

Runnymede Borough CouncilLICENSING COMMITTEE23 June 2020 at 7.30pm via MS Teams

Members of the Committee present: Councillors D Cotty (Chairman), E Gill (Vice-Chairman)
J Broadhead, T Burton, I Chaudhri, D Clarke, J Furey, J Gracey,
R King, J Olorenshaw and P Snow.

Members of the Committee absent: None

27. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 12 November 2019 and the Sub-Committee held on 18 May 2020 were confirmed as a correct record. As the meeting was being held remotely via Microsoft Teams, these would be signed when the Chairman was physically able to do so.

28. 2020 ANNUAL REPORT ON THE LICENSING ACT 2003

The Committee received the Annual Report on all matters relating to the operation of the Licensing Act 2003 in the borough.

Members reviewed all the statistical information provided. This was normally also reported to the Home Office, but Officers advised that this had not been requested for 2019. However, for the sake of consistency, Officers had produced the same information as it gave Members a good overall picture of Licensing in the borough.

The Committee noted that the Council's Licensing Policy was working well and in place until 2021. However, it would undergo a full review later in the year prior to being consulted on and re-submitted for the Committee's approval.

There had been only a very small increase in the total number of Premises Licences and the total number of Club Premises Certificates remained the same as the previous year. However, there had been a relatively large increase in the number of temporary event notices given, 55 of the 272 had been late TENs, and the number of variations to licences was consistent with previous years.

There had been two hearings in the year, one of which had been appealed following its revocation and Members would be updated on that case in due course.

Ten new Premises licences had been issued. However, five premises licences had been surrendered; in the current climate it was thought likely that a number of other premises would close in 2020/2021 which was a matter of concern to the Committee.

Members noted an analysis of Temporary Event Notices and were pleased that the vast majority did not give cause for any concern in terms of noise or other public nuisance. Inspections and Enforcement was a fairly low key area for the section (approximately 17 inspections at new premises had taken place) which continued to be operated on an intelligence led approach, maintaining a positive and proactive relationship with local licensees. Similarly, Officers had found that engaging with applicants at an early stage, offering support and advice reduced the need for applications to be re-worded and/or revised plans submitted. Officers confirmed that the Council's website contained key guidance documents to assist applicants and existing licence holders.

Officers emphasised the importance of Pubwatch, which normally took place every 6 weeks at different locations in the borough. In the current Covid situation it was reported that remote meetings were taking place primarily to discuss how businesses would operate from 4 July 2020 when most licensed premises and food outlets might be able to re-open.

Members discussed some specific premises; noting recent issues with off sales which had given rise to a number of concerns. Officers were asked to confirm which Club Premises Certificate had a terminal hour of 03:00 hrs. [This is Royal Holloway Student's Union.]

The Licensing section was modestly staffed but worked well and efficiently and Officers were thanked for their comprehensive review of the year.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 7.54 pm)