

## Fife Licensing Forum

Committee Room 2, Floor 5, Fife House, North Street,  
Glenrothes – Blended Meeting



Thursday, 2 May 2024 - 2.00 p.m.

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### AGENDA

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2. **MINUTE** – Minute of the Joint meeting of Fife Licensing Board and Fife Licensing Forum of 27 April 2023 3 - 5
3. **QUESTIONS FROM THE LICENSING BOARD TO THE LICENSING FORUM**
4. **TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION FROM THE LICENSING FORUM TO THE LICENSING BOARD**
5. **QUESTIONS FROM NHS FIFE**
6. **ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

**Members are reminded that should they have queries on the detail of a report they should, where possible, contact the report authors in advance of the meeting to seek clarification.**

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25 April, 2024

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## **BLENDED MEETING NOTICE**

This is a formal meeting of the Committee and the required standards of behaviour and discussion are the same as in a face to face meeting.

For those members who have joined the meeting remotely, if they need to leave the meeting for any reason, they should use the Meeting Chat to advise of this. If a member loses their connection during the meeting, they should make every effort to rejoin the meeting but, if this is not possible, the Committee Officer will note their absence for the remainder of the meeting

There will be a short break in proceedings after approximately 90 minutes.

**THE FIFE COUNCIL – JOINT MEETING OF FIFE LICENSING FORUM AND FIFE LICENSING BOARD – BLENDED MEETING**

**Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes**

**27 April 2023**

**2.00 p.m. – 15.35 p.m.**

**PRESENT:**            Representing Fife Licensing Forum  
John Barclay, Clare Campbell, Izzy Corbin, Gillian Dewar,  
Neil Ewing, Catherine Chudleigh, Gregor Hannah and Paul Smith.

Representing Fife Licensing Board  
Councillors Tom Adams (Convener), Patrick Browne, Gary Holt,  
Gavin Ellis, Lynn Ballantyne-Wardlaw and Donald Lothian.

**ATTENDING:**        Rebecca Shovlin, Policy Officer, Health & Social Care; Kimberley Langley, Solicitor and Elizabeth Mair, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services.

**ALSO ATTENDING:**        Peter Reid, Scottish Government

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**        Councillors Alistair Cameron and Carol Lindsay, Jim Bett, Jeff Ellis, Douglas Hardaker and Stewart Ness.

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor Adams took the chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were given.

**2. MINUTE OF THE JOINT MEETING OF FIFE LICENSING FORUM AND FIFE LICENSING BOARD OF 22 APRIL 2021**

Members considered the minute of the previous joint meeting held on 22 April 2021.

**Decision**

The minute of the Joint Meeting of Fife Licensing Forum and Fife Licensing Board of 22 April 2021 was approved.

**3. QUESTIONS TO THE FORUM FROM THE BOARD**

**How do members feel that the Forum is operating following the Covid Pandemic?**

Members agreed it was important to have a Forum and to work with the Licensing Board to discuss local issues. It was still early days in recovery from the pandemic and a number of new issues had arisen as a consequence of the restrictions.

People had become used to drinking alcohol at home and there had been an increase in the construction of 'man sheds' in the garden for socialising. This meant that drinking was less controlled than in licensed premises and there were reports of more persons visiting premises already intoxicated. This problem was exacerbated by the current cost of living crisis which not only affected the number of customers to premises but had also increased the running costs, including supply chains, energy and staffing. Many premises had closed as a consequence of the effects of the pandemic.

It was reported that the number of deaths from alcohol had dropped during the pandemic but it was too early to say if this would continue.

#### **4. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION WITH THE BOARD FROM THE FORUM**

##### Home Drinking

This had already been mentioned in the previous item and Councillor Adams, as Convener of the Licensing Board, advised that this was difficult to control as no license was required for persons drinking in their own homes. However, licensed premises could refuse entry to intoxicated customers. Neil Ewing advised that the police would respond to calls regarding anti-social behaviour in homes and gardens. However, all calls were routed through the main police call centre and were screened for priority due to reduced resources. At the moment, the police were receiving many more calls for mental health issues and these were given priority.

##### Outside Seating Areas

Izzy Corbin expressed concern at the number of outside seating areas, particularly in St Andrews, which caused difficulties for blind and disabled persons by the placing of obstacles on pavements. She also mentioned the positioning of A Boards which were another problematic issue. It was reported that the display of A Boards was a planning matter and the Licensing Board had no control over these. Objections could be made to applications for outside seating areas but these could only be refused for reasons in line with the licensing objectives as set out in the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005. There was a plan submitted with every application showing the areas where alcohol could be sold and these were available for viewing by request.

Kimberley Langley advised that training was being considered for Community Council's on licensing matters. It was also advised that a report on the street layout in South Street, St Andrews had been considered by the North East Fife Area Committee and that the Council's Transportation Service was continuing to work on this matter.

##### Deposit Return Scheme

A request was made for the view of the Licensing Board on the proposed deposit return scheme. Kimberley Langley advised that the scheme had been delayed until at least March 2024 and that the Board had not yet come to a view on the proposals.

## 5. QUESTION FROM NHS FIFE

How could public health information be used to support the Licensing Board to inform licensing policy and decisions?

In support of the question, Catherine Chudleigh and Clare Campbell, NHS Fife, in conjunction with Rebecca Shovlin, Health & Social Care, Fife Council, gave a short presentation.

The presentation included details of statistics on alcohol related deaths in Fife, the objectives in engaging with the Licensing Board and Licensing Forum, alcohol availability, statistics from a survey of young people and information on how alcohol was a factor in over 60 medical conditions.

An evidence pack was being prepared to provide data and other information for the Licensing Board to input to the development of local licensing policy. During discussion following the presentation, Catherine advised that the NHS worked very closely with Fife Alcohol Support Service (FASS) to support people with alcohol related issues and raise awareness of the service. This was not an anti-alcohol service but there to provide support and information. There was also discussion around the data provided and it was noted that this needed to be from reliable sources and as accurate as possible to help shape policies. It was confirmed that the data came from various sources and was the best that could be provided. It was also noted that the Licensing Board could play a role in public health by influencing outcomes through areas such as licensing policy and the conditions placed on licences. Catherine advised that the NHS was seeking to work collaboratively with the Licensing Board and Forum and it was suggested that the evidence pack would be useful in viewing trends in health over time, along with changes to the number, location and style of licensed premises.

Finally, there was reference to conflicting reports with regard to the outcomes and comparison figures published following the introduction of minimum unit pricing in Scotland. Clare Campbell agreed to provide information on the comparison data used.

## 6. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

There was no other competent business raised.