

## **REPORT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE**

(Meeting held 4 November 1999)

### **1. PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT – PROPOSED NEW LICENCE CONDITIONS (REPORT A) (MINUTE NO. 44)**

During 1982 responsibility for licensing Public Entertainment passed to Local Authorities. The Act allowed authorities to adopt Regulations containing terms, conditions and restrictions upon which Public and Sports Entertainment Licences were granted, renewed, varied and transferred. Over time, circumstances changed and many councils amended their original conditions. The result was that there was a disparity of conditions between Councils.

A review was undertaken which highlighted that some of the conditions were no longer relevant and changes in the style of leisure activities had led to a requirement for changes to be made to others, and for new conditions to be added.

Following discussions with all Hampshire and Isle of Wight authorities, a model was devised which contained a set of wide ranging licence conditions. The intention is to ensure consistency and fairness, depending upon local needs, with councils in the County broadly adopting the same conditions.

From this model the Committee have agreed a range of new licence conditions which closely reflect the needs of this Council and are more relevant to current leisure activities.

A copy of the new Licence conditions is available in the Members' Room.

### **2. ENVIRONMENTAL RADIATION MONITORING (REPORT B) (MINUTE NO. 45)**

The Committee has considered a report outlining work carried out in the field of radiation monitoring.

The National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB) is an independent statutory body that provides advice on radiation standards and carries out research into improved environmental protection. One of the Board's main functions is to advise the government on the acceptability of international recommendations with regard to radiation.

The Radiation Incident Monitoring Network (RIMNET) is the DETR's early warning system, set up across the UK to monitor normal background radiation levels. The system was set up in 1988 following the review of the Chernobyl incident. RIMNET is essentially a series of automatic monitoring stations around the country which feed information to a computer network. The readings are polled every hour to a central database in Poole.

The nearest automatic monitors in this area are situated at Eastleigh and Southampton.

The Radioactive Substances Act 1993 provides for control to be exercised over the keeping and use of various radioactive materials and, in particular on the accumulation and disposal of radioactive waste. To support these regulatory functions and, as part of the UK government's arrangements for providing information to the European Commission, the Environment Agency commissions independent monitoring of radioactive waste disposal and the impact on the environment and monitoring of radioactivity in air, rainwater and drinking water sources.

Discharges of radioactive waste to the environment may only be made in accordance with authorisations issued under the Radioactive Substances Act.

Copies of the authorisations for disposal of radioactive waste, in this area, are held on a public register in the Environmental Services Department.

### **3. BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT (REPORT C) (MINUTE NO. 46)**

The Committee considered the key variations identified in their capital and revenue budgets since 1 April 1999.

Members considered the presentation of information in the report namely, the rationale behind grouping Waste Management and Recycling together and Refuse Collection and Street Cleansing together. Members noted that each of these functions currently operate under separate budget heads to allow for monitoring and financial control.

The Committee also noted that the level of fly tipping in the district would continue to be monitored to establish whether changes in the charges imposed by scrap metal dealers to collect old vehicles, and the charges made by the District Council for the collection of bulky waste items was increasing the prevalence of this problem.

### **4. BODY PIERCING (REPORT D) (MINUTE NO. 47)**

Currently there are no statutory controls over persons who wish to practise body piercing. This is an anomaly as people who pierce ears, tattooists or those who practise acupuncture all have to be registered with the Local Authority and comply with basic minimum standards.

Over the last few years there has been an increase in cosmetic body piercing of the type not covered by current legislation and concern has been expressed over associated health risks. In view of this a number of authorities have adopted an "Approved Piercer" Scheme. The Scheme allows piercers who meet strict hygiene rules and are regularly inspected by officers of the Council to display an approval certificate. People requiring body piercing are advised and encouraged to use only approved piercers.

The Committee have now agreed to the adoption of a scheme of "Approved Piercers" for the New Forest District which will require minimum standards to be applied to qualify for status. The Committee have included a specific requirement that body piercers should not perform any procedures on persons under 16 years of age without explicit parental consent.

The Committee have also agreed that the Government should be urged to bring forward legislation to formally control body piercing and, to this effect, a letter has been sent to the local Members of Parliament and the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions.

To encourage local people to use only approved piercers, the minimum standards now in place will be publicised as widely as possible.

**5. LITTER BIN REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME (REPORT E) (MINUTE NO. 48)**

The Committee have agreed to a litter bin replacement programme and at the same time are taking the opportunity to assess the need for additional litter bins in the district. The first phase of the replacement programme will concentrate on coastal areas.

The Council's logo will be placed on all new litter bins and schools in the district were invited to participate in a competition to suggest wording to be printed on litter bins. Unfortunately, schools were unable to respond due to other commitments. It was therefore agreed that the Local Agenda 21 logo will also be included on litter bins.

**Councillor J Waddington  
CHAIRMAN**

(Ctteemtg/Cttee/ES041199/Report)