



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL LICENSING ACT 2003

Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Licensing Act 2003 held on Monday, 14 November 2022 at 4.30 pm.

County Borough Councillors - Licensing Act 2003 Members in attendance:-

Councillor A Fox (Chair)

Councillor S Bradwick	Councillor L Ellis
Councillor K Johnson	Councillor G Holmes
Councillor S Powderhill	Councillor A O Rogers
Councillor G Stacey	Councillor T Williams

Officers in attendance:-

Ms L Davies, Director, Public Health, Protection and Community Services
Mr P Nicholls, Service Director, Legal Services
Mr M Owen, Assistant Licensing Manager

8 Declaration of Interest

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, there were no declarations made pertaining to the agenda.

9 Apologies

Apologies of absence were received from County Borough Councillors M. Powell and J. Turner.

10 Human Rights Act 1997 and Crime and Disorder Act

It was **RESOLVED** to note that when Members determine the licensing and registration matters before them, they have a duty not to act in a manner that is incompatible with the convention on Human Rights and the Crime and Disorder Act.

11 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 12th July 2022 as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

12 **Review of the Licensing Act 2003 & Gambling Act 2005**

The Director of Public Health, Protection and Community Services provided the Committee with the report on relevant issues with regard to the Licensing Act 2003 and the Gambling Act 2005 for the period 27th June to 16th October 2022, together with ancillary matters arising from the responsibilities charged to the Committee.

An analysis of the TEN's applications indicate 30 new personal licenses that have been allocated and that the number of applications remain on the increase as the summer months have seen a welcome return to events in the community that we used to enjoy pre-covid epidemic. Furthermore, artisan craft markets are increasing in popularity at several venues and premises continue to be able to utilise their temporary event process where there are issues with their premises license.

The Director of Public Health, Protection and Community Services reported that since the last Committee report, there had been one contested application for a Variation of Premises Licence which had been refused and no appeal has been lodged. Also, there were no contested applications to report during this period, however, there are a number of appeals from Applicants at the Old Post Office (Squares), Food For You and Mountain Ash Stores which are currently pending. Furthermore, in the last report, it was reported that the appeal for Chippy Plus was pending but due to a transfer of the premises licence on the 26th July, 2022, this appeal was then abandoned.

The Director of Public Health, Protection and Community Services referred Members to section 4.3 of the report, where the premises inspections and infringements were outlined. In total there has been 70 premises inspected throughout the Borough, a number of which have required follow up visits.

Members learned that the proactive work being conducted has shown an increase in the current performance level for inspected premises which is now at 90.66% compared to 89.7% during the previous reporting period and officers are working continuously with these premises to ensure they become compliant.

Members were reminded that the 'Ask Angela' campaign continues to be promoted among premises which is a very positive step to reassure the public that licensed premises are safe and individuals can approach staff.

The Director highlighted the importance of Pubwatch which remains strong within RCT, with meetings taking place throughout the Borough. In particular, Pontypridd pubwatch has successfully made the National Pubwatch Awards final for the second year whereby the chair of the group was invited to the House of Lords for an awards evening.

It was reported that in relation to the number of complaints received,

these have continued to be problematic and the general behaviour post pandemic is a challenge for many of our communities. Furthermore, Licensing premises have their part to play in working towards licensing objectives and promoting crime and disorder objectives.

It was also reported that the Safety Advisory group which is a multi-agency platform held a meeting in September to discuss events being held across the Borough to the end of 2022 and this is required to understand the nature of events and provide appropriate advice from the onset to enable the event to run safely.

In terms of Complaints, queries and guidance, they have continued during this period and include:

- A joint visit with Trading Standards was conducted to a licensed premises in the Porth area due to allegations of underage sales. This visit was followed by a random visit from SWP. No underage customers were located on the premises.
- Joint visit with SWP to a Beddau licensed premises to check for underage customers being present, no underage found on the premises at that time.

Members were advised of a very positive news story in that the Lion Pub in Treorchy won the 'Best Community Pub in Great Britain'. This was open to over 50,000 pubs and the competition was fierce and the reward was prize money of £10,000, which is to be spent on a charity, good cause or local initiative. However, the owner has decided to donate the winnings to the whole town for Christmas.

In terms of the recovery of annual fees, Members were advised that the payment of annual fees remains at an expected level and officers are monitoring and where needed issuing reminder notices and contacting by phone to obtain the payment. Furthermore, the authority has a very robust process to ensure payment is received and will take action such as suspension where necessary and a number of premises have had their licence suspended during this period, which has triggered a reaction and payment from the premises resulting in the suspension being lifted.

The Director of Public Health, Protection and Community Services referred Members to section 5.1 of the report and provided them with an update in terms of the Gambling Act 2005.

Members took the opportunity to thank the Licensing Team for their continuous hard work and it was **RESOLVED:-**

- 1 To note the contents of the report in respect of the **Licensing Act 2003** and;
- 2 To note the contents of the report in respect of the **Gambling Act 2005**.

13 To consider passing the under-mentioned Resolution:

It was **RESOLVED** that the press and public be excluded from the meeting under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 13 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

14 Licences and Registrations Issued Under the provision of Delegated Powers for the period 27.06.22 - 16.10.22

The Director of Public Health, Protection and Community Services provided the Committee with details of licences and registrations issued during the period 27th June 2022 to the 16th October 2022.

Following discussions, it was **RESOLVED** to note the content of the report.

This meeting closed at 4.50 pm

**CLLR A FOX
CHAIR.**