

13 JUNE 2008

**NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE**

Notes of an informal meeting of the General Purposes and Licensing Committee held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Friday, 13 June 2008.

p Cllr L R Puttock (Chairman)  
p Cllr A E J Shotter (Vice-Chairman)

**Councillors:**

p G C Beck  
e W H Dow  
e J A G Hutchins  
p Mrs P Jackman  
e Mrs M McLean  
p J Penwarden  
e A W Rice TD

**Councillors:**

W S Rippon-Swaine  
p R F Scrivens  
e Mrs B Smith  
M S Wade  
e S S Wade  
p Mrs P A Wyeth

**Officers Attending:**

Ms M Stephens, and for part of the meeting only; Mrs L Battersby, B Lennie, M Powell, Mrs M Sandhu, and S Stone.

**Also in attendance:**

Mr G Flexman – Town Clerk, New Milton Town Council

Note: There were insufficient members present at the meeting to form a quorum. It was agreed that the meeting would continue on an informal basis.

**1. MINUTES.**

The minutes of the meetings held on 14 March, 21 April and 19 May 2008, would be confirmed as correct records at the next meeting.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

Cllr Mrs Wyeth in Minute No. 11.

**3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**

No issues were raised during the public participation period.

**4. NEW MILTON STREET MARKET POSSIBLE EXPANSION (REPORT A).**

Graham Flexman, Clerk, New Milton Town Council was present and addressed members on the future of the weekly Wednesday market in Station Road, New Milton, and its long-term expansion to the east sides of both Station Road North and Station Road South.

New Milton had run a weekly market in Station Road, South since 21 April 2004. However, in 2007 necessary street works meant that the market had to be temporarily relocated to Station Road North. The street works finished in late April and on 30 April 2008 the market relocated back to Station Road South. New Milton Town Council would like the market to be expanded, on a permanent basis, to cover part of the east side of Station Road North as well as Station Road South.

Local shopkeepers had seen the benefits of having the market at the North and South ends of Station Road, and 83% of local businesses were in favour of the proposals.

The County Council's Highways Manager had been consulted on this proposal and had no objections. Highways had approved the positioning of the stalls as cited on the plans. The Highways Manager was also satisfied, in terms of health and safety, that there was no need for waiting restrictions to be placed on the Road.

It was agreed that this item would be considered at a special meeting of the Committee to be held on 21 July 2008.

**5. PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE LICENSING OF STRETCH LIMOUSINES AS PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES (REPORT B).**

Following recent changes brought about by Department of Transport Guidance, local authorities were being encouraged to consider licensing stretch limousines as private hire vehicles.

The Council, for a number of reasons, did not currently license limousines as private hire vehicles and consequently stretch limousines in the district had operated in an unregulated manner.

In considering whether or not to license stretch limousines, various factors had to be taken into account such as tinted windows, left hand drive, seating capacity and side facing seating and whether or not appropriate conditions should be attached to licences in order to safeguard the safety of the public.

The CCTV and Licensing Manager would undertake internal enquiries regarding the possible licensing of stretch limousines and contact individuals such as the Transport Manager and road safety groups to gain a better understanding of the impact this would make. The numbers of potential vehicles to be licensed would be investigated and this information would be brought back to the next Committee meeting for consideration.

**6. CRIMINAL RECORD BUREAU (CRB) CHECKS – PORTABILITY (REPORT C).**

The Committee discussed the use of portability of CRB checks in respect of Private Hire and Operator applications. Portability was the re-use of a CRB check obtained by one organisation and used by another organisation.

The CRB was advising licensing authorities that they would not endorse portability as the transfer of documents between two authorities would mean using the documents incorrectly and not for their original purpose. There were many risks to the District Council if portability was accepted. For instance, the time lapse between the issue of a CRB check to one organisation could mean that the person's criminal record or other information might have changed by the time it was submitted by the second organisation. Those authorities that undertook portability had come under some criticism due to these risks.

The Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) scheme, introduced under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, would make significant changes to the CRB checking process and the way in which information was gathered and stored. A new scheme would be introduced on 12 October 2009. Those working with vulnerable persons would need to register their details with the ISA. The ISA would act as a one stop shop for those registered and organisations interested in information on individuals. Applicants would need to pay a fee of £64 for registering with the ISA.

This issue would be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

**7. NEW SECTION 18 STANDARD FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY ENFORCEMENT, HEALTH AND SAFETY SERVICE PLAN 2007/2008 AND HEALTH AND SAFETY INITIAL INTERVENTION PLAN 2008/2009 (REPORT D).**

The Committee discussed the new section 18 standard for Health and Safety Enforcement; the review of the Health and Safety Service Plan 2007/2008; and the initial Intervention Plan for the current year.

Lead Scrutiny Member, Cllr Penwarden had scrutinised the documents and was pleased to report that the section had performed well against its targets. He had met with the Service Manager to discuss how the new section 18 standard would impact on staff and work arrangements whilst maintaining the level of visits to high risk establishments. He was satisfied that the service would cope well with these added pressures.

This issue would be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

**8. FLEXIBLE RETIREMENT FOR ALL EMPLOYEES – INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME (REPORT E).**

The Committee considered the proposal for a Flexible Retirement Policy following changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

The proposal had been submitted to Executive Management Team and Industrial Relations Committee for consideration and they had both endorsed the policy, however, recommended that the policy be reviewed in 12 months time.

It was agreed that the Committee would consider this matter at a special meeting of the Committee to be held on 21 July 2008.

**9. DATES OF MEETINGS 2009/2010.**

The dates of meetings for 2009/10 would be agreed at the next Committee meeting.

CHAIRMAN

(GPLC130608)