

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Licensing Committee held on Tuesday 14th January 2014 at 6.00 pm at the Business Development Centre, Stafford Park, Telford, TF3 3BA

PRESENT

Councillors: C Turley (Vice-Chair in the Chair), T Hope, A Mackenzie, J Seymour, R Sloan, M Smith and J Thompson

Officers in attendance: L Noakes (Assistant Director: Health, Wellbeing and Public Protection), J Revell (Service Delivery Manager: Public Protection) T Street (Solicitor), S Fisher (Principal Licensing Officer) and J Clarke (Democratic Services Support Officer).

LC - 10 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Licensing Committee meeting held on 1st November 2013 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

LC - 11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors C Mason, R Scammell and K Tomlinson.

LC - 12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

LC – 13 REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S STREET TRADING POLICY, CONDITIONS AND FEES

The Principal Licensing Officer presented the report of the Service Delivery Manager – Public Protection. The Council's Street Trading Policy, Conditions and Fees had been in place for a considerable period of time and, although the Policy worked perfectly adequately, the Licensing Service considered that it was an appropriate time to revisit the Policy and Conditions issued by the Council. In particular the Borough was seeing a significant amount of new development and this was an opportune time for traders with events such as the "T Party" which was held in Telford Town Park in 2013. There were a growing number of requests for day street trading consents, but there was no policy or fee in place for such applicants.

The Licensing Service currently had two forms of street trading consent:

- Street Trading Consents for static sites
- Street Trading Consents for mobile units

Consents were for a period of 12 months at an initial cost of £300 which could then be renewed at a cost of £280 per annum.

As Telford and Wrekin Council was a business winning Council, the Licensing Service did have discretion, in certain circumstances to allow new businesses to pay the fee in instalments. There were currently 30 static traders who had consent for a specific site and 23 mobile traders, ie ice cream vans and snack vans.

Copies of the current consent conditions and policy statement for street trading were appended to the report. The main change being proposed was the introduction of day consents, with a proposed consent fee of £60 per day plus £18 per extra day. Any changes to the policy and conditions would be subject to a 12 week consultation period.

Whilst considering the report, Members raised concerns and issues relating to the impact of one-day traders on existing street traders and established local businesses. Consideration was given to:-

- the issuing and surrendering of licenses including the implications of allowing fees to be paid in instalments;
- proposals to change the conditions to require persons assisting on a stall to be aged 18 or over

The Principal Licensing Officer advised that the established traders would be fully consulted prior to a new trading consent being given and pitches would have 100m distance between them. It was anticipated that most one-day consents would involve events in parks ie Telford Town Park and Dale End Park and it would be unlikely that they would have an impact on local businesses.

In relation to the council's costs in administering the consents, the Principal Licensing Officer confirmed that these costs would be covered if the licence was not renewed. If a licence was surrendered, there was a formula to work out staff costs to produce the application, which were then deducted from the fee and any remaining monies were refunded to the applicant on surrender of the licence. With regard to the proposed condition of "persons assisting on the stall shall be 18 years of age or over", the Principal Licensing Officer explained that the Law stated that assistants should be 17 years old but it was felt that the age should be raised to 18 years in the Policy in order to provide more protection for the public.

Members commented that the proposed fees appeared competitive when compared with those charged by other authorities shown in the benchmarking information appended to the report.

References to Madeley Parish Council and Great Dawley Parish Council needed to be amended to read Madeley Town Council and Great Dawley Town Council prior to the documentation going out to consultation.

RESOLVED -

- (a) that a twelve week consultation to amend the current Policy and Conditions in relation to Street Trading Consents be approved;**

- (b) that authority be delegated to the Principal Licensing Officer, in consultation with the Chair, to consider and determine the results of the consultation. If there are any significant comments made as a result of the consultation, matters be brought back to Members of the Licensing Committee for consideration;**
- (c) that the proposed licence fees, subject to the above consultation and a legal notice subsequently being advertised in the local newspaper, be approved for implementation.**

The meeting closed at 6.45pm.

Chairman:

Dated: