

LICENSING COMMITTEE

7 JULY 2009

Present: County Councillor Bridges (Chairperson);
County Councillors Cox, Ford, Grant, Goddard, Kelloway, Macdonald,
David Morgan, Derrick Morgan, Elgan Morgan and Smith

Apology: County Councillor Griffiths

L7 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 June 2009 were approved by the Committee as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson.

L8 : LICENSING ACT 2003 – CUMULATIVE IMPACT OF LICENSED PREMISES IN THE CITY ROAD AND CRWYS ROAD AREA

The Committee received a report from the Chief Strategic Planning and Environment Officer providing details of an application by South Wales Police for the adoption of a special saturation policy statement. On 17 May 2009 South Wales Police requested the Authority to introduce a Special Cumulative Impact Policy for dealing with applications made under the Licensing Act 2003 in City Road and Crwys Road. The Committee were asked to determine whether it was appropriate to adopt such a policy in order to minimise any problems of cumulative impact which were occurring in City Road and Crwys Road in Cardiff.

Chief Inspector Offside addressed the Committee on behalf of South Wales Police. Concern was expressed about the cumulative impact of licensed premises in the City Road and Crwys Road areas. The Chief Inspector believed that the area would significantly benefit from a saturation policy on the following grounds:

- The presence of late night refreshment houses have attracted gatherings of individuals well into the early hours which have been perceived to be intimidating/
- In recent cases of street robbery the persons responsible have been identified as part of these gathering groups. In these cases the perpetrators have made their way back to a group in City Road outside a refreshment house immediately after committing a robbery.
- The general profile of robbery victims relates to male, white persons of approximately 20 years of age with an element of intoxication. Cheap alcohol is available in the area. It was felt that this was a contributory factor.

Chief Inspector Offside gave the Committee details of the numbers of incidents of report crimes in the City Road and Crwys Road areas over a six month period. There were 153 alcohol related incidents in City Road and 88 such incidents in Crwys Road.

South Wales Police contended that there were more than sufficient licensed premises in the area which had brought about a particularly intimidating atmosphere during the late evening. Chief Inspector Offside reported further on three incidents of mass violence which had commenced within or outside late night refreshment premises and which had involved the use of weapons. An analysis of the numbers and types of crimes committed in these areas and reported to South Wales Police was appended to the report.

It was Chief Inspector Offside's view that, if there were any more licensed premises in these areas, there would be an inevitable increase of in the amount of crime and disorder, nuisance and anti-social behaviour. However, he assured the Committee that South Police had resources in place to Police the areas in question.

The Committee discussed whether, following the introduction of the policy, it was likely that crime would be displaced to neighbouring areas. Chief Inspector Offside said that it was often the case when police carried out targeted operations in a particular area, crime would be displaced to other areas. He informed the Committee that South Wales Police would monitor this situation and intelligence would be used to identify any increase in crimes reported in neighbouring areas.

RESOLVED – That

- (1) Committee consider it is appropriate to adopt a special policy of refusing licences in City Road and Crwys Road where the grant of a licence would exacerbate problems resulting from the cumulative impact of licensed premises in the area;
- (2) the Committee recommend that Council approve an amendment to the Statement of Licensing Policy to include the special policy for City Road and Crwys Road which was annexed to the Committee Report.

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Chairperson