

## **MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Licensing Act 2003 Committee held at the Council Offices, Needham Market on Friday 1 April 2016

### **PRESENT:**

Councillor Kathie Guthrie – Chairman – Conservative and Independent Group

### **Conservative and Independent Group**

Councillors: Julie Flatman  
Keith Welsby

### **Green Group**

Councillors: John Matthissen

### **Liberal Democrat Group**

Councillors: Mike Norris

**In attendance:** Corporate Manager (Open for Business)  
Committee Officer (VL)

### **LAC28 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillors David Card, James Caston, Paul Ekpenyong, Elizabeth Gibson-Harries, Gary Green, Esther Jewson and Andrew Stringer.

### **LAC29 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

None received.

### **LAC30 MINUTES OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003 COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 4 DECEMBER 2015**

The minutes of the Licensing Act 2003 Committee meeting held 4 December 2015 were confirmed as a correct record.

### **LAC31 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None received.

### **LAC32 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

None received.

### **LAC33 NOTIFICATION OF PETITIONS**

None received.

### **LAC34 GAMBLING ACT 2005 – FIXED ODDS BETTING TERMINALS (FOTBS)**

The report referred to the issues surrounding Fixed Odds Betting terminals (FOBTs), classified as category B2 gaming machines under the Gambling Act 2005 in betting shops.

Councillor Matthissen advised that he had initially requested the report be brought to the Committee as had concerns regarding the use of the machines for criminal purposes, in particular money laundering. He was also concerned regarding the possible increase in gambling addiction; the machines were out of proportion to other betting shop activities which were moderated in various ways and were located in the District's most deprived area. He supported Newham Council's views and asked that the Council add it's backing to that of the 93 local authorities who had expressed their support.

There was some support for the proposal as it was felt preferable to prevent a problem before it occurred but a motion to approve Recommendation 2.1 was lost by two votes to three.

It was generally agreed that as there was no current problem in the Mid Suffolk District it was not necessary to join Newham Council and the LGA in support of reducing the stakes for FOBTs or to refer the matter to Full Council. However, Members understood and shared the concerns raised and it was agreed that a letter should be sent from the Committee to the LGA to this effect.

By a unanimous vote

#### **RESOLUTION**

*That a letter be sent to the LGA on behalf of the Licensing Act 2003 Committee advising that the Committee has considered the issues and share the concerns raised but as there is no particular issue in regard to FOBTs in the Mid Suffolk District feel there is no need to take action at this time*

### **LAC35 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Councillor John Matthissen requested that his thanks be expressed to Kay Sanders, Licensing Officer for attending a Voluntary Sector meeting to explain the required procedure for a street collection to take place following the ASDA store decision not to allow a food collection point or charity stall to operate at the ASDA store in Stowmarket

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Chairman