
CENTRAL LICENSING COMMITTEE, 09.10.08

Present: Councillor W. Tudor Owen (Chairman)

Councillors: Robert Anderson, Louise Hughes, Eryl Jones-Williams, Evie Morgan Jones, J.R.Jones, W. Tudor Owen, Peter Read, Ieuan Roberts and W. Gareth Roberts

Also present: Dilys Phillips (Head of Administration and Public Protection); Bleddyn Davies (Acting Public Protection Manager) and Barbara Owen (Committee Officer)

Apologies: Councillors Gwilym O. Williams and Anne Lloyd Jones (ex-officio)

1. CHANGE OF MEMBERSHIP

The Chairman noted that Councillor Dylan Edwards had made an application to be released from membership of the Licensing Committee and that Councillor Dewi Llewelyn had been nominated to take his place.

RESOLVED to accept the information

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal interest by any member present.

3. MINUTES

The Chairman signed the minutes of the meeting of this committee, held on 23 June 2008, as a true record.

4. MINUTES OF CENTRAL LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEES:

Submitted, for information, minutes of the following meetings:

18 April 2008	4 June 2008
13 June 2008	20 June 2008
30 June 2008	12 August 2008
5 September 2008	

RESOLVED to accept and note the information.

5. FOOD SAFETY SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN FOR 2008/09

The Head of Administration and Public Protection explained that the Licensing Committee had the responsibility of approving the two plans before the committee today, since the Council Board had no right over regulatory matters. It was a requirement for the Food Hygiene and Food Standards teams to submit regular performance reports to the Resources and Corporate Scrutiny Committee and a member requested that a copy of these reports should be distributed to members of this committee for information.

The Acting Public Protection Manager submitted his report, providing information on procedure by the Food Standards Agency where it was a requirement for every local authority to produce a food safety service delivery plan for their area in order to comply with the framework agreement published in September 2000.

He provided details of the framework agreement and the way in which the Agency would compare the performance of Gwynedd against other authorities, and the legal right which he had to take over the management of the food service, should the required performance standards not be achieved.

Information was provided for members on the 2008/09 Food Safety Service Delivery Plan, providing details on the following points:

- Aims and Objectives
- The background to the Plan
- Scope of the Service
- Resources
- Quality Assessment
- Reviewing and Monitoring

Members were given the opportunity to ask questions of the Officer on the content of the report and an explanation was given on several issues, such as:

- Contamination of the water supply – the role of Gwynedd Council in an emergency
- Food businesses standardisation categories A – E, with category A identifying a high risk
- The Wales Food Fraud Unit – which had been established to respond to concern regarding centres in south Wales which produced ‘smokies’
- The procedure for dealing with complaints from the public
- Scores on the Doors, which was a scheme run by some authorities for food premises.
- Infection caused by water contamination, such as cryptosporidium – compensation could not be claimed from Welsh Water because of the additional work created for the Council.

One member, who was the owner of a business, expressed his appreciation of the assistance given by officers of Environmental Health (Food).

RESOLVED to accept the report and note the information and to request occasional performance reports for this Committee.

6. HEALTH AND SAFETY SERVICE INTERVENTION PLAN 2008/09

The Head of Administration and Public Protection explained that there was a department within the Public Protection Unit dealing with enforcing health and safety in workplaces outside the Council, such as shops, caravan parks, hotels etc. This meant arranging inspections of standards of health and safety in approximately four thousand workplaces, including incidents referred for the attention of the department.

Every Local Authority had a responsibility to ensure that sufficient procedures were in place to enforce the relevant statutory provisions and it was the duty of the Central Licensing Committee to approve the Plan which outlined these procedures. The Plan was submitted to members by the Acting Public Protection Manager and details were provided of some aspects.

Members were given an opportunity to discuss the content of the Plan and to ask questions of the Officer and a response was received on the following points:

- The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) investigated any case within the Council.
- It would be beneficial to receive occasional performance reports in this field.
- The Smoking Ban – it was reported that there had been complaints from customers who had to walk through the smoke created by smokers who gathered outside premises. The Officer reported that the department was aware of the problem and that they were collaborating with owners of premises in an attempt to resolve the problem.
- The right of access to water – which would come into force in the near future. It would be the HSE which would attend to any enquiries on private land such as a farm.
- The Trees Officer within the Council's Environment Directorate was responsible for the safety of any trees on Council land.
- Closure of public toilets – concern was expressed regarding the lack of conveniences for visitors and the resulting health and safety implications. It was reported that it was a matter for the Police to deal with people who used private gardens etc. instead of the public toilets.

RESOLVED to accept the report and to note its content and to request occasional performance reports for this Committee.

The meeting commenced at 10:30a.m. and concluded at 11.30a.m.