

CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL

Report to:- **The Chairman and Members of the Licensing Committee**

Date of Meeting:- **12th September 2007**

Agenda Item No:-

Public

Operational

Delegated Yes

Accompanying Comments and Statements

Required

Included

Cumbria Fire Service

No

No

Cumbria Constabulary

No

No

Environmental Services

No

No

Planning Services

No

No

Title:-

**LICENSING ACT 2003
APPLICATION UPDATE**

Report of:-

LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Report reference:-

LDS 76/07

Summary:-

This report gives an update on the current position regarding applications under the Licensing Act 2003.

Recommendation:-

Members are requested to note the information.

J A Messenger
Licensing Manager
Legal & Democratic Services

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers:- Records of Licences issued

To the Chairman and Members of the Licensing Committee on 12th September 2007

This report is presented to give an update on the current position under the Licensing Act 2003.

Background

- 1.1 The Licensing Act 2003 took effect on 24th November 2005 and this Council had issued all licences by the end of February 2006.
- 1.2 During 2006 and early 2007 there was a run of variation applications as premises have been consolidating their positions in the entertainment market place. We now appear to have reached a position where variations are down to about two per month, with transfers and changes of Designated Premises Supervisor becoming the more common application. Temporary Event Notices (TEN's) have continued to be popular with many villages/communities taking advantage of this 'non bureaucratic' method of holding an event. Full licence holders have also been using TEN's for one off events and a number of personal licence holders are specialising in running these events on behalf of organisations.

Licence figures – as at 3rd September 2007

2.1 Personal Licences

Current Licences – 774

2.2 Premises Licences

With alcohol

Current Licences – 357

Licences surrendered/revoked - 13

Without alcohol

Current Licences – 80

Licences surrendered - 2

2.3 Club Premises Certificate

With alcohol

Current Licences – 26

Licences surrendered - 2

Without alcohol

Current Licences – 0

2.4 Temporary Event Notices

Notices received – 472

Notices refused - 8

2.5 **Variations of licences – Includes change of DPS, variation of hours, transfers etc.**

Pending applications – 22

Current Issues

- 5.1 The licensing section continue to respond to applications, there being on average 20 pending at any one time.
- 5.2 An Independent Fees Panel set up by the DCMS has gathered evidence during 2006 in relation to the fees for premise licences. Their report was published in February 2007. The DCMS have said that the fee structure under the Licensing Act 2003 will be set fairly to ensure that there is full cost recovery for local authorities. The Minister is still considering the report and his response will be included in a future report to this committee.
- 5.3 A number of Licensing Update Seminars for the trade were arranged at Brampton and Carlisle during March and April 2007. This was supported with funding from Carlisle and Eden Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.
- 5.4 The seminar looked closely at licence holder's responsibilities under the Act and stressed the importance of staff training, especially with regard to under age sales. Police Officers also attended the events, which proved beneficial to both themselves and other delegates. The response from the trade was very poor, only about 20% of licensed premises being represented.
- 5.5 One of these seminars was a special event that was organised in respect of village halls and community centres. Their responsibilities are different to pub and club premises licences in that they tend to have more temporary event notices. This particular event was organised by Rural Support Officers and also included health and safety and financial advice. This event was well supported and received excellent feedback from delegates.
- 5.6 In a joint initiative with Eden District Council and Cumbria Constabulary, we are looking at the 'Best Bar None' scheme initially started by Greater Manchester Police about three years ago. This scheme aims to reduce the risk of alcohol related harm, disorder and crime by establishing a benchmark of good practice for licensed premises. Preliminary meetings have been held and an update will be presented at a future meeting (**Appendix 1**).

OPTIONS

Members are asked to note the current position.

Prepared by:

J A Messenger, Licensing Manager

BEST BAR NONE

The logo consists of two large, bold, black letters 'B' joined together. Each 'B' has a white horizontal bar across its middle, creating a central white space between the two letters.

- **Best Bar None is a scheme which aims to reduce the risk of alcohol related harm, disorder and crime by establishing a benchmark of good practice in licensed premises.**
- **Through Best Bar None we are seeking to create consistence of standards throughout the area with which to underpin the alcohol harm reduction strategy and the 2003 Licensing Act.**
- **In addition we aim to improve the knowledge and skills of enforcement and regulation agencies, licensees and bar staff in order to deal effectively with issues relating to the management of licensed premises.**
- **Best Bar None schemes are being set up in the Carlisle and Penrith areas. In each area, all licensed premises which apply for Best Bar None accreditation are assessed by independent assessors against four key objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder; public safety; the prevention of public nuisance; and the protection of children from harm.**
- **Awards and accreditation are then given to successful premises.**