

Meeting of the Public safety Committee
Over 50's Forum was held on 5th November 2002

Attendance

Mr George Clarke JP	Mr Len Phelps JP (retired)	Oriana (ACOV)
Mr Trevor Russell	Mrs J Hees	Mrs Jan Knowles
Mr Edward Grizzle	Mr Mike Nichols	Ms Ruth Taylor WCC
Mr Brian Davies	Mrs Rita Davies	Ms Heather Dean WCC
Mr Eric Preece	Mr Reg Bradley	Mr John Partridge WCC
Mr Jim Speakman	Emma Palmer WCC	2 Members of the press

Apologies

Chief Superintendent Duffin

The Chairman welcomed members and visitors to the meeting and opened the debate on Conditions in the City Centre regarding Anti-social behaviour by introducing Mr George Clarke JP.

Mr Clarke JP explained the problems the magistrates have in dealing with Anti-social behaviour in the City centre, he spoke of the concern that is felt by not only the Bench but by society in general.

He explained the process by which licenses are granted to traders for the purpose of selling alcohol. A debate was then held by members about the amount of Public Houses in the City Centre and the process for granting licences was explained by Mr George Clarke JP.

Members posed questions to Mr George Clarke and in general all agreed with his views. It was felt that this debate would not be clearly answered until the Government had made final decisions about the licensing laws within the country. It was suggested that this debate could benefit by inviting a Member of Parliament to address the committee on this subject.

Ms Ruth Taylor joined the debate expressing the views of Wolverhampton City Council and what their future intentions are in relation to the problems with Alcohol in the city Centre. Ruth introduced Ms Heather Dean to the group to explain the Councils current position on Alcohol.

Ms Dean works in the Legal Department of Wolverhampton City Council, she talked about the Councils intention to make a designation order to restrict Anti-social public drinking of Alcohol, within the designated area. The designated area notice has been distributed with the minutes of last months Forum meeting. Please send your comments, in writing to:

Mr John Partridge from the Road Safety department took questions from members about issues in relation to road safety and changes to roads etc.. Mr Partridge stated he would look into the issues raised by members.

Any other business

Remarks were made about Fireworks and the noise experienced by some people. The issue of a ban on the use of Fireworks in some areas, in particular near sheltered housing accommodation. This will be looked at in a future meeting.