

Minute of Joint Meeting of the **ANGUS LOCAL LICENSING FORUM AND ANGUS LICENSING BOARD** held remotely on Thursday 25 November 2021 at 9.45am.

Present: **ANGUS LOCAL LICENSING FORUM**

HOLDERS OF PREMISES LICENCES & PERSONAL LICENCES

SHEENA COCHRANE
GRAEME STRACHAN

RESIDENTS

ANGIE MERRILEES

ANGUS COUNCIL

NICKY CORLETT, LICENSING STANDARDS OFFICER.
LAURA OGILVY, ANGUS ALCOHOL AND DRUGS PARTNERSHIP

POLICE SCOTLAND

INSPECTOR MAHBOOD AHMAD
PC ROBYN JAMIESON
PC MATTHEW SIMPSON

ANGUS LICENSING BOARD

Councillor CRAIG FOTHERINGHAM
Councillor RICHARD MOORE
Councillor BRIAN BOYD
Councillor COLIN BROWN BEM
Councillor BRENDA DURNO
Councillor DAVID FAIRWEATHER
Councillor ALEX KING
Councillor DAVID LUMGAIR
Councillor GAVIN NICOL
Councillor BETH WHITESIDE

COUNCIL OFFICERS

DAVID THOMPSON, Manager, Legal Team 1
TRACEY CANDY, Licensing and Litigation Assistant
CRAIG EASSON, Service Leader, Environmental and Consumer Protection
LEE THOM, Building Standards Manager

Also Present: FIONA ANDERSON, Committee Officer.

Apologies: An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of BRUCE SHERIDAN, Holder of a Personal Licence

Sheena Cochrane, Chair of Angus Licensing Forum in the Chair

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed all those present to the fourteenth Joint Meeting of the Angus Local Licensing Forum and Angus Licensing Board. Thereafter introductions were made.

2. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS JOINT MEETING

There was submitted and noted the minute of meeting of the Joint Meeting of the Angus Local Licensing Forum and the Angus Licensing Board of 26 November 2020.

3. ANGUS LOCAL LICENSING FORUM

Sheena Cochrane, Chair, reminded those present that there was a statutory requirement for the Licensing Board and the Forum to meet together at least once a year. She stressed that the joint meeting marked the continuation of a positive relationship between the Licensing Forum and the Licensing Board and that the Forum had a wide range of knowledge, interests, experience and skills, all of which were available to the Board to help them in developing and exercising their functions.

As a Forum, Mrs Cochrane felt members experience had grown over the past fourteen years and were now well on their way to carrying out their remit as set out in the 2005 Act. It was also heartening to have such a good working relationship with the Board.

She advised that the membership of the Forum had stayed the same but unfortunately due to Covid 19 the members had only managed to meet once in September 2021. At this meeting, the health partners advised that during the pandemic there had been a significant increase in alcohol referrals and a rise in alcohol deaths and they had distributed 100 digital devices to persons who use their services to help them access help. It was also noted that drug's deaths were also on the increase and she advised that it was hoped that a more detailed report on these issues would be provided to a future meeting of the Forum.

The Chairman advised that she had recently attended By Stander training along with the Licensing Standards Officer which had been provided by Police Scotland and helped premises staff deal with the vulnerabilities of people who had consumed too much alcohol and were posing a danger to themselves.

She also advised that the Forum had given their backing to the "Ask Angela" campaign where should a person on a night out feel unsafe, they could approach a member of the bar staff and "ask for Angela". This campaign has already been rolled out in a number of areas in Scotland.

She acknowledged how challenging the last 18 months had been for the hospitality sector and thanked the licensing staff of Angus Council and the Angus Licensing Board for the tremendous support and work that has been done during this difficult time to help the hospitality industry especially with the granting of outside drinking areas.

In conclusion, Mrs Cochrane wished the trade a successful year and hoped that the pandemic would pass soon and would not have a significant impact on the hospitality trade in Angus. She also thanked Forum members for their commitment and Angus Council for the administrative and financial support given to the Forum.

4. ANGUS LICENSING BOARD

On behalf of the Board, the Convener, Councillor Craig Fotheringham, expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to hold an annual joint meeting and indicated that it underpinned the mutual benefit of working together for the people of Angus. Both organisations strived constantly to encourage responsible drinking within the County and to work towards reducing anti-social behaviour.

He advised that there has been significant work carried out by the Licensing Team in terms of implementing the emergency COVID-19 legislation. The Licensing Team had worked to understand the effects this could have for the liquor trade in Angus and had produced extensive guidance notes placed on the Angus Council website. The Licensing Department had sought to be as pragmatic and as flexible as possible whilst working within the parameters of the legislation, to help the trade through this difficult time.

Councillor Fotheringham advised that since the last joint meeting of the Angus Licensing Board and Licensing Forum on 26 November 2020, the Angus Licensing Board had met by remote on ten occasions and during these meetings the Board had dealt with the following matters :-

- 2 new premises licence applications
- 7 provisional premises licence applications
- 33 requests to vary premises licences
- 0 reviews of premises licence
- 7 review of premises licences for non-payment of fees
- 1 matter pertaining to Personal Licences
- 0 Extended Hours applications
- 30 Occasional Licence applications (many of these had been for outside areas).

The following applications were also dealt with in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, as at 23 November: -

- 353 Occasional Licence applications
- 1 Extended Hours application
- 82 Personal Licence applications
- 76 Requests for minor variation or transfer
- 7 Premises Licences Surrendered

As of 19 November 2021, there were 341 premises licences in-force: (down 8 from previous year)

- 99 on-sales
- 150 on/off sales
- 92 off sales

The Convener also advised that the standard of how premises were run in Angus remained high and he had been kept informed from the clerk, licensing staff and LSO in respect of the visits she undertook, and any issues that may arise from them. He also expressed his delight that the licensing trade continued to work together in a co-operative manner with our LSO and licensing team as a whole, making sure that standards are upheld and the five licensing objectives adhered to.

He concluded by thanking the clerk, committee officer, and Licensing Team, for whom it had been another extremely busy year, for their most willing support, guidance and advice. He also thanked the Board members for their wealth of knowledge, experience and wisdom which they constantly bring to all Licensing Board meetings. On behalf of the Board, he thanked Police Scotland, ECP and Building Standards Officers who frequently have to endure lengthy meetings and deliberations for their input advice and guidance which was much appreciated.

He wished the Licensing Forum every success in the year ahead and hoped to continue to attend future meetings.

5. UPDATE BY POLICE SCOTLAND

Inspector Mahbood Ahmad gave members an update on the work currently being undertaken by Police Scotland and thanked the licensing trade for their continued engagement with them especially in light of the recent pandemic. He advised that on visiting licenced premises the Police had been very impressed with the running of these premises during the pandemic and in some cases the newly formed outside drinking areas. He advised the police had been busy with the processing of occasional licences for these outside areas. It was noted that there had been no premises reviews during the last year.

The By Stander Training provided by Police Scotland had been well received and it was hoped to run further training sessions. Training sessions over Teams were also being provided for the "Ask for Angela" campaign which helped prevent sexual issues and protected vulnerable lone females. Posters were being put up in various premises in Angus advising about this campaign.

He advised that there were no major issues within Angus and early intervention regarding any troublesome licensed premises was found to be the best approach to help avoid further problems in the future.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Ahmad for his update.

6. CHIEF CONSTABLES REPORT TO ANGUS LICENSING BOARD

There was submitted and noted the Chief Constables Report to the Angus Licensing Board for the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

7. ANNUAL FUNCTIONS REPORT – SECTION 9A OF THE LICENSING (S) ACT 2005

There was submitted and noted for information, Report No LB 41/21 by the Clerk advising of the new statutory requirement to produce an Annual Functions Report and presenting the fourth Annual Functions Report for the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report.

The Report indicated that on 20 December 2017, Section 56 of the Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2015 amended Section 9 of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 and inserted a new Section 9A which obliged all Licensing Board to produce an Annual Functions Report no later than 3 months after the end of each financial year ending on 31 March.

The members noted the information provided.

8. TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS FOR 2022

It was agreed that the Forum meet on the following dates: -

Monday 28 February 2022

Monday 13 June 2022

Thursday 24 November 2022 (Joint meeting with Angus Licensing Board).