

County Buildings
Wellington Square
AYR KA7 1DR
Tel. No. 01292 612474

11 March 2025

Dear Member

SOUTH AYRSHIRE LOCAL LICENSING FORUM

You are invited to attend a meeting of the South Ayrshire Local Licensing Forum scheduled to be held in the Dundonald Committee Room, County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr on Tuesday, 25 of March 2025 at 10.00 a.m. to consider the undernoted business.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please advise on the contact details below.

Yours sincerely

Arlene Steven

Clerk to the Licensing Board

BUSINESS

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the previous Forum meeting of 27 November 2025 (copy enclosed)
3. Minutes of the board meeting
 - (a) 27 November 2024 (copy enclosed)
 - (b) 5 December 2024 (copy enclosed)
 - (c) 16 January 2025 (copy enclosed)
4. Other Business
5. Date of the next Forum Meeting – 21 May 2025

SOUTH AYRSHIRE LOCAL LICENSING FORUM

**Minutes of the meeting of South Ayrshire Local Licensing Forum
in County Buildings, Ayr on Wednesday 27th November 2024 at 10am.**

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

Officers: A Steven, Co-ordinator, Democratic Services

Apologies: Alex Kelly, Sergeant Kathryn Thornton and Sergeant David Markin

The Licensing Standards Officer welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Forum and reminded them that a meeting with the Licensing Board would follow at 11am. Sergeant Sheryl Syme has retired from Police Scotland and will be replaced by Sergeant David Markin.

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Minutes of the previous Forum meeting of 28 August 2024

The Chair advised that a letter had been sent to the Board expressing support to them for approving innovative ideas.

Janice Lindsay, seconded by Rachael Rennie, moved approval of the minute of the 28 August 2024.

The Forum

Decided: to approve the minutes.

3. Minutes of previous Board Meetings

The minutes of the Board meetings of the 19 September 2024 and 24 October 2024 were circulated and the following was discussed:-

- the request for a letter to be sent to the Scottish Government requesting that the Minimum Unit Price (MUP) for Alcohol be re-examined;
- the application for transfer under delegated powers of the Horseshoe Bar in Ayr. They have submitted a planning application for change of use to an off-licence. If approved they would have to apply for a variation and not an off-sale licence as they are a licenced premises which includes off-licence;
- the application for variation from Ye Olde Forte Bar in Ayr for the removal of condition 2 – “There shall be no live music on the premises”. The new operator inherited this condition from one previous owner and had to provide an acoustic report for the condition to be removed;

- the application for an occasional licence for a bus bar to be parked on Miller Road for an event being held by Urquhart Opticians. Although this could have been approved under delegated powers, it was taken to the Board to allow for it to be made public and so that other members of the trade were aware of the event. No complaints were received however there was a discussion on the process if complaints were made;
- outstanding fees and how although there is not a requirement to renew licences the fee is due by 1 October each year in order to maintain the licence. There were 25 outstanding at 1 October and Section 14 Notices were issued. There are five still outstanding and these will be reviewed at the next meeting of the Board;
- warnings had been provided to premises regarding irresponsible Halloween promotions and the LSO was to report back if any further issues arose;
- how it was common practice for premises to apply for a provisional premises licence for re-assurance before investing in premises for then a licence to be refused;
- the application for a provisional premises licence for the old Bank of Scotland building in Troon which will have accommodation on the top floor and a restaurant on the ground floor;
- the refusal of the application for an occasional licence for the firework display at the Dam Park in Ayr; and
- Ayr Railway Welfare Club surrendering their licence.

4. Preparation for Discussion with the Board

(i) Minimum Pricing Alcohol

There was a discussion on the increase of the minimum pricing of alcohol in Scotland from 50p per unit to 65p per unit. Feedback overall was negative and there has been an increase in theft and abuse towards staff. The correspondence from the Scottish Government to the Council on this was minimal and people who were alcohol dependent are going without heating and food due to the increased prices. Although this money is going to retailers, the retailers are worse off as the sales are decreasing.

(ii) Alcohol at Family Events

Members were supportive of the decision by the Board to refuse the sale of alcohol at the fireworks. The application had been for five hours with the firework display only lasting 20 minutes. There was also a discussion on alcohol sales at the Ayr Show and how it was ever increasing that alcohol is available at family events.

5. AOB

There was a discussion on the voting system at Board Meetings and how it was confusing. This would be raised at the meeting with the Board at 11am.

6. Date and Time of the next Forum Meeting

The next meeting will be held on the 12 March 2025 at 10am.

The meeting ended at 10.50 am

**SOUTH AYRSHIRE LICENSING BOARD/
SOUTH AYRSHIRE LOCAL LICENSING FORUM**

Minutes of the meeting of South Ayrshire Licensing Board/Local Licensing Forum
in County Buildings, Ayr on 27 November 2024 at 11.00 a.m.

Licensing Board

Members Present: Councillors William Grant (Chair) and Martin Kilbride.

Licensing Forum

Members Present: C. Andrew – Licensing Standards Officer (Chair), David Cuthill, Janice Lindsay, Sandy Paton, Rachael Rennie, Sukhuinderjit Sangha and Paul Zive.

Apologies:

Councillors Kenneth Bell; Laura Brennan-Whitefield; Bob Pollock; Gavin Scott and Duncan Townson; Alex Kelly, Sergeant Kathyne Thornton and Sergeant David Markin.

Attending:

K. Briggs, Service Lead – Legal and Licensing; L. McChristie, Co-ordinator (Licensing); and K. Hancox, Committee Services Officer.

1. Welcome

Councillor Grant, Chair of the Licensing Board, welcomed all present. It was then advised that the Licensing Standards Officer would Chair this meeting.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of South Ayrshire Licensing Board/Local Licensing Forum of 26 October 2023 were submitted and approved.

3. Discussion between the Board and the Forum

(i) Minimum Unit Pricing for Alcohol

Having heard from Members of the Forum, there was discussion on the negative impact retailers had experienced due to the rise of Minimum Unit Pricing for Alcohol which included an increase in shoplifting incidents and abuse towards staff.

Discussion took place on the lack of information and support received from the Scottish Government and that businesses had to deal with this on their own at short notice.

It had also been emphasised that extra funds received from the price increase were going to the wholesalers; and the retailers were not receiving extra income as the profit margins were low.

Councillor Grant advised that it was the intention of the Licensing Board to write to the Scottish Government to highlight the issues arising from the Minimum Unit Pricing policy,

and that the Forum's concerns would be included in this. A meeting would be requested by the Licensing Board with the relevant Minister to further discuss the issues.

(ii) Alcohol at Family Friendly Events

Following discussion, it was noted that Forum members were supportive of alcohol being sold at family friendly events subject to individual circumstances being considered on a case by case basis, eg the type of event, the venue and the location. There was concern among Forum members if alcohol sales were banned from all events as this may negatively affect attendance.

The Licensing Standards Officer advised that she has to consider the appropriateness of an event as "family friendly" and she would continue to divert Occasional Licence applications to the Board for their determination, where she considered appropriate.

(iii) Board Meetings

Members of the Forum requested clarification on the voting at Licensing Board meetings, as there was some confusion regarding situations where it appeared that the Board had to carry out a second vote on an application. The Service Lead – Legal and Licensing clarified that this relates to the detail of the Council's current Standing Orders Relating to Meetings, in particular Standing Order 19.9. The effect of this Standing Order is that, where there is initially an unopposed Motion, but the members are not in general agreement (ie the vote on this is not unanimous), a second vote (under Standing Order 23) must then take place where Members are asked to vote For, Against or Abstain to the Motion. In these circumstances, it is the second vote which would determine the application.

The meeting ended at 11.55 am

SOUTH AYRSHIRE LICENSING BOARD.

Minutes of a hybrid webcast meeting held on 5 December 2024 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors William Grant (Chair), Kenneth Bell, Laura Brennan-Whitefield, Martin Kilbride Bob Pollock and Duncan Townson.

Apology: Councillor Gavin Scott.

Attending: K. Briggs, Service Lead – Legal and Licensing; C. Andrew, Licensing Standards Officer; K. Hancox, Committee Services Officer and E. Moore, Committee Services Assistant.

Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, outlined the procedures for conducting this meeting and advised that it would be broadcast live.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by Members of the Board in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

2. Date of Next Board Meeting

The Chair advised that the next Board meeting would be held on Thursday 16 January 2025 at 10.00 a.m.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The [Minutes](#) of the Meeting of South Ayrshire Licensing Board of 24 October 2024 (issued) were submitted.

Decided: to approve the Minutes of the previous meeting.

4. Update by Licensing Standards Officer (LSO)

The Licensing Standards Officer advised

- (1) that licensed premises in South Ayrshire were now benefiting from 'seasonal variations' to core hours if they had them included in their operating plan. In most cases this equated to an additional later hour trading which meant that some premises would be able to open until 3.30am on certain nights throughout December;
- (2) that premises were not obliged to use the hours that had been granted and there was no requirement to notify in advance of the intention to stay open, however, she had approached the premises managers and asked that they notify the Licensing Team of any nights they intended to host specific events or had a large number of bookings so that larger crowds could be anticipated in the area;

- (3) that members would be aware of the existence of the 'Reducing Violence' joint action group which focused on Ayr town centre and Prestwick, and which consisted of a number of partners who attempted to ensure there was support provided for people who were out enjoying a night out, with this including first aid, taxi marshalling, increased policing and the street pastors who engaged with the public. This support was provided throughout the year and she paid recognition to those people who gave up their time, particularly as volunteers to make this possible;
- (4) that a few of the Board members had recently met with the South Ayrshire Licensing Forum for their annual discussion which proved to be a very successful meeting with shared views regarding the minimum pricing legislation and family friendly events with alcohol. Forum members were able to provide the Board with examples of their own experiences and advise how both Government and Board policies were affecting the hospitality trade and the community in their area;
- (5) that it had been very positive to note that the Board had the full support of Forum members regarding decisions they had taken over the past year;
- (6) that whilst there was no doubt that this had been a particularly challenging year for the hospitality trade, it was pleasing to note that new operators were entering the licensed trade in South Ayrshire and this included re-opening premises that had been previously closed. There also continued to be investment in premises and she was aware of a few variation applications that should come before the Board early in 2025; and
- (7) that, as premises prepared for what was traditionally the busiest time of year for licensed premises, she acknowledged the support from the police licensing team in Kilmarnock and also from Inspector Ian McColl and his team of local officers who had assisted her throughout the year.

The Board

Decided: to note the update from the LSO.

5. **Revocation of Personal Licences**

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 20 November 2024 by the Clerk to the Licensing Board advising of the revocations of thirty-two Personal Licences.

The Board

Decided: to note the revocation of thirty-two Personal Licences since the last Board meeting.

6. **Applications for Transfers Granted Under Delegated Powers**

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 18 November 2024 by the Clerk to the Licensing Board advising of the following determination of an application for the Transfer of a Licence between the last Board meeting and this Board:-

- (1) Central Bar, 58 Main Street, Prestwick – transferred to James Andrew Griffith on 14 October 2024.

The Board

Decided: to note the transfer granted under delegated powers.

7. **Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005**

(a) **Application for Variation of Premises Licence**

The Board considered the following application:

Applicant

(1) Taj Grocers Ltd

Premises

Horseshoe Bar
81-83 George Street
Ayr

	Existing Licensed Hours		Proposed Licensing Hours	
	On Sales	Off Sales	On Sales	Off Sales
Monday	11:00 – 00:30	11:00 – 22:00	N/A	10:00 – 22:00
Tuesday	11:00 – 00:30	11:00 – 22:00	N/A	10:00 – 22:00
Wednesday	11:00 – 00:30	11:00 – 22:00	N/A	10:00 – 22:00
Thursday	11:00 – 00:30	11:00 – 22:00	N/A	10:00 – 22:00
Friday	10:00 – 00:30	10:00 – 22:00	N/A	10:00 – 22:00
Saturday	10:00 – 00:30	10:00 – 22:00	N/A	10:00 – 22:00
Sunday	12:30 – 00:00	12:30 – 22:00	N/A	10:00 – 22:00

Change premises name to “Family Shopper”.

Remove all activities associated with an On Sales premises.

Add the following to the operating plan: -

Off sales 10am to 10pm Monday – Sunday

Background music

Home delivery of food and alcohol

Parcel collection service

Food to go

Remove local condition of beer garden to be closed for the consumption of alcohol after 10pm.

Having heard from the Service Lead – Legal and Licensing and the applicant’s representative, the Board

Decided: to grant the above application.

(b) **Application for Occasional Licence**

The Board considered the following applications:

Applicant

(1) Helen Murray Hamilton

Premises

Maybole Town Hall
High Street
Maybole

Marriage wedding celebration - On Sale – 12/04/2025 – 1:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

Having heard from the Licensing Standards Officer, the Board

Decided: to grant the above application.

(c) **Application for Extended Hours**

The Board considered the following applications:-

Applicant

(1) Buzzworks Property Ltd

Festive Season

23/12/24 – 00:30 a.m. to 02:30 a.m.

24/12/24 – 00:30 a.m. to 02:30 a.m.

26/12/24 – 02:30 a.m. to 03:30 a.m.

30/12/24 – 00:30 a.m. to 02:30 a.m.

31/12/24 – 00:30 a.m. to 02:30 a.m.

Premises

The Buf
36 Main Street
Prestwick

Having heard from the Licensing Standards Officer, the Board

Decided: to grant the above application.

Applicant

(2) Buzzworks Hospitality Ltd

Hogmanay

31/12/24 – 00:30 a.m. to 03:30 a.m.

Premises

Vic's and the Vine
132 Main Street
Prestwick

Having heard from the Licensing Standards Officer, the Board

Decided: to refuse the above application on the grounds that the Board had previously granted extended hours to this premises and there had been no reason provided for the extra extension requested.

Applicant

(3) Ghillie Dhu

Final of Super Bowl

09/02/25 – 01:30 a.m. to 03:30 a.m.

Premises

Ghillie Dhu
11 Burns Statue Square
Ayr

Having heard from the Licensing Standards Officer and the representative, the Board

Decided: to grant the above application.

Applicant

(4) Burnet (Fairfield Licence) Limited

Premises

Fairfield House Hotel
12 Fairfield Road
Ayr

Hogmanay Ball Party Night – 31/12/24 – 00:30 a.m. to 02:00 a.m.

Having heard from the Licensing Standards Officer and the representative, the Board

Decided: to grant the above application.

Applicant

(5) RAD Ltd

Premises

Carlton Hotel
187 Ayr Road
Prestwick

Hogmanay Ball Party Night – 31/12/24 – 00:30 a.m. to 02:00 a.m.

Having heard from the Licensing Standards Officer and the representative, the Board

Decided: to grant the above application.

(d) Premises Licences Ceasing to Exist

The Board noted that the following licences now ceased to exist as the licences had been surrendered.

- (1) Failford Inn, Failford
- (2) The Bracken Bar, Heads of Ayr Caravan Park, Ayr

Decided: to note the Premises Licences ceasing to exist.

(e) Premises Licence Review – Unpaid Annual Fees

Having heard from the Licensing Standards Officer that Ocean Stores had paid their annual fee and that no further action was to be taken; and recommended that the following premises licence were to be suspended -

Premises Licence Holder

CJC Henderson Ltd

Premises

Welltrees Inn
9-11 Welltrees Street
Maybole

Partnership of Greenhead Hotel

Greenhead Hotel
45 Main Street
Girvan

Daedalus Properties Limited

Arthur Street Kitchen
11-13 Arthur Street
Ayr

ATM Bar and Restaurants Ltd

Vitos
25 Burns Statue Square
Ayr

Decided:

- (1) to suspend the above premise licences until payment of the annual fee was received and granted delegated powers to the Clerk to reinstate the licence when payment received; and
- (2) to request a Members briefing with the Clerk to the Licensing Board to discuss streamlining the process and to hear the review requests earlier.

8. Closing Remarks

The Chair thanked everyone in attendance and concluded the meeting.

The meeting ended at 11:10 a.m.

SOUTH AYRSHIRE LICENSING BOARD.

Minutes of a hybrid webcast meeting held on 16 January 2025 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors William Grant (Chair), Kenneth Bell, Laura Brennan-Whitefield, Martin Kilbride and Duncan Townson.

Apologies: Councillors Bob Pollock and Gavin Scott.

Attending: K. Briggs, Service Lead – Legal and Licensing and Depute Clerk to the Board; L. McChristie, Co-ordinator – Licensing and Depute Clerk to the Board; C. Andrew, Licensing Standards Officer; K. Hancox, Committee Services Officer and E. Moore, Committee Services Assistant.

Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, outlined the procedures for conducting this meeting and advised that it would be broadcast live.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by Members of the Board in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

2. Date of Next Board Meeting

The Chair advised that the next Board meeting would be held on Thursday 13 February 2025 at 10.00 a.m.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The [Minutes](#) of the Meeting of South Ayrshire Licensing Board of 5 December 2024 (issued) were submitted.

Decided: to approve the Minutes of the previous meeting.

4. Update by Licensing Standards Officer (LSO)

The Licensing Standards Officer advised

- (1) that January was traditionally a quiet month for the licensed trade as most people recovered from a busy festive period and that it was usual practice for the Trade to reflect on what should have been one of the busiest times of year for hospitality and plan for the coming months;

- (2) that she would like to thank members of the Trade who had taken time to talk to her in detail about their experience over the past few months and shared concerns and plans for the future. She had been able to gain information from a variety of operators throughout South Ayrshire and whilst the experiences of each had varied, there was a universal opinion that customers were very cautious to spend money and were very much aware of costs so had not been as keen to eat out or stay out as long as they may have previously. The off sales were still consistently busy and it was reported that minimum pricing had not reduced alcohol sales, but that customers may be less likely to purchase additional food items to make up for the price difference;
- (3) that the impact of price increases in business rates and electricity had been felt by the on sale trade, but the largest and most significant challenge was staffing. Following the recent budget, many premises had decided to reduce trading days and/or staff working hours. Operators had expressed concerns that raising their prices to accommodate the rise in National Insurance would simply price them out of the market and encourage the public to buy off sales and stay at home. Members would be aware of statistics presented at past Board meetings by representatives of the NHS and associated health teams which had indicated that off sales were predominantly the concern in relation to harmful drinking as regulated consumption of alcohol in an on sales venue would slow down and reduce the amount consumed, particularly when there were other social activities, company and food. By reducing the affordability of attending an on sales venue, many people were deciding to drink at home and the social aspect of hospitality was also lost;
- (4) that the licensed trade was facing a further cost increase next month from suppliers who would be increasing their prices to accommodate the rise in National Insurance in relation to their staff. This meant that those who supplied the on trade would be increasing their costs and that as a result of this a handful of operators had decided not to continue and the premises had been either put up for sale, leased or returned to the landlord;
- (5) that there were several premises who had already approached licensing for information and guidance in relation to making applications to vary their licence to permit new activities or introduce additional trading space (including outdoor space) to allow sustainability of the business and that she was working with operators to ensure that future applications were in line with the Board's policy, the licensing objectives and met the requirements of the premises and expected to see these applications at Board meetings in the future;
- (6) that staffing remained an issue in licensed premises with employers reporting difficulties in recruiting and retaining staff and with many experienced staff having left the industry in the past few years. Members would be aware that it was a requirement that all staff who worked in licensed premises were trained in line with the Licensing (Scotland) Act. However, in order to ensure the licensing objectives were upheld and the premises were run safely and effectively, it was important that staff were also trained in conflict management and remained vigilant regarding the behaviour of patrons whilst they were in the premises and exiting from them;
- (7) that a few premises had been highlighted by patrons suggesting that further staff training may be required. For this reason, she would be carrying out visits to premises in the next few months to ensure staff training was being carried out and that staff were aware of the internal policies and procedures, particularly in relation to proof of age checks, refusing service and recognising and preventing inappropriate behaviour; and
- (8) that she would report back to future meetings any premises who were not willing to address any shortfalls in staff training requirements.

Members of the Board reiterated the importance of training within licensed premises and noted that a report back would be appreciated.

The Board

Decided: to note the update from the LSO.

5. **Licensing Standards Officer Request for Delegated Powers re Occasional Licences**

There was submitted a [request](#) (issued) by the Licensing Standards Officer for Delegated Powers for Occasional Licences for named regular applicants until 31 December 2025 and confirmed that any concerns in relation to any of the licensing objectives or the Board's policy would continue to be referred to the Board for decision.

The Board

Decided: to grant delegated powers to the Clerk and Depute Clerks to the Licensing Board to grant applications as described in the report by the Licensing Standards Officer.

6. **Applications for Transfers Granted Under Delegated Powers**

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 3 January 2025 by the Clerk to the Licensing Board advising of the following determination of an application for the Transfer of a Licence between the last Board meeting and this Board:-

- (1) Turnberry Holiday Park, Kirkoswald Road, Turnberry – transferred to Turnberry Holiday Park (Scotland) Ltd on 19 December 2024.

The Board

Decided: to note the transfer granted under delegated powers.

7. **Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005**

(a) **Application for Variation of Premises Licence**

The Board considered the following application:

Applicant

(1) Santokh Singh

Premises

Toll Mini Market
157-159 Ayr Road
Prestwick

	Existing Licensed Hours		Proposed Licensing Hours	
	On Sales	Off Sales	On Sales	Off Sales
Monday	N/A	11:00 – 22:00	N/A	10:00 – 22:00
Tuesday	N/A	11:00 – 22:00	N/A	10:00 – 22:00
Wednesday	N/A	11:00 – 22:00	N/A	10:00 – 22:00
Thursday	N/A	11:00 – 22:00	N/A	10:00 – 22:00
Friday	N/A	10:00 – 22:00	N/A	10:00 – 22:00
Saturday	N/A	10:00 – 22:00	N/A	10:00 – 22:00
Sunday	N/A	12:30 – 22:00	N/A	10:00 – 22:00

Change off sales alcohol display area to 14.65m2.
Background music will be played during all trading hours Monday – Sunday.

Having heard from the Co-ordinator – Licensing and Depute Clerk to the Board and the applicant's representative, the Board

Decided: to grant the above application.

(b) Application for Extended Hours

The Board considered the following applications:-

Applicant

M.E.T. Corporate Ltd

Premises

Mulligans
7-9 Arthur Street
Ayr

Superbowl 2025 - 09/02/25 – 01.30 a.m. to 03.30 a.m.

Having heard from the Licensing Standards Officer and the applicant's representative, the Board

Decided: to grant the application on the basis that it was a special event catered for on the premises, and not an event of local or national significance.

(c) Premises Licences Ceasing to Exist

The Board noted that the following licence now ceased to exist as the licence had been surrendered.

Fourways, 1 Annbank Road, Mossblown

Decided: to note the Premises Licence ceasing to exist.

8. Closing Remarks

The Chair thanked officers and the Board for their hard work and concluded the meeting.

The meeting ended at 10.30 a.m.