bangor City Council (dated 4.9.2013), expressing that the residents of Bangor felt that they were being left disappointed by the recent decisions of the Licensing Sub-committees to permit food retailers to stay open late – contrary to the advice of the Police and objections of the City Council. It was reported that these decisions would lead to inevitable implications for residents – an increase in noise, disturbance, rubbish, anti-social behaviour and violence.

Observations:

Members of the Licensing Committee expressed their disappointment at the content of the letter. Reference was made to the appropriate guidelines and procedures the Council had in place when implementing decisions and it was emphasised that decisions were made based on the information submitted.

It was recommended that a general letter was sent to Bangor City Council outlining the statutory procedure followed when the Licensing Subcommittee made decisions. They also needed to be reminded of their right to attend meetings, their right to appeal and their right to request reviews.

In response to a question, the Language and Compliance Manager explained that any member of the committee who was also a member of Bangor City Council would have a personal interest in this item under the Code of Conduct. Nevertheless, there was an exception in the Code which enabled them to participate in full in the current discussion.

Resolved that Gwenan Mai Williams and Siôn Huws, in consultation with the Chairman, draft a letter of response to Bangor City Council, noting the above-mentioned recommendations.

Everyone was thanked for their comments.

The meeting commenced at 10:00am and concluded at 10.30am.