

SPECIAL MEETING OF LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 18th March, 2008 at 5.00 p.m.
in Committee Room 2, The Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Ryder (Chairman)
Councillor D Blood (Vice Chairman)
Councillors Mrs Ameson, Mrs Aston, Ms Craigie, Mrs Dunn, Nottingham,
Taylor and Tomkinson

Officers

Director of Law and Property, Licensing Officer and Mr J Jablonski
(Directorate of Law and Property)

Also in Attendance

PC R Narrowmore – West Midlands Police

25 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of
Councillors Mrs Coulter, Mrs Cowell, A Finch, Mottram and Woodall

26 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No member made a declaration of interest in accordance with Members'
Code of Conduct.

27 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED

That, the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Committee held
on 17th December, 2007, be approved as a correct record and
signed.

28 **ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION IN PUBLIC PLACES – SEDGLEY TOWN
CENTRE**

A report of the Director of Law and Property was submitted on the consultation undertaken and the publishing of a notice in a local newspaper arising from the decision of this Committee at its meeting held on 17th December 2007, to approve, in principle, the introduction of a Designation Order for Sedgley Town Centre where the consumption of alcohol would be prohibited other than within the curtilage of licensed premises.

Appendix 1 to the report submitted was a copy of a plan indicating the original proposed designated area, as previously reported to the Committee, whilst attached at Appendix 2 was the original report submitted to the Council on the 5th December 2007, from West Midlands Police summarising the problems associated with the consumption of alcohol in and around Sedgley Town Centre within the proposed designated area.

Paragraphs 6 to 10 of the report submitted detailed the responses received and related comments on those responses with particular reference to the extension of the original designated area to include the Brownswall Estate; Cotwall End Nature Reserve; High Arcal; Turls Hill and an area to the north of Gorge Road which, if agreed, would make the extended area coterminous with the geographical policing area of Sedgley.

Circulated at the meeting was a letter from West Midlands Police giving full support to the extension of the designated area to include the above areas. In this connection a copy of the plan attached as Appendix 4 to the report submitted – Proposed Revised Designated Area - was also circulated at the meeting showing, clearly delineated, the extended area.

Appendix 2 to the report submitted was a copy of the letter setting out the effect of the original proposal delivered to the occupiers of some 300 properties in and around the shopping centre of Sedgley. In addition the letter had been placed on display in public buildings throughout the proposed designated area.

Appendix 5 to the report submitted was a copy of the draft Designation Order which, if approved by the Committee, and following the carrying out of all necessary action in connection with the making of the Order, would come into force on 2nd May 2008.

In his presentation of the content of the report, and Appendices to the report, submitted the Director of Law and Property commented that 39 representations had now been received, as against the 32 representations received at the time the report had been written, all of which supported the proposal. He also reported that consideration had been given as to whether further consultation needed to be carried out given the proposed extension to the original designated area and that, on balance, it was considered that, in view of the wide consultation given to the original proposal; the fact that no objections had been received and that additional comments requesting some extension of the original designated area had been suggested by some of the people consulted, no further consultation was required.

The Director or Law and Property also reported that in the light of the partnership working with West Midlands Police on this matter they would be sharing the cost of the signage required on an equal basis with the Council.

Arising from the presentation given Members commented on the proposal and indicated their support for the proposal and extension of the designated area. A Member also raised concerns as to whether the proposal would be enforced and in response it was indicated by PC Narrowmore that resources would be available. In response to a further expression of concern PC Narrowmore indicated that he would talk to his colleagues who policed Dudley Town Centre regarding the enforcing of a similar proposal in that area.

RESOLVED

That, subject to the extension of the original designated area to include those areas referred to in paragraph 10 of the report submitted and as shown on the plan attached as Appendix 4 to the report, the Sedgley Town Centre (Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Place) Order 2008 be approved and that the Director of Law and Property be authorised to take all necessary action in connection with the making of the Order as indicated in paragraphs 12 and 13 of the report submitted.

A joint report of the Director of Law and Property and the Director of Finance was submitted on the proposed revision of fees for licenses and consents (other than those for the fees imposed by statute in respect of liquor licensing and lotteries and amusement).

The Licensing Officer in her presentation of the report indicated that the proposed revision of fees related to the licences in respect of street trading consent – first site; street trading consent – additional sites; sex establishments and motor salvage vehicle licences. The remaining licences indicated in Table A of the report submitted were subject to Government regulation as to fees set and an indication had been received that it was unlikely that these fees would be increased.

RESOLVED

That approval be given to increasing the licence fees in respect of street trading consent – first site; street trading consent – additional site; sex establishments and motor salvage vehicle licences by 4%, as indicated in the fourth column of Table A of the report submitted, and that it be noted that the remaining licence fees in Table A were subject to Government regulation and were unlikely to be increased.

The meeting ended at 5.25 pm

CHAIRMAN