

*incorporating the Society of Licensing Practitioners*

**West Midlands Region Meeting  
Minutes of Meeting held at Civic Offices, Telford & Wrekin Council  
On 2nd June 2008**

**Chair:** Alan Tolley  
**Vice Chair :** Brian Kent  
**Secretary:** Suzanne Fisher  
**Treasurers:** Janet Gadd and Fiona Gee

**Present :**

Karen Sulway	Cannock Chase	Rachel Collier	Stoke on Trent CC
Gavin Morrice	Solihull MBC	John Fraser	Stafford BC
Sean O'Meara	Cannock Chase	Les Jackson	Nuneaton & Bedworth BC
Alan Tolley	Sandwell MBC	Sue Garratt	Redditch BC
Sarah Mccall	Telford & Wrekin Council	Jayne Freeman Evans	Wolverhampton CC
Michelle Smith	Wolverhampton CC	Zoë Walker	Telford & Wrekin Council
Kay Cooper	Telford & Wrekin Council	Suzanne Fisher	Telford & Wrekin Council
Brian McMillan	Telford & Wrekin Council	John Polden	Stafford BC
Janet Gadd	N Shropshire DC	Fiona Gee	N Shropshire DC
Niall McMenamin	Malvern Hills DC	John Batsford	Walsall CC
Brian Kent	Wyre Forest DC	Steven Knapper	Walsall CC
Steph Ingram	Malvern Hills DC	Mark Wakelam	Bridgnorth CC
Graham Simms	Wychavon DC	Carl Phillips	Worcester CC
Anne Bettison	Solihull MBC	Simon Jarvis	North Shropshire DC
Joan Cox	South Staffs DC	Colin John	Tamworth BC
Carol Foster	Shrewsbury & Atcham DC	Mick Massingham	Dudley MBC
Mena Gosling	Telford & Wrekin Council	Paul Crampton	Telford & Wrekin Council
Samanth Howell	Telford & Wrekin Council	Tina Street	Telford & Wrekin Council
Matt Cumberbatch	Telford & Wrekin Council	Lynne Haynes	Sandwell MBC
Sarah Bradley	Lichfield DC	Sarah Pearce	Lichfield DC
Les Craggs	Oswestry DC	David Etheridge	Tewkesbury DC
David Davies	Warwick DC	Keith Bayliss	Stratford DC
Paul Williams	North Warwickshire BC	Davina Blackburn	Coventry CC
Trevor Parkes	Dudley MBC	Angela Smith	South Shropshire DC
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**Apologies :**

Peter Adkins	Shakespeare Putsman	Michelle Baird	Stratford DC
Susan Moore	Coventry CC	Michael Pearce	West Midlands Police
Anne Dyer	Wyre Forest DC	Sarah Harratt	Rugby
Ed Cooke	Daventry	Lorraine Boothman	Walsall CC
Pete Barrow	Birmingham CC	Amanda Goodwill	East Staffordshire DC
Lisa Kinsey	East Staffs DC	Malcolm Strong	Sandwell MBC
Sue Towler	IOL		

**Chair's Welcome and Apologies**

Alan Tolley (AT) welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies recorded.

**Minutes of Meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> September 2007 & Matters Arising**

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**Goskills Taxi/PH Driver Development**

AT welcomed Roger Silvers from RJS Management Services Ltd and Bernadette Smith from Goskills, Sector Skills Council. Roger is an advisor for Goskills which is one of 26 sector skills councils. Goskills has developed qualifications for Passenger Transport which includes the Taxi and Private Hire industry. (Presentation attached.) AT thanked Roger and Bernadette for attending and for giving the very useful presentation.

**Martin Rawlings, Director of Pub and Leisure, BBPA**

AT introduced Martin Rawlings who has responsibility for pubs and leisure. Most of BBPA members are pub owners. AT thanked Martin for speaking to Members.

**Update on General Licensing Issues**

AT discussed the 5 DCMS updates : the Review of the Application Process, Minor Variations Procedure, DPS Removal and Deminimis. Some of the issues will require primary and some secondary legislation.

Brian Kent (BK) had, prior to the meeting, circulated a draft document on the relevance of convictions, written by Worcestershire Licensing Officers in an attempt to unify the application process across Worcestershire. The document could be published further into regions. The objective is one of consistency. (Draft Document attached.) Members to discuss the document more fully at the next meeting.

AT briefed Members on the Thwaites Case which stated that when determining applications licensing authorities must be mindful of the 'light touch' approach required by the Act and accompanying Guidance. For example for new cases, there can be a degree of speculation regarding the Licensing Objectives, however, for existing premises there must be evidence. The High Court also confirmed that 'Opening Hours' can properly be regarded as enforceable conditions under the Act.

AT also talked about the Blackpool Case where the High Court judged that Members should decide whether a premises is in the vicinity or not. i.e. Licensing Authorities who have local knowledge should decide.

AT has copies of both cases should members wish to see a copy. Please contact Alan.

Members also discussed whether LAs have the power to grant a premises licence to a garage.

**Sue Rossiter Gambling Commission**

Sue Rossiter and her colleagues, Peter Costello and Richard Silver talked to Members about the current issues and proposals for the next edition of the Guidance to Licensing Authorities. AT thanked Sue, Peter and Richard for their informative talk.

**Update from the IOL Board**

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**Any Other Business**

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**Date of Next Meeting**

September/October at Leamington Spa (To be confirmed)

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