



Leicester
City Council

EXTRACT

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Held: THURSDAY 5 OCTOBER 2006 at 5.30pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Allen- Chair
Councillor Draycott(Labour Spokesperson)
Councillor Metcalfe (Focus Team Spokesperson)

Councillor Dempster
Councillor Panchbhaya

Councillor Joshi

43. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any interests they may have in the business on the agenda, and/or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applied to them.

Members declared the following personal and prejudicial interests in the agenda:

Councillor Draycott father-in-law is tenant of a Council owned property
Councillor Joshi sister is tenant of a Council owned property
Councillor Metcalfe tenant of a Council owned property

56. APPLICATION FOR EXPANSION OF STREET DRINKING BAN

The Corporate Director for Adult and Community Services submitted a report that proposed an extension to the street drinking ban within Leicester City centre.

Inspector Nick Glynn was in attendance for this item. He reported that his Local Policing Unit operated within the Spinney Hills/Highfields area of the City, and that the roads affected by the extension of the drinking ban were around, Sparkenhoe, Conduit and Saxby Street, stating that Prebend Gardens also formed part of the extended area. He cited the reason for the extension as being an increase in the number of drink-related incidents reported to the police. Members heard that the initiative was not solely a police one, and that many partners had been

working alongside the police in setting-up the proposed extension. Crucially, Members also heard that police were to gain the power to arrest street-drinkers, but only if the offender refused to hand over the alcohol to the officer.

One Member of the committee felt that the Dawn Centre was unfairly being blamed for many street-drinking incidents that had been reported. Inspector Glynn stated that representatives from the Dawn centre, and the Landlady from the nearby Jolly Miller Public House had worked with the Police in putting the report together. He added that he felt that the main issue was that there was a problem with anti-social behaviour in the area, and that this was caused by street drinking. He also felt that the extent of the problem had significantly increased over the past 12 months.

A question was asked around how the extension of the ban would be managed. Inspector Glynn responded by stating that the area that he had outlined was to be resourced by police based at Spinney Hills LPU, rather than the existing arrangement of City Centre police.

A Member of the Committee asked whether, in regard of the changes in licenses laws, licensees had been clearly instructed not to irresponsibly sell alcohol. Inspector Glynn stated that licensees would not longer sell strong beer or cider in the morning.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.