

# Item 9a

## SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL

### LICENSING COMMITTEE 2

Council Chamber,  
Council Offices,  
Spennymoor

Monday,  
22 October 2007

Time: 2.00 p.m.

**Present:** Councillor T.F. Forrest (Chairman) and

Councillors D. R. Brown, Mrs. K. Conroy, Mrs. E.M. Maddison and

N. Smalley - Inspection and Licensing Services Manager  
D. Rackstraw - Principal Assistant Solicitor

**Apologies:** Councillors Mrs. D. Bowman, P. Gittins J.P., G.C. Gray, Mrs. J. Gray, Mrs. S. Haigh, G.M.R. Howe, Ms. I. Jackson, Mrs. C. Potts, A. Warburton and W. Waters.

#### **LC2.4/07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor D. R. Brown declared a personal interest in Item No : 3 as he was a Member of Sedgfield Town Council.

#### **LC2.5/07 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2007 were confirmed as a correct record. (For copy see file of Minutes).

#### **LC2.6/07 LICENSING ACT 2003 DRAFT STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY**

**NB : In accordance with Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Members Code of Conduct, Councillor D.R. Brown declared a personal interest in this item and remained in the meeting.**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services regarding the above. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Members of the Committee were informed that the Licensing Act 2003 required all Licensing Authorities to prepare and publish a Licensing Policy on a 3 yearly cycle.

It was explained that the draft document had been submitted to Licensing Committee on 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2007 and following the conclusion of the statutory public consultation process, comments had been received from :-

British Beer and Pub Association  
Sedgfield Town Council  
County Durham Primary Care Trust

Details of the comments received were highlighted in the report together with any consequent amendments to the Policy and any other action taken.

It was noted that since the preparation of the report additional observations had been received from the Association to Licensed Multiple Retailers relating mainly to door supervision on premises after midnight and sale of alcohol to underage drinkers.

Following consideration of the report a query was raised regarding the recent introduction of smokefree legislation and the potential problem which could arise from music being played on premises and doors being left open causing noise and nuisance. In reply Members were informed that such situations would be monitored and if necessary Environmental Health had the power to service enforcement notices.

It was also explained that if premises wanted to provide outside entertainment for smokers, an application for a Variation of a Licence would be required.

Members also queried whether the Policy, which was to be in existence for the next three years would be adopted by a new unitary authority. It was explained that the new unitary would formulate one major document for the County.

Members raised a query concerning the way in which new applications were to be advertised. It was pointed out that copies of the relevant Notice were displayed on the premises itself and in local newspapers.

Members raised concerns regarding the problem of underage drinking. It was explained that it was very difficult in some cases for Licensees to identify underage drinkers and that training and instruction could be given to the licenceholder to pass on to all staff.

It was also pointed out that although the whole of Sedgefield Borough area was covered by Pubwatch, unfortunately not all premises had signed up to the scheme.

**RECOMMENDED :**                    *That the draft Statement of Licensing Policy subject to any amendments recommended by this Committee be submitted to Cabinet for information and then to Council for approval on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2007.*

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**ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

Any person wishing to exercise the right of inspection, etc., in relation to these Minutes and associated papers should contact Mrs. G. Garrigan Spennymoor 816166 Ext 4240 ggarrigan@sedgefield.gov.uk