

Licensing Committee

Tuesday, 5th February, 2019

PRESENT: Councillor M Harland in the Chair

Councillors N Buckley, A Garthwaite,
K Groves, H Bithell, B Garner, J Heselwood
and C Knight

Retirement of Stephen Holder

Members were informed that Stephen Holder, Principal Licensing Officer, would shortly be retiring from the Council after 28 years of service.

In paying tribute Councillor J Lewis, Deputy Leader of Council and Executive Member for Resources and Sustainability thanked Stephen for his many years of valued service and advice.

Licensing Committee Chair, Councillor M Harland thanked Stephen for his help and support over the years, the advice he had provided was invaluable.

Members joined the Chair in wishing Stephen best wishes for his forthcoming retirement.

84 Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents

There were no appeals against the refusal of inspection of documents.

85 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

There were no items identified where it was considered necessary to exclude the press or public from the meeting due to the nature of the business to be considered.

86 Late Items

There were no late items of business

87 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests made at the meeting.

88 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors; P Drinkwater, R Downes, B Flynn and B Gettings.

89 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 4th December 2018 were submitted for consideration/ approval.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting held on 4th December 2018 be accepted as a true and correct record.

90 Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no issues raised under Matters Arising.

91 Harehills Work Programme

The Area Leader, Communities Team, Communities & Environment Directorate submitted a report which provided an update on the work programme of Leeds City Council and partners in relation to the Harehills neighbourhood of Leeds.

Members noted the recent inclusion of Harehills in Leeds City Council's Cumulative Impact Policy (CIP) and the wider neighbourhood improvement agenda for the area which included:

- Engagement – events, campaigns and residential involvement
- Partnership working
- Bespoke engagement
- Children and Young People
- Place
- Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour
- Environment
- Challenges and Emerging Issues

Addressing the report the Localities Programme Manager said strides made by local Elected Members, the wider council, partners and residents had all resulted in some significant gains for the community. The recent inclusion of Harehills in Leeds City Council's Cumulative Impact Policy (CIP) had already resulted in the rejection of an alcohol licence extension application by the City Council's Licensing Sub Committee on 15th January 2019. The hearing heard compelling evidence from Ward Members, Council Officers, West Yorkshire Police and local residents as to why the application for a 24 hour alcohol licence was not appropriate on Harehills Road.

Members queried if the use of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's) would be appropriate for this area.

In responding the Localities Programme Manager said there was currently a PSPO operating in Harehills.

Members queried if public drinking could be restricted.

Members were informed that fines could be issued but this was dependent upon the appropriate resources being available in the area.

Reference was made to Harehills Community Watch Facebook page.

It was reported that the Harehills Community Watch Facebook page was influential within the community and had been successful in conveying some of the challenges within the area to the Council and its partners to accelerate neighbourhood improvement. Members were informed that the Group moderators were now actively engaging with the Council at meetings of the Inner East Community Committee.

Reference was made to the Halloween/ Bonfire period and the increase in anti-social behaviour during this time. Members sought further information as to the nature of the anti-social behaviour and how was it being tackled.

Members were informed that the anti-social behaviour involved a broad spectrum of young people from “high-spirited youths” to those engaging in low level crime and public nuisance. In addressing the issue the Council together with other partners had provided diversionary activities to positively engage with the youth of the area.

In offering comment the Executive Member for Resources and Sustainability said a report on Locality Working and Priority Neighbourhood Update would be considered by the Executive Board at a meeting in the near future. The report identifies areas of focus for targeted neighbourhood improvement to address poverty and inequality.

The Chair thanked the Localities Programme Manager for his attendance and contribution commenting that the Communities Team had undertaken some excellent work in the area and it was understood Ward Members were very pleased with the progress made.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the report be noted.

92 Licensing Committee Work Programme

Members considered the contents of the Licensing Committee Work Programme for 2019.

Members noted that the following items were scheduled for the next meeting in March:

- Annual Licensing Report
- West Yorkshire Combined Authority Project to Harmonise Taxi & Private Driver Training Across West Yorkshire and York

RESOLVED – That the contents of the Licensing Committee Work Programme for 2019 be approved.

93 Date and Time of Next Meeting

RESOLVED – To note that the next meeting will take place on Tuesday, 5th March 2019 at 10.00am in the Civic Hall, Leeds.

