

SPECIAL MEETING OF LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Wednesday 19th December, 2012 at 10.00 am
in the Council Chamber, The Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Bills (Chair)
Councillor Cowell (Vice-Chair)
Councillors M Aston, Blood, K Finch, Herbert, James, Roberts and Woodall.

Officers

Senior Solicitor (as Legal Advisor), Solicitor and Mrs K Griffiths (all Directorate of Corporate Resources)

Also In Attendance - (for agenda item no. 4)

Mr A Taylor, Licensing Officer for West Midlands Police
PC Reg Steel
PC William Smith
PCSO Sarah Nixon
Ms D McNulty – Public Health Manager

12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs Ameson, Russell and Taylor.

13 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Cowell declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 4 – Quarry Bank (Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Place) Order 2013, as a Ward Member for the area.

14 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 12th September, 2012, be approved as a correct record and signed.

QUARRY BANK (ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION IN PUBLIC PLACES)
ORDER 2013

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on a proposal that an Order be made making Quarry Bank a designated public place where the consumption of alcohol would be prohibited other than within the curtilage of licensed premises.

Attached at Appendix 2 to the report submitted was a copy of a plan showing the proposed Area to be designated. Attached at Appendix 1 to the report submitted was a report from West Midlands Police summarising the problems with the excess consumption of alcohol and associated problems in Quarry Bank. Circulated prior to the meeting was a further document giving details of alcohol related anti social behaviour, public safety welfare and crimes in support of the proposed Order.

The Solicitor referred to the Appendices indicated above and to the Police incident logs referred to in paragraph 5 of the report, which the Chair and Vice-Chair of this Committee had agreed to inspect prior to this meeting.

Arising from the presentation, the Chair indicated that the Vice-Chair and herself had inspected the Police incident logs prior to the meeting and both had been satisfied as to the evidence contained therein.

PC Steel was then invited to speak and confirmed that the proposed Order would enable the Police to more effectively control the alcohol fuelled anti-social behaviour in the proposed area and greatly improve the quality of life for residents.

Members commented on the need to ensure that Orders were enforced. It was suggested that contact numbers be given to residents in the area of the proposed Order to report incidents relating to alcohol. In responding, PC Steel indicated that the Police were currently undergoing a Continuous Improvement Programme, however, he assured the Committee that they were committed to protecting the services they provided at the level expected. The proposed Order would give the Police extended power to tackle alcohol related anti social behaviour.

Members further commented that the way in which the Police enforced Alcohol Consumption in Public Places Orders should be consistent across the whole of the borough. Assurances were given that the issue would be considered in the New Year.

Members were also invited to consider the health issues associated with excessive alcohol consumption.

Arising from a question asked in relation to tackling persistent offenders, the representative for West Midlands Police indicated that Officers could now issue Dispersal Orders giving them the power to move people from within the strictly defined prohibited areas if they were suspected of causing anti-social behaviour. It was reported that should perpetrators ignore the Notice, arrests could be made.

The Legal Advisor then outlined the Procedure for making an Order as detailed in paragraphs 9 to 13 of the report submitted to the meeting.

Arising from the consideration given to this matter it was

RESOLVED

That approval, in principle, be given to the introduction of a Designation Order for Quarry Bank, as shown on the plan attached at Appendix 2 to the report submitted, the effect of which if introduced, will prohibit the consumption of alcohol within the designated area other than within the curtilage of licensed premises, and that the Director of Corporate Resources be authorised to undertake the necessary consultations and publish a notice in a local newspaper in accordance with the procedure for the making of an Order, as outlined in the report submitted.

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COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting and wished all a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

The meeting ended at 10.30am.

CHAIR