

# MORAY LICENSING FORUM MEETING

03 May 2016

**Present:** Peter Adamson – Chair (PA); Douglas Caldwell (DC); Paul Johnson (PJ); Laura Sutherland (LS); Willie Findlay (WF); Ray Walker (RW); Julie Clark (JC); Sean Hoath (SH); Michael Reid (MR); Iain Catto (IC); Tara Shivaji (TS); Freya Macdonald – Minutes (FM).

ITEM		ACTION
1	<p><b><u>Apologies</u></b></p> <p>Stuart Lamberton (SL) Sheena Duffus (SD)</p>	
2	<p><b><u>Introductions</u></b></p> <p>All attendees introduced themselves and described their roles.</p>	
3	<p><b><u>Background and Purpose of Forum</u></b></p> <p>The forum is statutory for each Council. The main purpose of the forum is to the operation of the alcohol licensing system and advise/make recommendations to the Licensing Board. The Board has to take account all points put forward. The focus is the five licensing objectives:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Preventing crime and disorder;</li><li>• Securing public safety;</li><li>• Preventing public nuisance;</li><li>• Protecting and improving public health; and</li><li>• Protecting children from harm</li></ul>	
4	<p><b><u>Appointment of Convenor and Vice Convenor</u></b></p> <p>PA asked if anyone would like to take on the role of convenor. As there were no expressions of interest PA volunteered to take this on. PA was proposed by WF and seconded by PJ.</p> <p>The meeting agreed that a vice-convenor from the trade would help to keep</p>	<p><b>PA</b></p>

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	a balance. PA to speak Ken Asher regarding this.	
5	<p><b>Issues and Concerns:</b></p> <p>SH advised that the licensing policy is going to be reviewed in the next 18 months. Also there will be new regulations to take account of the upcoming elections. SH also informed the group that there is a tight focus on children in licensed premises.</p> <p>WF advised that the group should look at both on trade and off trade licensed premises as studies show that residents of Moray live a few hundred yards from either one or both. It was also discussed that underage drinking is happening more at home rather than a licensed premises. LS informed that a study in 2013 showed that Moray is higher than Grampian in underage drinking for both boys and girls. Although IC said that the trend for underage drinking is dropping and becoming less of a lifestyle choice as it is financially not sustainable.</p> <p>DC spoke about Environmental Health's role being preventing public nuisance around loud music in licenced premises. Also that guidance is offered to pubs and clubs to help manage this.</p> <p>WF highlighted that there are a lot of health implications that come with the consumption of alcohol and that it doesn't matter what age the person is they will always fall into needing the services whilst under the influence. It has also been shown that there is a spike in hospital admissions between the ages of 18 – 30 when under the influence.</p> <p>The Best Bar None Scheme was discussed. PJ said that it has a positive effect on the public. The scheme includes provision for people employed in the trade to act as link between customers who may have alcohol related problems and support services that could assist those customers. This helps get over reluctance by many to approach alcohol support services. The scheme contributes to licensing objectives by helping to improve the quality of licensed premises. There are also positives for the licensed trade</p>	

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	<p>as it doesn't cost them anything to join the scheme and will help to reduce their LP insurance.</p> <p>The group agreed that there is a high level of alcohol consumption in Moray and that there is a cause for concern.</p> <p>There are issues already outlined in the 10 year plan. PA to pick out relevant parts of the plan to be discussed at the next meeting. PJ also to look at the Drug and Alcohol Plan for the next meeting.</p>	<p><b>PA</b> <b>PJ</b></p>
6	<p><b><u>Any Other Business</u></b></p> <p>SH would like to make sure young people are being represented at the meetings and would like all youth groups to be invited. LS proposed that contact is made to the Grampian and Shire Councils to see how they approach this. IC suggested that the meetings are tailored around young people to ensure they are at a convenient time and place for them to fit around school/college. IC also suggested that contact is made to the UHI Student Union as they may be interested in attending the meetings.</p>	
7	<p><b>The date and venue for the next meeting to be arranged.</b></p>	