

Corporate Services

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To Chairs of all Community Councils

Direct Line 01546 604192
Ask for Charles Reppke
Our Ref: CR/0377DF
Your Ref:
Date: 3 December 2008

Dear Chair

LOCAL LICENSING FORUM ARGYLL AND BUTE

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chair of the Local Licensing Forum which at a recent meeting agreed that it was important to promote the role of the Forum with Community Council's who have a key role to play in terms of Community Engagement and Community Consultation. To that end I enclose a copy of a news release which was submitted to the local press recently setting out in very general terms the role of the forum.

It may be that you will be aware of the change in the licensing law as a result of the Licensing Scotland Act of 2005 which introduces radical change to the system of licensing which has operated since 1976.

The role of the forum is to provide advice and information to the licensing board who have responsibility for determining applications for licenses under the new regime and therefore our role is not to be the regulatory authority but rather to provide information and advice to that body i.e. the Licensing Board, on matters of concern to the community.

The Forum will be informed in its work by information it will receive from statutory public agencies such as police and health on statistical information around matters of relevance to it i.e. crime statistics related to licensed premises, health incidences within the Argyll and Bute area associated with alcohol and other matters and we will seek through our engagement with yourselves to ensure that the views of the Argyll and Bute community in the widest possible sense are taken into account in informing and providing information to the Licensing Board.

In addition to the leaflet setting out the press release on the work of the forum, I also attach a list of contact details for the forum members. The forum members are drawn from a variety of different backgrounds including trade representatives, public authorities and community representatives and it may be that at sometime in the future either they or you would wish to make contact in respect of matters that are of common interest. I hope this brief

letter and its attached minutes provide an overview of the work of the Licensing Forum and should you require any further information please do not hesitate to email me at ebfcc@hotmail.com and I will endeavour to ensure the appropriate official responds to you.

In the meantime I would appreciate if you could draw to the attention of your community council the role of the forum and ensure that the widest possible publicity is given to it within your local community.

With kind regards

Eric Box