

**Minutes of a Meeting of the  
WBC Licensing and Control Committee 'B' of  
Worthing Borough Council**

**Gordon Room, Town Hall, Chapel Road, Worthing**

**Tuesday 26 March 2013**

Councillor John Rogers (Chairman)

Noel Atkins	*Roy Barraclough
Keith Bickers	*Christine Brown
Michael Cloake	Norah Fisher
*Paul Howard	Diane Jones
Roger Oakley	Michael Donin
Robert Smytherman	Val Turner
Vicky Vaughan	Vic Walker

\*Absent

**LCCB/12-13/40 Declarations of substitutions**

There were no substitutions

**LCCB/12-13/41 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest

**LCCB/12-13/42 Public Question Time**

There were no questions or statement made by the public

**LCCB/12-13/43 Minutes**

**Resolved: that** the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing and Control Committee B held on 23 January 2013 and the Sub Committee held on the 6 March be approved as the correct record

**LCCB/12-13/43 Items Raised Under Urgency Provisions**

There were no items raised under urgency provisions

**LCCB/12-13/44 Licensing Act 2003 – Review of Statement of Licensing Policy**

Before the Committee was a report by the Executive Head of Planning Regeneration and Wellbeing, copies of which had been distributed to all Members and a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes as item 6. In accordance with the statutory requirements of the Licensing Act 2003 (“the Act”) the Council’s Licensing & Control Committee B had resolved to review its Statement of Licensing Policy, draft policies had been seen by the Committee at its meetings in July 2012 and December 2012. At the December meeting Members agreed that a meeting between the Chair of the Licensing & Control Committee and Sussex Police should be held to assist with the drafting of a new revised ‘Special Saturation Policy’. That meeting was held on 28 February and a new version had been drafted.

The Senior Licensing Officer introduced the report to the Committee. He referred to evidence supplied by the Police that was intended to support the extension of the special saturation policy

that would include off sales. There was a perceived cumulative impact of a saturation of venues selling alcohol for consumption off the premises (off-licences, convenience stores and supermarkets), however, the evidence that the Police had been able to produce suggested that the problem was a perception only. The figures, which had been unexpected, suggested that anti-social street crime had declined in virtually all areas. Anecdotal evidence collected by neighbourhood Police Sergeants suggested that anti-social behaviour caused by the hardened street drinkers had declined in all areas except the border areas between Central ward and Heene ward and those problems were confined to the mornings. Members were told that without evidence to back it up proposed changes to the special saturation policy would be hard to defend in court.

A representative of Sussex Police was present at the meeting. Members were told that there was no way of telling separating street drinking incidents from other anti-social behaviour incidents from the figures provided. It was stated that the Police would use the Licensing Act to bring problem off sales vendors before the Committee. The Police representative was questioned on the figures, the recording of drug related crime and the association of crimes recorded against an establishment resulting from patrons being barred from entry.

The Committee discussed proposals to adjust the special saturation policy. Expressions were made that the removal of the special saturation policy could help regenerate the night time economy in Worthing, it was further noted that the removal of the special saturation policy was unlikely to result in a large increase in applications due to the prevailing economic climate.

The Sussex Police representative asked Members to consider maintaining the special saturation policy in Central ward, he cited crime figures from the previous years as evidence of this need.

It was proposed and seconded that the Special Saturation Policy be removed from the Licensing Policy and on a vote was agreed.

**Resolved:** that the final draft Licensing Policy be approved without amendment and be recommended to Council for adoption.

The meeting was declared closed by the Chairman at 8.00pm, it having commenced at 7.21pm.

**Chairman**