

Tuesday 29 April 2008
at 6.00pm



Special Licensing Act Committee

MEMBERS: Councillor Mrs MORRIS (Chairman) Councillor THOMPSON (Deputy Chairman), Councillors ELKIN, Mrs GOODALL, GOODWIN, GOODYEAR, Mrs HEAPS, HOUGH, Mrs MADELL, SALSBURY and Miss WOODALL.

(Apologies for absence were reported from Councillors Belsey, Bloom, Harris and Purchase).

7 Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2008 were submitted and approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

8 Declaration of Interests.

None were received.

9 Review of Cumulative Impact Policy.

The Committee considered the report of the Licensing Manager regarding the current Cumulative Impact Policy and the submission of updated statistical evidence by Sussex Police.

The Council at its meeting on 25 July 2007 agreed to include a Cumulative Impact Policy for a specified area of the Borough. Sussex Police had submitted evidence that the particular area identified as the cumulative impact zone had reached a point where existing activity was at such a level that the granting of additional permissions would contribute to the cumulative effect and undermine the licensing objectives.

The Cumulative Impact Policy forms part of the Council's Licensing Policy Statement which is the basis of the Licensing Authority's general approach to licensing matters in Eastbourne.

The Statement of Licensing Policy was recently reviewed following consultation and adopted by the Council on 14 January 2008.

In October 2007 Sussex Police had submitted that the Cumulative Impact Zone should be extended and revised. Following further consideration of the proposals the police had indicated that the current zone already covered the key streets and areas of concern, although a 500m "buffer area" had been identified in order to assess the levels of crime and disorder around the current Cumulative Impact Zone.

A copy of the updated statistical evidence submitted by Sussex Police under the prevention of crime and disorder objective was attached as an appendix to the report. Inspector N Wainwright addressed the Committee and

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confirmed that the current policy had been reviewed and the police would not be seeking an extension of the cumulative impact zone.

Reference was made to the buffer area which would not be included as part of the policy but that consideration was being given to identifying "Special Stress Areas" (SSA), which border the Cumulative Impact Zone. These were areas considered to be of special concern in terms of the levels of crime, disorder and public nuisance experienced within them.

Applications for new and varied licenses within an SSA would be expected to pay particular attention when drawing up operating schedules to take positive steps to ensure that the operation of the premises would not add to the problems already experienced in the areas.

Details of potential measures being considered as appropriate for inclusion within a premises' operating schedule where they are seeking to operate within a SSA were detailed within the report.

Inspector Wainwright advised the Committee of the current police initiatives to tackle public place violent crime, incidents of anti social behaviour and youth disorder.

RESOLVED: (1) That the updated statistical evidence presented by Sussex Police in respect of the continuation of the current Cumulative Impact Policy be noted.

(2) That the current Cumulative Impact Policy be maintained as a means to promote the licensing objectives.

The meeting closed at 7.05 p.m.

Mrs S Morris
Chairman