

LICENSING ACT COMMITTEE

19th November 2013

LICENSING ACT 2003 AND THE ECONOMY

Report of the Director for Places (Environment, Planning and Transport)

STRATEGIC AIM:	Creating a safer community for all Creating an active and enriched community
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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To report on the needs of the local tourist economy, employment and investment in relation to the Licensing Act 2003.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That the Committee notes the report and information provided in Appendix 1 and 2.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The County has 427 full time equivalents (FTEs) employed in the accommodation sector and 280 FTEs employed in the food and drink sector, a high proportion of whom will work within premises covered by the Licensing Act 2003.
- 3.2 The Scarborough Tourism Economic Activity Monitor (STEAM) provides an indicative base of the local economic impact of tourism (from both staying and day visitors) for monitoring trends. Data for Rutland for 2012 shows that the tourism sector generated about £93.3m into the local economy. This has fallen from £97.08m in 2011. The breakdown for expenditure (direct and indirect) from the most relevant tourism sub-sectors is shown in Table 1 below:

Table 1

Expenditure breakdown	Value
Food and Drink	£15.16m
Accommodation	£11.92m

- 3.3 Over the period 1997 to 2012 the profile of Rutland as a visitor destination has grown significantly through increased numbers of visitor stays and increased visitor spend.
- 3.4 The tourism season in Rutland mainly operates in the spring, summer and autumn periods. Visits comprise both day visits and serviced and non-serviced breaks. Day visitors account for 46% of the economic impact of

tourism. The aspiration is to connect those visitors with the wider tourism offer in the towns and villages and with the retail offering in both Oakham and Uppingham.

- 3.5 The quality of the food and drink offering in the County (products, service and establishments) is also considered a key visitor attractor and is promoted within the Discover Rutland website, leaflets and guide as well as through local events.

4. ECONOMIC IMPACT OF LICENSED PREMISES

- 4.1 The nature of town centres is shifting from traditional retail towards a café, drinking and restaurant culture with Oakham seeing an increased number of applications for these types of businesses.
- 4.2 The total number of licensed premises in Rutland currently stands at 173 (180 in 2011) Table 2 provides a breakdown of these. In addition there are 15 licensed clubs.

Table 2

Licensed premises	Number
On alcohol	20
Off alcohol	27
On and off alcohol	92
No alcohol	34

- 4.3 The perception of town centres is affected by the number of vacant retail units. Licensed premises occupying former retail space can have a beneficial effect and service employment generated can offset reductions in retail employment. However, an influx of restaurants/cafes can create over-supply particularly in the low season. This may impact on the on-going viability of individual businesses.
- 4.4 The presence of national chains such as J.D Wetherspoon can impact on existing licensed premises. Generally they operate with a business model based on high volume sales targets, higher wholesale purchasing power, lower retail prices and higher turnover. This Reduces the viability of other premises both in the town centre and villages in close proximity and Increases the risk of closures.
- 4.5 Anti-social behaviour (ASB) derived from the County's night time economy can have negative impact on town centres. Over the period 2012-2013 the ASB analysis shows that there were 36 incidents of recorded crime (assaults, harassment, damage) and 13 incidents of non-crime (noise and nuisance). The year to date shows 15 and 8 incidents in these categories. Council officers engage with licenced premises to address problems and to mitigate the impact on residents and customers. Overall the scale and severity of the issue in Rutland is proportionately lower than nearby larger towns and less affluent areas. See Appendix 1 and 2.
- 4.6 Easier access to alcohol and higher consumption can impact significantly on employability of individuals and on the productivity and efficiency of local businesses and on the economy in addition to the social consequences and costs.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT

RISK	IMPACT	COMMENTS
Time	Low	There are on-going issues with some premises.
Viability	Medium	Over-supply can affect the viability of existing businesses given finite levels of local consumer spend and current visitor market. There is a risk to existing businesses which may be unable to compete with major chains.
Finance	Low	Costs to the council include direct support costs to address anti-social behaviour and engage with licensed premises owner/managers and indirect costs of addressing social impacts. There is a risk that over-supply in the market and viability issues could impact council income through reduced NNDR over the medium term.
Profile	High	An increase in anti-social behaviour both in the day-time economy (vandalism) and night time economy has a detrimental effect on the quality of life of residents and visitors experience.
Equality and Diversity	Low	Screening has been carried out and no issues have been identified.

Background Papers

Rutland Tourism Strategy 1997-2012
 Rutland Tourism Vision 2012-2015
 Rutland Steam Data 2012

Report Author

Libby Kingsley
 Tel No: (01572) 720 9823
 e-mail: enquiries@rutland.gov.uk

APPENDIX 1

ASB Data analysis for Oakham town centre from January 2012 to date (30th Oct 2013)

RCC Held Data

Total Analysis

Total Incidents in Oakham Town Centre Jan 2012 to date (30 th Oct 2013)		
Total	2012	2013 to date
45	16	29 ¹
100%	36%	64%

2012 Analysis

	Incidents	%	Additional Info
Noise	9	56%	All from Merry Monk Beer Garden
Rowdy and Inconsiderate ²	7	44%	2 door knocking, 1 urination in street and rest general ASB and rowdy behaviour
Total	16		

2013 Analysis

	Incidents	%	Additional Info
Noise	16	55%	
Rowdy and Inconsiderate	7	24%	Door knocking, rowdy, drunken behaviour, arguing and shouting
Graffiti	1	3%	Along high street
Littering	3	10%	Empty beer cans and pint glasses - Dean's Street/ Church Street
Vomit	2	8%	Dean's Street/ Church Street
Total	29		

38% of total incidents in 2013 have been reported since the street briefing held on 12th Sept and come from the same person.

Noise only 2013

	Incidents	%	Additional Info
Wheatsheaf	2	12%	Related to 2 incidents near to the weekend when new Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) took over. Since then no reports
Merry Monk	11	68%	Mainly garden related
X Y Bottle Bar	3	18%	
Total	16		

¹ Note: 11 reports from one person.

² Rowdy and Inconsiderate is any incident not attributable to an event or premise and are isolated incidents that are not connected to anything other than night time economy. Most occur during evening and after closing times

APPENDIX 2

Town Centre Crime and ASB Analysis Linked to Evening Economy

Police Held Data

Category	2012-2013	13/14 YTD
Recorded Crime	36	15
Non Crime Data	13	8
Total	49	23

Recorded Crime Data – Police Reports Overview

2012 -2013 Recorded Crime Data - Premises Breakdown			
Premises	Incidents	% of total	Additional Information
Calico	15	42%	Assaults, Harassments, Damage
Merry Monk	4	11%	Assaults, Harassments, Damage
Railway Inn	2	6%	
Griffin Inn	2	6%	
Other	13	35%	
Total	36		

2013 April - October Recorded Crime Data - Premises Breakdown			
Premises	Incidents	% of total	Additional Information
X & Y Bottle Bar	6	38%	Assaults, Harassments, Theft
Calicos	4	25%	Assaults, Harassments, Theft
Merry Monk	1	6%	
Memories of India	1	6%	
Wine Emporium	1	6%	
Balti House	1	6%	
Rugby Club	1	6%	
Total	15		

Non Crime Data - Police Reports Overview

2012-13 Non Crime Data Premises Breakdown			
Premises	Incidents	% of total	Additional Information
Merry Monk	9	69%	Mainly Noise and nuisance reports
Jinkys Wine Bar	2		
Lord Nelson	1		
The Griffin	1		
Total	13		

2013 April – October Non Crime Data Premises Breakdown			
Premises	Incidents	% of total	Additional Information
Merry Monk	*5	62.5%	Mainly Noise reports.
X & Y Bottle Bar	1	12.5%	
The Griffin	1	12.5%	
The Wheatsheaf	1	12.5%	
Total	8		

* These incidents are also included within the council data and are therefore double counted.