

EAST AYRSHIRE LICENSING BOARD

Minute of the Joint Meeting of East Ayrshire Licensing Board and East Ayrshire Local Licensing Forum, held within the Council Chambers, East Ayrshire Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock and digitally through Microsoft Teams, on Tuesday 19 November 2024 at 11am.

SEDERUNT: Councillor Drew Filson (Chair), Councillor Elaine Cowan, Councillor June Kyle, Councillor Claire Leitch, Councillor Clare Maitland, Councillor Linda Mabon, Councillor Kevin McGregor, Steph McCutcheon (Recovery Hub Each Recovery Matters), Graham Piggott (Resident of EAC) and Mr Liam Wells (ADP Coordinator).

ATTENDING: David Mitchell (Clerk to the Licensing Board), Mr Ian Hiles and Ms Carolyn McEwan (Licensing Standards Officers) Mrs Patricia Duncan and Mrs Alison Hewitson (Licensing Board Administrators).

APOLOGIES: Councillor Stephen Canning, Councillor William Crawford and Councillor David Richardson

1. SEDERUNT

Noted.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made.

3. NATIONAL LICENSING FORUM

Mr Piggott was disappointed to report that no progress had been made with regards to forming a National Licensing Forum. He advised that the Forum would continue to write to the Scottish Government to urge them to form the national body to allow communication between Local Licensing Forums.

The Clerk advised that the Board supported the value of a National Licensing Forum and applauded the Forum's continuing attempts to have the Scottish Government address this.

It was noted that Liam Wells had delivered a presentation at the Licensing Forum meeting on the alcohol trends of young people, which would be available for Members of the Board via the Forum Minutes.

Members again expressed the need to encourage young people to join the Licensing Forum.

4. ANNUAL FINANCIAL & ANNUAL FUNCTIONS REPORT

The Clerk presented East Ayrshire Licensing Board's Annual Financial & Annual Functions Report for 2023/24, for information.

Councillor Maitland noted there had been a deficit of £64,611 in the year 2023/24 and asked if there was always a deficit.

The Clerk advised that the Board's income was dependent on the number of licensed premises which continue to operate, as the vast majority of Board income stems from annual premises licence fees. He gave assurance that the Board income and expenditure is kept under review on a regular basis.

5. STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES UNDER THE GAMBLING ACT 2005

The Clerk reminded Licensing Forum Members of the Board's statutory obligations in terms of The Gambling Act 2005 to prepare and publish an appropriate Statement of Principles, which will inform the Board's discharge of its future statutory responsibilities. The Statement of Principles requires to be revised every three years. East Ayrshire Licensing Board's current Statement of Principles was approved in January 2022 and continues in force until 30 January 2025.

The Clerk advised that, at a Board meeting on 24 September 2024, Members approved a revised statement and remitted to the Clerk to the Board to carry out the necessary consultation and thereafter submit a further report to the meeting of the Board on 10 December 2024, presenting a finalised Statement of Principles for consideration and approval by the Board.

Mr Piggott undertook to highlight the consultation to the Forum Members with a view to providing a response.

6. AOCB

The Clerk advised that he had recently provided a response, on behalf of the Board, to the BBC London Investigations Team regarding the 'Ask for Angela' scheme. This was requested as a result of an investigation carried out by BBC which highlighted concerns with regards to the implementation by licensed premises of the Ask for Angela safety scheme.

He explained that the scheme is aimed at the safety of women, particularly in the wake of the murder of Sarah Everard and increasing awareness of women's safety, but also there for the assistance of anyone in pubs and bars, whereby anyone with such fears are advised to use the code word "Angela", to indicate to staff they are in need of help. He continued that the scheme was rolled out on a voluntary basis in England and Wales and was operated by some of the larger chains in Scotland.

The Clerk advised that the Ask for Angela Scheme had been introduced to East Ayrshire licence holders as part of the Best Bar None Scheme. The Best Bar

None was however no longer operational in East Ayrshire due to the re-location of the Local Co-ordinator within Police Scotland.

A discussion took place regarding the Best Bar None Scheme. It was agreed that the Best Bar None Scheme was worthwhile, and it was hoped that the scheme would operate again in the future. Liam Wells advised that the Alcohol & Drugs Partnership would be willing to support the Best Bar None Scheme, should it become operational again.

The Clerk concluded that East Ayrshire Licensing Board's Statement of Licensing Policy encourages licence holders to participate in any scheme aimed at raising standards within licensed premises.

Liam Wells highlighted that East Ayrshire Health & Social Care Partnership would soon start a programme of learning - 16 Days of Action against Gender-Based Violence campaign, running from 25 November until 10 December aimed at providing an understanding of gender-based violence, support survivors and local resources available in our community.

It was agreed that an e-mail would be issued to all licence holders, prior to the festive period, reminding them of the various safety schemes/campaigns, which may be implemented in licensed premises. Please see copy e-mail attached at Appendix I.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 11.45am.

E-mail issued on 25 November 2024

Following a recent joint meeting between East Ayrshire Licensing Board and the East Ayrshire Local Licensing Forum, it was requested that an email be circulated to all licensed premises raising awareness of various relevant safety issues /campaigns which you may consider implementing in your premises, especially with the rapidly approaching Christmas and New Year period.

Instead of writing a lengthy email, I will post the links to training videos / websites and brief information. You may wish to have a look at the various videos initially and perhaps consider some additional staff training where applicable.

Ask for Angela

The above campaign has been in existence for a number of years, and was initially rolled out to premises who were part of the Best Bar None Scheme. Licensing staff are aware that some premises have continued to actively promote this very worthwhile campaign, despite Best Bar None not operating at the moment. The Licensing Board's Statement of Licensing Policy encourages Licence Holders to participate in any scheme aimed at raising standards within licensed premises and specifically mentions the "Ask For Angela" Scheme. I would ask that you consider promoting this particular campaign, which many of you may have noticed has featured on a national TV channel / website in recent days. Further information can be obtained from the below link which contains a lot of useful information:

[Home - Ask For Angela](#)

Spiking of Drinks

As everyone will be aware, spiking of drinks is both a dangerous and illegal practice. Below is an informative and useful link that you may find useful:

<https://www.drinkaware.co.uk/advice-and-support/help-to-support-someone-else/drink-spiking-and-date-rape-drugs>

Designated Driver Scheme

Licence holders are encouraged to actively discourage drink driving which is a serious offence and can have catastrophic effects on families of both victims and offenders, by playing an active part in preventing drink driving by, for example:

- Displaying anti drink drive materials
- Supplying reasonably priced soft and non alcoholic drinks
- Promoting awareness of campaigns such as the designated drivers scheme
- Offering free or reduced priced soft drinks to designated drivers

Although there is no formal Designated Driver Scheme planned for East Ayrshire for 2024, there have been previous campaigns which have been supported by many licensed premises within East Ayrshire. It would be up to individual premises should

they wish to have their own incentive and how to prove that the Designated Driver is in fact authentic. In previous years, wristbands promoting the scheme have been provided. Unfortunately, that resource is not available this year.

16 Days of Action Against Gender-Based Violence

Eliminating gender violence is the aim of '16 Days of Action', an annual international campaign which runs from 25 November until 10 December 2024. The below link has links to lots of useful information in respect of the campaign and support organisations.

<https://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/SocialCareAndHealth/Protecting-people/violence-against-women/16-days-of-action.aspx>

Looking ahead, it is hoped that the Best Bar None Scheme, which was successfully introduced in East Ayrshire in 2017 and which, unfortunately has not been operating since the Coronavirus Pandemic, may be re-introduced in 2025. Further contact will be made with Licence Holders early next year to gauge interest in this very worthwhile scheme.

East Ayrshire Local Licensing Forum plays a crucial role in the licensing system and can provide the Licensing Board with helpful and community based feedback which will enhance the Licensing Board's awareness of both the beneficial and detrimental impact of their policies on the local community and local trade. If you have an interest in what happens locally in your community and would like to share your views with other like minded members, we would encourage you to join the Forum. Further information can be obtained at - [Local licensing forum · East Ayrshire Council](#).