



Minutes of the meeting of the LICENSING COMMITTEE held on WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2015 at 6:30pm

Present: Councillors Exon, Geaney, R Gifford, Lewis, McDonald Morris (Chair), Wallis and P Williams

Officers: D Sharkey (Corporate Director Place), N Allen (Regulatory Compliance Manager), C Londy (Head of Environmental Health & Trading Standards), S Teesdale (Licensing Team Leader), E Fisher (Senior Practitioner), A Ward (Senior Practitioner), L Gardner (Case Manager, Litigation) and D Imbimbo (Committee Manager).

Apologies Councillors Green Patey-Smith, Webb, C Williams and Miles

LC07 MINUTES

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 8 July 2015, and the meetings of the Licensing Sub-Committee held on 30 June 2015 and 5 August 2015 be approved and signed by the Chair as correct records.

LC08 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

None were declared

LC09 MILTON KEYNES BOWL EVENTS – ELECTRIC DAISY CARNIVAL AND FOO FIGHTERS

The Committee considered a report detailing issues associated with the Electric Daisy Carnival (EDC) Event on 11 July 2015 and a Verbal Update on issues related to the Foo Fighters Concert on 5 and 6 September 2015.

The Head of Environmental Health & Trading Standards told the Committee that whilst this was not the first time the EDC had been held at the Bowl it was the first time that camping had been permitted for any event. This had proven a success.

The Event had seen an unprecedented amount of littering and parking on nearby estates, there had been some complaints about noise but the latter was inevitable with a music concert, however monitoring had been conducted and noise limits had been adhered to.

The organisers had recognised that there were problems with littering and had agreed to contribute to funding clear up teams for the Foo Fighters Concert, however this was after the event and there was a significant amount of complaints received.

The parking estimates had been assessed on the previous year but proves insufficient on this occasion.

There had been consultation between the organisers and the Parish Council, however it was noted that there had been an underestimation of the volume of problems that would be experienced.

Councillor Geaney, Ward Councillor for Furzton, gave the Committee an oversight of the experiences of residents of Favell Drive, Furzton who experienced a lot of the problems.

It was reported that the problems experienced at the EDC in respect of Littering and Parking was not replicated for the Foo Fighters Concert, this was because of a combination of the type of audience and the inclusion of a more appropriate parking plan.

It was acknowledged that whilst there were fewer parking problems there had been a variety of other traffic issues with the Foo Fighters resulting from a combination of a road closure due to a Road Traffic Collision on the H8 Standing Way and the large volume of attendees having travelled from the M1 Motorway, it was noted that this concert had originally been scheduled for Wembley and following a cancellation rearranged at very short notice for the Bowl.

The Committee heard that there were a lot of changes made to the arrangements for the Foo Fighters concert, this unlike the EDC, was a traditional event and there were many experiences to draw on to ensure that all aspects of the event management were in place.

The Head of Environmental Health & Trading Standards told the Committee that should the EDC wish to return in 2016, which was highly likely, it was intended that discussion take place a lot earlier and arrangements to address the problems that could now be anticipated were put in place. There would also be a drive to ensure that organisers engaged with the Parish Council much earlier.

It was commented that there had still been inadequate parking provision for the Foo Fighters event with approximately 70k attendees the provision of only 6500 parking spaces was not sufficient. It was reported that Network Rail had carried approximately 8500 passengers implying the vast majority travelled by cars. This was a matter that would need to be considered for any future events. It was also noted that the staff used on the road closures had to be suitable for the role, there had been examples where those used for traffic management had little or no English and were unable to assist residents trying to access their homes. The Parish Council had been told that the organisers stated they did not

make enough money from car parking to fund the traffic management scheme.

The Committee heard that new arrangements had been made for the exodus after the concert by the provision of a temporary bridge over the Loughton Brook, this reduced the bottle neck that usually occurs.

The Chair told the Committee that following the reported problems with the EDC she had arranged to attend the Foo Fighters concert to liaise with Emergency Services and other agencies which proved to be a useful fact finding exercise. The Chair commented that there was considerable evidence of large scale soft drug usage in the arena, which did not seem to be managed in a proactive way.

RESOLVED:

1. That the reports be noted, and,
2. Thanks be extended to the Officers from the Regulatory Service who worked to ensure that the Events went as smoothly as possible.

LC10

USE OF INCOME FROM CASINO REVENUE

The Committee considered a report in respect of the use of funds generated through from the grant of the Casino Licence.

The Committee had considered reports at its meeting in March and July and had requested additional detailed information.

The Corporate Director Place told the Committee that he had detailed the various funding streams and other benefits, such as employment opportunities, associated with the Casino Contract in the report indicating what had been received and how this had been used or allocated for use.

Members of the Committee commented that the report states that £175k had been made available for addressing vulnerable gamblers, however only one referral for gambling addiction had been made in the first quarter, clearly other people could benefit from this money and should the Council look at debt advice as well.

The Corporate Director Place, told the Committee that whilst the funding was listed under vulnerable gamblers it was the case that a wider package of support was funded and thereby provided by the third sector.

The Committee also commented that the report was welcomed, however, to assist in clearly identifying what money is allocated where and that full use of the income is appropriate it would be better detailed in a spreadsheet format. The Chair asked whether this could be achieved and whether that was something that could be reported to the Committee on an annual basis as the Committee was responsible for the License

The Corporate Director Place, confirmed that this could be provided.

The Corporate Director gave the Committee an overview of how the funding was calculated.

RESOLVED

That the Corporate Director, Place, provide the following information for the next meeting of the Committee;

1. That the report be noted, and,
2. An Annual report in the format of a spreadsheet be provided to the Committee and this be programmed into the Forward Plan.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 7:15 PM