

## **Update on the Licensing Service: September 2018**

To update the Committee on the work of the Licensing Team in 2018

### **Licensing Activity Festivals**

Wiltshire is a popular venue for festivals, by early intervention and positive engagement we 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.

Following the risk rating of the festivals over the past few years, the Licensing team have targeted its resources and focused on the events that are either high profile, have experienced issues previously or are new to Wiltshire. As with all our engagements with festival organisers and their staff, the focus is on a safe secure and enjoyable event for all, within sensible and responsible parameters.

A number of events are channelled through the Event Safety Advisory Group to be offered well informed advice and guidance from responsible authorities and emergency services in attendance, and to give the group the opportunity to learn more about the event and any potential issues and the positive benefits to Wiltshire from a well-run event taking place.

Wiltshire attracted a diverse range of events from motor bike rallies, pride marches to large events and small scale festivals in a rural location. Still planned for this year are carnivals, Christmas markets, Christmas lights switch on. A number of new events have come to Wiltshire this year.

### **Events 2018**

The Licensing team have inspected / carried out prevention visits to festivals/ events during 2018, attending events over a number of weekends and evenings. The team were engaged in ensuring the safety of the public attending and staff working at the events and ensuring compliance with licences issued.

The weather played a significant part this summer; with events having to manage the very hot conditions, ensuring adequate water supply and increasing fire prevention measures, to reminding attendee's around sun prevention precautions.

Licensing Officers have been actively engaging with organisers prior to events in 2018, with the most high profile events being , Chalke Valley History Society in Broad Chalke in June, Womad in Charlton Park in July .

Visits were also made to:

Once Upton a Time in the West,  
Trowbridge Festival  
Trowbridge Armed Forces Day  
Melksham Party in the Park  
Field View Festival  
Lamer Tree  
Cock & Bull Festival  
Saddlebacks Festival  
Devizes Beer Festival  
Westbury Festival

Womad

This year's event was a success with large numbers attending (the weather was very inclement and windy) with no significant issues noted by the Licensing or Public Protection Teams that visited the site. The team at Womad was geared up for the high winds and proactive measure meant the gusting winds caused little or no interference with the event, just inconvenienced the attendees who had been advised to collapse gazebos and ensure tents were securely rigged.

### **On A Disappointing Note**

Sadly one event drew more attention of officers than others due to poor management and lack of planning, this required intervention by way of advice and a number of visits during the duration of the event.

Although the attendance was not significant in numbers the safety of the attendees was paramount and responsible agencies were asked to carryout joint visits to offer guidance to the licence holders. The event passed without incident and an urgent debrief was called by the Licensing Authority.

The event had been through an Event Safety Advisory Group meeting prior to the event taking place, which highlighted a number of concerns to the organisers.

### **Partnership Working**

Purple Flag: Licensing supported Chippenham's recent re-assessment of their Purple Flag status by attending the meet and greet session with the assessors side a number of partner agencies, highlight the work of the licensing team and how it works with its key partners.

Wiltshire Council Licensing is working in partnership with Swindon Licensing and Wiltshire Police licensing preparing to launch the "Ask Angela" campaign as a cross county initiative.

“Ask Angela” campaign has been run successfully in Gloucester for the past year and its hoped to mirror is success in Swindon and Wiltshire, the launch will be through pub watches initially seeking the support of licensed premises whose participation will be recognised on our websites.

The aim of the scheme is to promote a safe route from an uncomfortable or difficult situation a person may find themselves in and applies equally to men and women when perhaps a date is not working out or they feel unsafe in the current situation.

Members will be asked to support this positive initiative to assist a person a time of vulnerability

The launch is aimed to coincide with fresher week at the local colleges

We are also working on a possible Christmas drink drive campaign as a across county initiative.

### **Licensing Applications**

To give the Committee an update on the work of the Licensing Team, detailed in the table below are some the Licensing Applications from 1 January – 10 August 2018.

### **Licence Applications Jan – August 2017 &18**

Year comparison	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Temporary Events Notices	<b>1053</b>	<b>1085</b>
Late Temporary Events Notices	<b>211</b>	<b>245</b>
Licensing Applications ( New /variation/minor variation/Variation of DPS)	<b>581</b>	<b>615</b>
Personal Licences	<b>216</b>	<b>174</b>
Gambling Permits ( Gaming Machines )	<b>25</b>	<b>27</b>

### **Hearings**

This year to date we have held 7 licensing hearings compare to 5 at the same time last year.

### **Off Licence Premises**

The Licensing team have started a programme of inspections of all off licence shops within Wiltshire. The inspections are been carried out to check compliance and to ensure staff employed at these premises receive regular reminders / training in regard to the Licensing Act 2003.

## **Animal Licensing**

As previously advised a new licensing regime for Animal licensing is taking effect from 1 October 2018, with significant implications for the service and new and existing licence holders

Links to the new regulations and DEFRA guidance documents are available on our website.

Below is a brief summary of the implications of the new regulations:

The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals)(England) Regulations 2018 define the animal based activities that require licences as follows:

- Selling animals as pets (or with a view to their being later resold as pets) in the course of a business including keeping animals in the course of a business with a view to their being so sold or resold.
- Providing or arranging for the provision of accommodation for other people's cats or dogs in the course of a business on any premises where the provision of that accommodation is a purpose of the business.
- Hiring out horses in the course of a business for either riding, instruction in riding, or both.
- Breeding three or more litters of puppies in any 12-month period; or breeding dogs and advertising a business of selling dogs.
- Keeping or training animals for exhibition in the course of a business for educational or entertainment purposes, either to any audience attending in person, or by the recording of visual images of them by any form of technology, or both.

All four existing types of licence, together with the additional activity of keeping and training animals for exhibition, will be encompassed by one new 'Animal Activity licence'. If an applicant is running more than one licensable animal related activity, each activity will be assessed separately and set out in one licence. The length of licence (previously one year in most cases) may be anything between one and three years dependent on the outcome of their inspection, and the type of licence

Our existing arrangements included locally set conditions. The new provisions contain nationally set regulations for each animal based activity, which cannot be changed in any way and form the basis for conditions on the new licences going forward.

The fees are now to be split into two parts – the application fee, payable at the time of submission to cover the Council's costs in considering and determining the application, and the licence fee, which covers ongoing enforcement and compliance requirements.

Ahead of the implementation date, revised fees need to be set to accommodate the changes.

Currently there are 269 licensed premises that will be affected by the changes and the majority will need to be inspected prior to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019.

The new regime requires a 'qualified inspector' to carry out the inspections, and in the case of the grant of a dog breeding establishment and at grant and renewal of horse riding establishments they must be accompanied by a veterinary surgeon. To qualify to inspect these premises, a person must hold a Level 3 certificate granted by a body, recognised and regulated by the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulations which oversees training and assessment of persons inspecting and licensing certain animal activities businesses, and must have passed an independent exam. Their certificate must apply to the specific type of activities they are inspecting. If an inspector is not available, then a qualified veterinary surgeon must carry out the inspection.

Transitional provisions are in place to enable any person that can show evidence of at least one year of experience in licensing and inspecting animal activities businesses to carry out the inspections until October 2021. After that time, the above requirements will need to be met.

Nationally a new course is currently being developed to meet the new demands of the regulations and the indicated costs are over £1000 per person.

Under the new arrangements, the inspection process will be much more comprehensive, and built around providing the premises with a 'risk rating'. This process will establish whether the business is 'low risk' or 'higher risk' based on the level to which it meets the standards set out in regulations and guidance, and award between one and five stars, thus determining the length of the licence (with the exception of 'Keeping and Training Animals for Exhibition' for which all licences will be issued for 3 years as default). The star rating will be displayed on the licence, and included in the Council's public register, published on Wiltshire Councils website.

### **Conclusion**

The Licensing function continues to develop within Wiltshire Council. The core activity of supporting the licensing process has shown year on year improvement. There is also now a greater focus on preventing harm.

The new Animal Licensing regime will place huge demands on the team to ensure that it is implemented in line with the new regulations.

**Linda Holland**  
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**3 September 2018**

