

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE

HELD AT 6.30 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 11 MARCH 2014

**COMMITTEE ROOM C1, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5
CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG**

Members Present:

Councillor Carli Harper-Penman (Chair)

Councillor Khaled Uddin Ahmed
Councillor Peter Golds (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Ann Jackson
Councillor Denise Jones
Councillor David Snowdon

Officers Present:

Paul Greeno – (Senior Advocate, Legal Services)
John McCrohan – (Trading Standards & Licensing Manager)
David Tolley – (Head of Consumer and Business Regulations
Service, Safer Communities, Communities
Localities & Culture)

Simmi Yesmin – (Senior Committee Officer, Democratic Services)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the following Members;

- Councillor Rajib Ahmed
- Councillor David Edgar
- Councillor Marc Francis
- Councillor Joshua Peck

1. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Licensing Committee meeting held on 8th October 2013 and the Extraordinary Licensing Committee held on 8th January 2014 were confirmed and agreed as a correct record.

3. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 Application to Increase Licence Fee for the London Tattoo Convention

Mr David Tolley, Head of Consumer and Business Regulations Service introduced the report explaining that the Tattoo Convention had been taking place in Tobacco Dock for the last 6 years. That a Special Treatment Licence was required for tattooing to be provided and an increase in the licensing fee was requested so that officers can carry out the relevant checks, inspections and if needed, corrective actions to ensure that the event is safe and the risk associated with blood borne viruses are managed.

It was noted that there was a typographical error in the report and the proposed licence fee should be £2852.86 as detailed correctly in the appendix.

The Committee noted the rationale for the determination of the fee and it was:-

RESOLVED

1. That the application fee for a massage and special treatment licence for the London Tattoo Convention be set at £2852.86.

3.2 Licensing Team - Review of Activity 2013/14

Mr John McCrohan, Trading Standards & Licensing Manager introduced the report which detailed the Licensing Team's enforcement and administration work this financial year. He explained that the Licensing Team conduct regular night time visits with Police Licensing Officers and Operation Creek continues to target the problematic touting by the restaurants in Brick Lane as well as this Operation Dymock had been running since March 2013, which involves weekend late night visits to monitor the terminal hours for late night refreshments and off sales of alcohol.

It was noted that the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 had set up a new rigorous regime for the licensing of scrap metal dealers and motor salvage business, which the Licensing Team have had to administer. It was also noted that a

mandatory condition is to be introduced in April that will set a minimum price for a unit of alcohol.

After a short discussion the following points were raised;

- That premises which breach their suspension conditions should be dealt with in way of enforcement action or a review of the licence.
- Follow up action and regular visits should be made during suspension periods.
- That record keeping requirements are used when licensing Scrap Metal Dealers.
- That there should be more enforcement action taken by Licensing staff and that Senior Managers should look to resource the Licensing Team further in order to carry out licensing visits and enforcement actions.

At this point the Chair mentioned the issue raised by SPIRE (Spitalfields Residents Group) regarding the Special Cumulative Impact Zone. It was noted that the residents wished to meet with members of the Licensing Committee to discuss their concerns. Mr Paul Greeno, Senior Advocate advised that such meeting would be inappropriate as it may be seen as encouraging residents to object to applications and could be seen as pre-determination of forthcoming applications.

Following a short discussion, Members suggested that more information such as a list of frequently asked questions, the licensing objectives and grounds for objection is made available for residents and other potential objectors on the Tower Hamlets website, Licensing Agendas, etc. It was agreed that SPIRE would also receive information on the Licensing Committee's role and responsibility and clarity on what the Committee's function is in order to alleviate some of their concerns.

Members welcomed the report and thanked Mr McCrohan for the information provided.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

3.3 Update in Relation to Prosecutions and Appeals - Quarter 1 to Quarter 3 2013/2014

Mr Paul Greeno, Senior Advocate briefly introduced the report which detailed licensing related prosecutions and appeals for the first three quarters of 2013/2014.

Members noted the results of the prosecutions and appeals detailed in the report and thanked Mr Greeno for the information provided.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

The Chair extended her thanks to all Officers from Licensing and Legal for all the hard work over the years and in particular thanked Simmi Yesmin, Senior Committee Officer for her hard work, dedication and support to Members of the Licensing Committee over the past years.

Councillor Peter Golds, on behalf of the Committee and Officers thanked Councillor Carli Harper-Penman, for Chairing the Licensing Committee over the past seven years with commitment, dedication, and hard work and that she would be missed at future meetings.

The meeting ended at 7.25 p.m.

Chair, Councillor Carli Harper-Penman
Licensing Committee