

SOUTH AYRSHIRE LOCAL LICENSING FORUM

Minutes of the meeting of South Ayrshire Local Licensing Forum in County Buildings, Ayr on 22 February 2023 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Catrina Andrew (Chair), David Cuthill, Janice Lindsay, Paul Zive, Rachael Rennie, Sandy Paton and Sukhuinderjit Sangha

Officers: Laura McChristie, Co-ordinator – Legal and Licensing, A Nelson, Co-ordinator, Democratic Services and Connie Griffiths, Assistant Committee Clerk.

Apologies: Alec Russell

1. Welcome

The Licensing Standards Officer welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Forum and with agreement from the Forum members chaired the meeting.

2. South Ayrshire Council – Local Licensing Forum – Constitution Feedback

The Chair circulated copies of the Forum's constitution and explained that every local authority in Scotland must have Local Licensing Forum. She further explained that the objectives of the Forum were to keep under review the operation of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 and the exercise by the Licensing Board of their functions; and to give such advice and make such recommendations to the Board in relation to matters as the Forum considers appropriate.

The Chair discussed attendance and suggested putting in place a rule for members who did not attend. Members agreed that Members who missed three meetings per year without any reason may be deemed to have left the Forum. As there were four meetings per year this would mean the Member would only have attended one meeting.

Forum members further reviewed the Constitution and the Chair agreed to update it and circulate it thereafter.

3. Membership of the Licensing Forum

As part of 2) above the membership of the Forum was discussed. It was acknowledged that a recruitment exercise would be required, and discussion arose around how to encourage younger people to attend. Members discussed the possibility of holding Forum meetings on a hybrid basis which may be more convenient for young people. It may also be more convenient for representatives of the NHS and Police Scotland.

After further discussion it was agreed that a recruitment exercise would be undertaken, and the future meetings of the Forum would be held on a hybrid basis via Microsoft Teams. Members would be given the link to join the meeting remotely but would also be given the opportunity to attend at the County Buildings.

4. Current Licensing Board Policy Statement

The Chair advised that South Ayrshire Licensing Board were reviewing their Licensing Policy and a draft would be available for consultation soon.

With many large social events scheduled to take place in South Ayrshire this year, the Forum may consider and discuss at a future meeting, the appropriateness of Children and Young People at these events and whether the inclusion of gambling, vertical drinking and lack of 'family activities' would be in keeping with the Licensing Objective 'Protecting Children and Young People from harm'. A few examples of applications being considered by the Board at their next meeting were highlighted and the Chair suggested that Forum Members may find it interesting to attend the Board meeting on 9th March to Hear the Board's decision regarding these.

5. Date and Time of the next Forum Meeting

The Chair hoped to have a copy of South Ayrshire Licensing Board's draft Policy Statement and to allow for discussion it was subsequently agreed that the next meeting of the Forum would take place on Wednesday 29 March 2023 at 10.00am in the Troon Committee Room, County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr.

The meeting ended at 11.10 am