

Licensing Committee

Tuesday, 16th August, 2011

PRESENT: Councillor S Armitage in the Chair

Councillors K Bruce, R D Feldman,
B Gettings, T Hanley, A Khan, P Latty,
C Townsley, D Wilson and G Wilkinson

19 Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents

There were no appeals against refusal of inspection of documents in accordance with Procedure Rule 25 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules.

20 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

There were no resolutions to exclude the public.

21 Late Items

There were no late items submitted to the agenda by the Chair for consideration, however a risk assessment concerning the protection of children from viewing films which are unsuitable for their age group was circulated to Members as part of agenda item 7 (Minute 25 refers).

22 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

23 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Downes, Dunn, G Hyde, and Selby.

24 Minutes

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 26th July 2011 be agreed as a correct record.

25 Leeds Festival 2011 - Event Management Plan

The Principal Licensing Officer presented a report of the Head of Licensing and Registration, advising Members of the progress of the multi-agency meetings and the Event Management Plan in respect of the Leeds Festival 2011, due to be held within the grounds of Bramham Park, Wetherby, during the August Bank Holiday weekend.

Members raised concerns regarding the content of some films that were due to be shown at the festival, which had been considered by the Licensing Sub-Committee at its meeting held on 8th August 2011. The Licensing Sub-Committee had raised the classification of several films, and one film was refused certification on the grounds of gratuitous violence, criminal acts, and unprovoked attacks on passers-by. Members expressed their disappointment that the festival organisers had proposed to show such films, particularly in light of the riots which had recently taken place in various cities across England.

Officers had discussed Members' views with Mr Melvin Benn (the Premises Licence Holder), who also expressed disappointment with the content of some of the films. On this occasion the films had been selected and presented directly by the film company, but in future Mr Benn will manage this aspect more closely. It was also confirmed that this issue would be raised as part of the festival de-brief meeting. A risk assessment had been prepared by Festival Republic, outlining how children would be protected from viewing performances which are unsuitable for their age group. A copy was provided to Members at the meeting.

Members also discussed:

- it was noted that the event had not reached maximum capacity although ticket sales will be available on the day/s;
- ways in which children would be protected from harm at the festival;
- the improved way in which the festival has been managed over the last few years; and
- a complaint that Councillor Wilkinson had received from a Wetherby resident regarding the level of noise generated by the festival. The Principal Licensing Officer was asked to raise this with Mr Benn and ask him to respond to the resident.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That delegated authority be given to the Head of Licensing and Registration to approve the Event Management Plan and any minor amendments prior to the start of the event; and
- (b) That the Principal Licensing Officer be requested to raise the complaint received by Councillor Wilkinson with Mr Benn, and ask him to respond.

26 Work Programme

The Chair reported that the Work Programme was subject to change, depending on when representatives of West Yorkshire Police would be available to attend, and that Members would be informed of any changes.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the Work Programme be noted.

27 Date of next meeting

RESOLVED – To note the date and time of the next meeting as Tuesday 13th September 2011 at 10.00am.