

**LICENSING ACT
COMMITTEE**

2.00 P.M.

27TH NOVEMBER 2008

PRESENT:- Councillors Joyce Taylor (Chairman), Tony Wade (Vice-Chairman), Chris Coates, Roger Dennison, Andrew Kay, Ian McCulloch and Bob Roe

Apologies for Absence

Councillors Anne Chapman, Helen Helme, Janie Kirkman, Sylvia Rogerson, Ron Sands, Malcolm Thomas and Paul Woodruff

Officers in attendance:-

Luke Gorst	Assistant Solicitor
Rod Prentice	Licensing Enforcement Officer
Sharon Marsh	Democratic Support Officer

4 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5th June 2008 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

5 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIRMAN

There were no items of urgent business.

6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this point.

7 PROPOSED CARNAGE EVENT 20TH NOVEMBER 2008 (PAGES 1 - 2)

The Assistant Solicitor presented a report that informed Members of the legal position regarding the control over an event known as "Dirty Porn Star Fancy Dress" a students' pub crawl promoted by an organisation called Carnage UK, which was held on 20th November 2008.

It was noted that a similar event was due to be held in Blackpool on 28th October 2008. However, following crime and disorder concerns raised by Lancashire Police, the participating venues in Blackpool decided to withdraw their involvement and the event was therefore cancelled.

A report of the Licensing Enforcement Officer was circulated at the meeting and considered by the Members of the Committee (as appended to these Minutes).

It was noted that there had been no breaches of the Licensing Act 2003 on the night of the event. However, two licence breaches were recorded at one venue. The first was that the premises failed to keep count of the number of persons entering and leaving the

premises and the second that the doorstaff duty records were not completed correctly. It was reported that the matter had since been dealt with.

Members discussed the event at length and noted the large Police presence in Lancaster City Centre during the event. It was noted that the Committee did not have any powers under licensing legislation to prevent events such as this taking place.

It was proposed by Councillor Tony Wade and seconded by Councillor Chris Coates:-

“That the report be noted.”

Upon being put to the vote, Members voted unanimously in favour of the proposal, whereupon the Chairman declared the proposition to be carried.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 14.35 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Sharon Marsh, Democratic Services, telephone (01524) 582096 or email
smarsh@lancaster.gov.uk**



A REPORT OF THE LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

DATED 25TH November 2008

NAME. Rod Prentice

I Rod Prentice being the Enforcement Officer for Lancaster City Council make the following observations on behalf of the Licensing Section, Legal Services.

Information was received that a private firm called Carnage UK intended to hold an event called Dirty Porn Star Fancy Dress, this would involve the local University students being invited to purchase a T shirt which would then enable them to join in an organised pub crawl on the night of Thursday 20th November 2008. The participating Licensed premises, who had agreed to open on the night to accommodate this function only, and to provide free bottles of water and light refreshments were :-

Revolution, The Lounge, Hustle, Varsity, Walkabout, Litten Tree and finally Elements. Each venue was to provide suitably SIA registered doorstaff

At 6.00pm on Thursday 20th November 2008, I attended a briefing at Lancaster Police Station which was led by the evenings Gold and Silver Commanders, Ch. Inspector Ralph Copley and Inspector Kirsty Banks-Lyon. The event was to be Policed by Northern Division operation support officers, Lancaster section officers, Special Constables and extra Police being provided by Southern Division operation support and two mounted officers from the HQ mounted section, there were also dog handlers on duty. I was to work alongside PCs Cheetham and Bernhardt, the two Northern Division Licensing Officers, we were to concentrate on visiting the premises in turn, to detect any offences under the act and to observe any situation which could escalate into a problem with Crime and Disorder.

Information from Carnage UK was that they had sold 1,000 T Shirts, and the event was to commence at Revolution at 7.00pm, when the first group of students would arrive, they would be group one and before entering the premises the number 1 was marked on their T shirt. A team of stewards were then assigned to the group. After an allotted time this group moved onto the next venue and were replaced by group 2 when the procedure was repeated.

As the evening progressed each venue was visited on several occasions and each appeared to have sufficient staff on duty, although inevitable delays were experienced in serving drinks, caused simply by the numbers converging on the bars at any one time. Students were wisely availing themselves of the free water and sandwiches.

Some students for whatever reason appeared to break away from their allotted group in order to visit other Licensed premises not taking part in the event, this did not cause any problems to the way the event was being Policed, as it was noticeable that the City Centre was a lot quieter than it would be expected to be on a normal Thursday night, local people it seemed were avoiding the area.

It was anticipated that the final venue Elements on North Road would be the venue where the most problems could be encountered as the groups finally came together under one roof, making a total of 1,000 revellers, the capacity being 1,100.

The doorstaff on the premises appeared to be unable to keep and maintain a regular count of the persons entering and leaving this was addressed by both the Police and myself at the time and will be on future visits to this premise.

Two free buses were organised to be available after 1.30am to take the students back to the university.

I am aware of one arrest being made for drunk and disorder which was contributable to this event, in the main the students were good natured and adhered to the stewards instructions, the stewards themselves

were efficient and were not allowed to partake of any alcohol until entering the final venue.

Of all the premises inspected on the night of the Carnage event, there were no breaches of the Licensing Act detected. However, two licence breaches were recorded at one venue and the matter has since been dealt with by the Police by way of a formal warning.

All considered this appeared to be a well co-ordinated event and well Policed, if this was to be organised again in the future, I would recommend early consultation with the organising company as to the venues and numbers participating.

Rod Prentice
Licensing Enforcement Officer.