

## **PRESS RELEASE**

The Argyll and Bute Licensing Board and the Local Licensing Forum met together in Lochgilphead for the first time this month.

The Forum, which is made up of residents from throughout the area, along with representatives from Health, Education, Social Work, the licensed trade and youth organisations, has the job of keeping new licensing legislation under review and offering support and advice to the Licensing Board on carrying out its functions.

Forum Convener, Eric Box (front left in photo) of Lochgilphead said, "The Forum is here to represent the views of the whole community and I would be keen to hear from anyone who has an interest in licensing.

"To date, the Forum has been mainly involved with the consultation process around the development of the Board's policy statement and I'm pleased to say that most of the recommendations we have made have been adopted."

He added "I am looking forward to the challenges ahead and to working closely with the Board to meet the aims and objectives of the legislation."

Chair of the Licensing Board, Councillor Danny Kelly (front right in photo) of Kilcreggan said, "I am encouraged by the discussion that we have had with Forum members at this first joint meeting and am pleased to see such a representative group of people. I am particularly pleased that there is youth representation on the Forum with Aileen Semple and Thomas Gray-Stephens from Lochgilphead High.

"The Licensing Board faces a very difficult task ahead with the amount of work we need to get through as the new legislation comes into force, and probably for several years after that. The support and help of the Forum will prove invaluable."

Further information on the Licensing Board and the Forum can be found on the Council website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)