

Wyre Forest District Council

Licensing and Environmental Committee

The Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Stourport on Severn

26th January, 2009 (10.30am)

PRESENT:

Councillors: J Baker (Chairman), Mrs P V Hayward (Vice-Chairman), A J Buckley, B T Glass, P B Harrison, Mrs A T Hingley, M B Kelly, M Price, N J Thomas and G C Yarranton.

Observers:

There were no members present as observers.

LIC.89 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Mrs J Greener and D R Sheppard.

LIC.90 Appointment of Substitutes

Councillor N J Thomas was a substitute for Councillor D.R. Sheppard.
Councillor G C Yarranton was a substitute for Councillor Mrs. J. Greener.

LIC.91 Declaration of Interests

Councillor G.C. Yarranton declared a personal interest in Agenda item No. 5 - Wyre Forest District Draft Public Realm and Streetscene (Control of Street Furniture) Policy, due to being a member of Bewdley Town Council.

Councillor B.T. Glass declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda Item No. 10 - Increase in Fees and Charges for Licensing Good and Health and Safety and Pollution, due to his business being subject to some of these charges.

LIC.92 Minutes

DECISION: The minutes of the meeting held on 15th December 2008 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

LIC.93 Wyre Forest District Draft Public Realm and Streetscene (Control of Street Furniture) Policy

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning, Health and Environment with regard to agreeing a Policy on the Wyre Forest District Draft Public Realm and Streetscene (Control of Street Furniture) Policy following public consultation.

The Principal Licensing Officer informed Members that the consultation had concluded on the 9th January, 2009 and all the responses received had been positive. A few minor amendments to the Policy had been made in line with comments from Worcestershire County Council. This Policy would enable the Council to have better control and management of street furniture and generally the streetscene.

RECOMMENDED to CABINET to recommend to COUNCIL that the Wyre Forest District Draft Public Realm and Streetscene (Control of Street Furniture) Policy be adopted and that delegated powers be granted to the Head of Planning, Health and Environment to issue licences, set conditions and agree fees.

LIC.94 Air Quality Management Consultation

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning, Health and Environment advising Members of the Air Quality Management Consultation proposals following the completion of a detailed air quality assessment in Radford Avenue/Coventry Street, Kidderminster together with recommendations for management proposals.

The Principal Pollution Control Officer outlined the report together with the various options available to the Council.

RECOMMENDED to CABINET that public consultation be carried out on the two proposals outlined for air quality management.

LIC.95 Draft Air Quality Strategy

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning, Health and Environment advising Members of the completion of the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Air Quality Strategy.

The Principal Pollution Control Officer outlined the report and gave Members a brief history of the Strategy.

RECOMMENDED to Council that the Air Quality Strategy be adopted.

LIC.96 Annual Report on Licences Issued under the Licensing Act 2003

The Committee considered the annual report of the Head of Planning, Health and Environment required by the Statement of Licensing Policy for the District.

The Principal Licensing Officer outlined the report and drew Members attention to the specific statistics detailed therein.

Members congratulated Officers on the work done under the Licensing Act 2003 and the efficient way the transfer of these functions from the Magistrates Court had taken place.

RECOMMENDED to Council that the Statement of Licensing Policy should remain unchanged for the next 12 months.

LIC.97 Policy and Advice to Applicants on the Keeping of Dangerous Wild Animal(s)

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Planning, Health and Environment to adopt policy guidance published in a leaflet relating to the Keeping of Dangerous Wild Animal(s) under the provisions of the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976.

The Principal Licensing Officer outlined the report and gave Members details of the consultation which had taken place. Responses had been received from the West Midland Safari Park and Townsend Veterinary Practice.

RECOMMENDED to Council to agree the policy guidance to the Keeping of Dangerous Wild Animals.

Councillor B.T. Glass left the meeting, having declared a prejudicial interest in the next item.

LIC.98 Increase in Fees and Charges for Licensing, Food and Health and Safety and Pollution Control 2009/2010

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning, Health and Environment informing Members of the proposed increases in the fees and charges within the Council's Licensing, Food and Health and Safety and Pollution Control functions for 2009/2010.

The Principal Licensing Officer outlined the report and informed Members that the increases in fees were in line with inflation.

RECOMMENDED to Council the proposed fees and charges within the Council's Licensing, Food and Health and Safety and Pollution Control functions for 2009/2010 be included in the 2009/2010 budget strategy.

LIC.99 Exclusion of the Press and Public

DECISION:

Under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of "Exempt Information" as defined in paragraphs 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

LIC.100 Summary of Minutes

The following proceedings were considered after the press and public had been excluded from the meeting. A summary of the minutes relating to these items has been made as "exempt information" would be disclosed if the minutes were published in full.

LIC.101 Minutes

The exempt minutes of the meeting held on 15th December 2008 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

The meeting ended at 11.00 am.