

**LICENSING AND REGULATION COMMITTEE**

**1 March 2007**

Attendance:

Councillors:

Mather (Chairman) (P)

Baxter (P)

Berry (P)

Howell (P)

Hammerton (P)

Izard (P)

Johnston (P)

Love (P)

Pearce

Ruffell

Sutton (P)

Wagner

Weston (P)

Wood (P)

Wright (P)

Deputy Members in Attendance:

Councillor Verney (Standing Deputy for Councillor Wood)

Other Members attending and speaking:

Councillor Pearson (Portfolio Holder for Environment, Health and Safety)

Councillor Maynard

---

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Ruffell, Wood and Wagner.

2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 12 December 2006 be approved and adopted.

3. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Cllr Maynard spoke in support of the proposed Alcohol Consumption Designation Order, explaining the problems that street drinking had caused in his Ward. He considered that this new Order would solve the issues of displacement that were faced by residents on the periphery of the current Zone.

4. **MINUTES OF THE LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE HELD 20 DECEMBER 2006**

(Report LR214 refers)

The Committee received the minutes of the Licensing Sub-Committee held on 20 December 2006 (attached as Appendix A to the minutes).

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Licensing Sub-Committee held on 20 December be received and noted.

5. **EXTENSION OF THE ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION DESIGNATION ORDER**  
(Report LR211 refers)

The City Secretary and Solicitor outlined the proposals set out in the report to the Committee. In December 2004, the Committee authorised the first Alcohol Consumption Designation Order, which covered the central part of the Winchester Town area. Although the zone proved to be very successful, for example in areas such as Abbey Gardens, it became apparent that street drinkers had moved to areas immediately outside the zone, notably Hyde Gate and River Park Leisure Centre. He continued that various agencies, including the City Council, the Police and other members of the Winchester Community Safety Partnership, had monitored the situation since the implementation of the Zone in July 2005.

The City Secretary and Solicitor reported to the Committee that Fareham Borough Council was proposing to introduce an Alcohol Consumption Designation Order across its whole district, which would include some of Whiteley. As Winchester City Council was not proposing this, it could mean that the Police would be able to control drinking in the Fareham part of Whiteley, but not in the part within the Winchester District, if Fareham's proposals were agreed. He added that officers did not feel that there was a substantial issue with anti-social behaviour caused by street drinking in this area. Therefore, a fully inclusive zone was not necessary at this time. It was agreed that the situation should be monitored.

It was reported that the proposed new Zone had been drafted in consultation with the Police, using their beat patrols as a basis. The Director of Communities explained that the Community Safety Partnership had begun to investigate concerns from the public over displacement to other residential areas. However, it was important to not only have the power to enforce the Alcohol Consumption Designation Order, but also to provide assistance and advice to the street drinkers themselves. Extra funding had been requested from the Partnership, which could be used to provide outreach workers to support those that required help.

During discussion, the Committee raised concerns over the number of young people that were obtaining alcohol and drinking it in public areas, some as young as 11 years old. There were also worries that as the nights got lighter towards the summer months, this would encourage people to stay out longer and drink more.

Members discussed the possibility of further displacement should the Alcohol Consumption Designation Order be extended as proposed. There were concerns that the area would now be too large for the current police resources to deal with effectively and efficiently. The Director of Communities confirmed that the police would be patrolling these areas during their beats and that this Order would give them more enforcement powers to deal with situations that were already arising, rather than increasing the amount of work they had to do. Councillor Pearson explained that street drinkers would probably not move even further away from the town centre into the more rural area of the District.

Some Members felt that a zone covering the whole District should be discussed in the future. The City Secretary and Solicitor explained that, before making a designation order covering such an area, the Council had to be satisfied that nuisance or annoyance to members of the public or a section of the public, or disorder, had been associated with the consumption of alcohol across the whole of the area. He continued that if, during the consultation period, responses were received seeking an extension to the proposed Zone, this could be considered with other agencies and a report brought back if appropriate.

Responding to questions from Members, the Director of Communities explained that there were some issues over the reporting of incidents, as it was not always clear what the data did and did not include. He agreed that gathering better information was needed and that it was also important to improve the understanding of that information. The Committee felt that improved data collection was required in order to properly monitor performance.

Councillor Pearson reported that, although discussions had taken place, a 'wet shelter' for alcoholics had not been introduced to the District to date. This was because many alcoholics had concerns over using this type of facility, due to violence that could be associated with them. He added that there was also an issue of people getting drunk in pubs and then causing problems once they left the premises. This would also need to be addressed and reported accurately.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the Committee approve in principle the making of an extended designation order under Section 13 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 for the areas set out in this report (in addition to those areas already included in the existing Designation Order).
2. That the consultation process set out in Section 4 of this report be agreed.
3. That a report on the results of the consultation be brought back to the Committee at a Special Meeting on 7 June 2007.

**6. FEES AND CHARGES 2007/08**  
(Report LR213)

The City Secretary and Solicitor reported that the budget had been agreed at Council on 28 February 2007. The Fees and Charges in the report had assumed the agreed inflationary increase and confirmed that the Director of Finance had also agreed the increases.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the City Secretary and Solicitor be authorised to give public notice of the proposed increases in hackney carriage/private hire vehicle and operators' licences as set out in Appendix 1 to come into effect at the end of the objection period if the City Secretary and Solicitor considers that there are no material objections and in the event of objections being received the matter be brought back to the Committee.

2. That the City Secretary and Solicitor be authorised to increase all licensing fees and charges with effect from 1 April 2007, (other than for hackney carriage/private hire vehicle and operators licences) by an average of 3% as set out in Appendices 1 and 2.

3. That the City Secretary and Solicitor, in consultation with the Chairman, be authorised to set fees for licences and permits under the Gambling Act once the relevant regulations have been made.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 7.40pm

Chairman