

SPECIAL MEETING OF LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Monday, 17th December, 2007 at 6.00 p.m.
in Committee Room 3, The Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Ryder (Chairman)
Councillor D Blood (Vice Chairman)
Councillors Mrs Aston, Mrs Coulter, Mrs Cowell, Mrs Dunn, A Finch, J Martin, Taylor and Tomkinson.

Officers

Director of Law and Property and Mr J Jablonski (Directorate of Law and Property).

Also in Attendance

Inspector L Bailey and PC R Narrowmore – West Midlands Police

18. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs Ameson, Ms Craigie, Mottram, Nottingham and Woodall.

19. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

20. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED

That, subject to the inclusion of an apology for Councillor Mottram, the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Committee held on 13th November, 2007, be approved as a correct record and signed.

21. **CHANGE IN ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 13(C) it was:-

RESOLVED

That agenda item 5 (Alcohol Consumption in Public Places – Sedgley Town Centre) be considered as the next item of business.

22. ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION IN PUBLIC PLACES – SEDGLEY TOWN CENTRE

A report of the Director of Law and Property was submitted on a proposal that an Order be made making Sedgley Town Centre a designated public place where the consumption of alcohol would be prohibited other than within the curtilage of licensed premises.

Attached at appendix 1 to the report submitted was a copy of a plan showing the proposed area to be designated. Attached at appendix 2 to the report submitted was a report from West Midlands Police summarising the problems associated with the consumption of alcohol in and around Sedgley Town Centre within the proposed designated area.

In his presentation of the report the Director of Law and Property referred to the procedure for the making of an Order, as outlined in the report submitted. In accordance with that procedure should the Committee agree to the making of an Order, in principle, further consideration would be given to this matter at a future meeting of the Committee following the necessary consultations and publishing of a notice in a local newspaper. It was also noted that this matter would be considered at a meeting of North Dudley Area Committee to be held on 30th January, 2008 and that, for the reasons outlined in paragraph 8 of the report submitted, consideration of any representations received, arising from the consultation held, would be considered by the Committee in, approximately, March, 2008.

Arising from the consideration given to this matter, it was:-

RESOLVED

That approval be given to the introduction, in principle, of a Designation Order for Sedgley Town Centre, as shown on the plan attached at Appendix 1 to the report submitted, the effect of which, if introduced, will prohibit the consumption of alcohol within the designated area other than within the curtilage of licensed premises, and that the Director of Law and Property be authorised to undertake the necessary consultations and publish a notice in a local newspaper in accordance with the procedure for the making of an Order, as outlined in the report submitted.

23. ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION IN PUBLIC PLACES – MARY STEVENS PARK AND SWINFORD COMMON, STOURBRIDGE

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 25th September, 2007, to approve, in principle, the introduction of a Designation Order for Mary Stevens Park and Swinford Common, Stourbridge where the public consumption of alcohol would be prohibited.

Appendix 1 to the report submitted was a report submitted to the Council on 23rd July 2007, from West Midlands Police, summarising the problems associated with the consumption of alcohol in and around Mary Stevens Park and Swinford Common. The proposed area to be designated was shown at Appendix 2.

Paragraphs 6 to 10 of the report submitted detailed the responses received and comments on those responses with particular reference to the possible inclusion of the Bigmoor Playing Fields at Albermarle Road and other roads adjacent to Mary Stevens Park and Swinford Common, an issue that had been addressed by the Police. The situation in respect of those areas would be monitored closely by the Police and if sufficient evidence of displacement did emerge in the future they would assess whether a ban in adjoining areas was justified and submit a further report to the Council.

Appendix 3 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 connected with the making of the Order, would come into force on 1st February, 2008.

It was also noted that the cost of providing signage would be met from a capital allocation of £1,500.00 approved by the Stourbridge Area Committee at its meeting on 19th November, 2007.

RESOLVED

That the Mary Stevens Park and Swinford Common (Stourbridge) (Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Place) Order 2007 be approved and that the Director of Law & Property be authorised to take all necessary action connected with the making of the Order as indicated in paragraphs 11 to 13 of the report submitted.

24. INSPECTOR LYNDA BAILEY

It was reported that Inspector Bailey would be moving to a new post with the Police and thanks were expressed to her for all the work carried out by her in the area.

The meeting ended at 6.30 p.m.

CHAIRMAN