

Update on the Licensing Service: February 2017

To give the Licensing Committee an update on the work of the Licensing Team.

Licensing Activity

Several members of the Licensing Team undertook training given by an officer of the Gambling Commission recently when a number of joint inspections took place of betting premises in Wiltshire. Having undertaken the training, Licensing Officers will now be carrying out their own inspections of the remaining gambling premises over the next few months ensuring they meet the required standards; conditions of licence and that local area risk assessment are available.

This work is important to protect the vulnerable and to ensure those who wish to gamble responsibly can do so safely.

On 24 January 2017, the Licensing Manager presented a day's training to the Wiltshire Council Licensing Team and Wiltshire Police Licensing Team on a number of topics which included, the new Immigration Bill 2016, Police and Crimes Bill 2016 both these Acts will have an impact on the Licensing Act 2003 going forward, the training also covered Small Society Lotteries (Gambling Act 2005), Police Powers, festivals and Event Safety Advisory Group process.

Events 2017

Wiltshire continues to be a popular venue for festivals and events, by early intervention and positive engagement Licensing are seeking to guide and educate organisers around managing alcohol consumption levels, drug prevention, antisocial behaviour, and wellbeing of all at the event.

Prevention of harm is a key element when planning an event; Licensing Officers are involved in considerable pre event work guiding organisers in managing their own event to lessen the impact on the local community and emergency services of Wiltshire.

A number of proposed new events/ and changes to existing events for this year have already presented their own challenges both to organisers, the responsible authorities and interested agencies with a number of Event Safety Advisory meetings taking place which are chaired in the main by the Licensing Manager .

Womad

This year's event looks to build on last year's success when over 35,000 attended; the weather was kind in 2016 with no significant issues noted by the Licensing or Public Protection Teams that visited the site.

For 2017 arena layout will be similar to 2016, which enhance the visitor experience with the arboretum area now part of the arena area, and the internal traffic management system updated accordingly. A variation application has been

submitted to bring the areas currently operated under Temporary Events Notices (staff bar, Molly's bar, back stage bar and slight changes to the noise conditions to reflect the evidence and practices over the past two years, this variation will extend any conditions on the licence to these areas where before they sat outside the main licence).

Partnership Working to continue in 2017

This year licensing will again be working with Tom Ward, Public Health Specialist alcohol and drugs misuse, with an aim to enable WSMS (Wiltshire Substance Misuse Service) to build links with festival organisers (from street fayres, folk festival, mini and large scale events). WSMS will be attending a number of events and offer relevant prevention messages, and support to attendees of events. They have previously been received very positively with good outcomes.

Licensing Applications

Since July 2016 we have been able to offer online payment for Licensing Act 2003 annual fees, we are now looking at the opportunities to extend this to Gambling Act 2005 renewal fees as it has proved very successful.

Licensing transactions Jan – December 2015 & 2016

Year comparison	2016	2015
Temporary Event Notices	1669	1678
Late Temporary Event Notices	369	405
Licensing Applications (New/variation/minor variation/Variation of DPS/Annual fees/Amendments to licences)	2572	2655
Personal Licences	384	427
Gambling Permits/Gaming Machines/Lotteries/Annual fees	707	776
Animal Licensing	287	268
Other Licensing	3	3

Hearings

Last year we held 14 licensing hearings, one up on 2015. To date this year one hearing has taken place following Police objection to a Personal Licence application, where the applicant had relevant convictions under the Licensing Act 2003.

Licensed Trade Event

The Licensing team hosted three trade seminars in September and October offering free advice and guidance to the trade. The events were run to support the important role businesses have in their local communities whilst highlighting evolving changes and best practices.

The seminars included speakers from a variety of organisations and partner agencies: National Pub Watch, Gambling Commission, Public Health, Dorset and Wiltshire Fire Service and Child Sexual Exploitation. There were numerous stands including the Immigration Service, Trading Standards, Licensing, Pest Control, Street Pastors, etc., all providing information and answering questions and concerns.

Licensing would like to thank all the Members who kindly attended to give their support.

Licensing Looking Forward

Immigration Bill 2016 (Headlines)

- Immigration Enforcement will be a responsible authority.
- Personal and premises licences: individuals must have permission to live and work in the UK.
- Immigration offences will be relevant offences (civil penalties) under the Licensing Act 2003.
- Immigration officers will have the power of entry to investigate immigration offences in licensed premises.

Police Crime Bill 2016 (Headlines)

- amends meaning of 'alcohol'
- S.191(1) amended to include powdered or vaporised alcohol and bring it within the Act by inserting 'in any state' after liquor.
- Licensing Authority will now have the authority to consider revoking a personal licence when notified of a conviction for a relevant offence.
- Expand list of relevant offences for personal licences holders.
- The Government is proposing to amend the Late Night Levy and to place Cumulative Impact Policies on a statutory footing.

Animal Licensing

New model conditions for Home Boarding of dogs, were implemented from November 2016 and existing and new licence holders must now be compliant from the new/amended requirements.

Conclusion

The Licensing function continues to develop within Wiltshire Council. The core activity of supporting the licensing process has shown year on year improvement,

with the budget aspects, showing the greatest improvement over the past twelve months.

There continues to be a greater focus on preventing harm, this emphasis towards Prevention of Harm and the proactive work undertaken by the team is to ensure safe environments for people to enjoying the various Licensable activities across the county.

The Licensing Authority has implemented two reviews processes, and made a number of representations demonstrating the Authorities commitment with the Statement of Licensing Policy to protect local communities and support well managed licensed premises.

Thank you to members

The Licensing Team are grateful for all the support and interest the Licensing Committee members have shown over the last four years in a variety of licensing issues.

The Licensing Committee are asked to note the above update.

**Linda Holland
Licensing Manager
27th February 2017**