

LICENSING ACT 2003 COMMITTEE1st May, 2012

PRESENT – The Mayor; Councillors Nutt (in the Chair) Councillors C. Hughes, B. Jones, D. Jones, Lawton Lee, J. Lyonette, Newall, S. Richmond, Stenson, Thistlethwaite and J. Vasey. (13)

LA14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Councillor Thistlethwaite declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of LA16 below and left the meeting taking no part in the discussion or voted there on.

LA15. MINUTES – Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Licensing Act 2003 Committee held on 27th March 2012.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes be accepted as a correct record.

LA16. LICENSING ACT 2003 – DIAMOND JUBILEE LICENSING HOURS – The Director Place submitted a report (previously circulated) informing Members of the Licensing Act 2003 (Diamond Jubilee Licensing Hours) Order 2012 which was announced on 16 March 2012. The submitted report explained that Section 172 of the Licensing Act 2003 provides that where the Secretary of State considers that a period (“the celebration period”) marks an occasion of exceptional international, national or local significance he may make a licensing hours order. A Licensing Hours Order extends the hours of premises licences and club premises certificates during a specified relaxation period unless the premises are licensed for the period of such relaxation. A “specified relaxation period” means the hours specified for the duration of a celebration period if that period does not exceed 4 days or any part of that period not exceeding four days. Before such an order can be made the Secretary of State must consult with such persons as he considers appropriate.

The consultation was carried out between 12 October 2011 and 1 December 2011 by the Home Office, proposing that licensed premises be permitted to stay open from 11 pm to 1am on Friday 1 June 2012, Saturday 2 June 2012, Sunday 3 June 2012 to sell alcohol for consumption on the premises; to provide regulated entertainment; and to sell hot food and drink in those venues where alcohol is sold for consumption on the premises. This is in respect of the celebratory period of the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee. The outcome of the consultation was that in excess of 80% of respondents supported the proposals.

The report clearly explained that only licensable activities already on the licence or certificate may be extended and that the Order does not add any regulated entertainment or late night refreshment where this is not permitted up to 11pm by the licence or certificate. Should all relevant licensees in Darlington elect to make use of the extension to hours this Order would affect 27 Club Premises and 141 Premises all of which have licences which currently finish before 01.00 am.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the report be noted.
