

PALMERSTON NORTH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Community Development Committee Meeting Part I Public, held in the Council Chamber, First Floor, Civic Administration Building, 32 The Square, Palmerston North on 16 October 2017, commencing at 1.11pm

Members Present: Councillor Aleisha Rutherford (in the Chair), The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Brent Barrett, Susan Baty, Rachel Bowen, Adrian Broad, Gabrielle Bundy-Cooke, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay QSM, Leonie Hapeta, Jim Jefferies, Lorna Johnson, Duncan McCann, Karen Naylor, Bruno Petrenas and Tangi Utikere.

33-17 Submissions on the draft Local Alcohol Policy

Memorandum, dated 4 September 2017 from the Policy Analyst, Peter Ridge.

The following people appeared before the Committee and made oral statements in support of their submissions and replied to questions from Elected Members.

MidCentral Health (31)

Representing the MidCentral Health, Dr Rob Weir spoke to the submission and made the following additional comments:

- Of all the Local Alcohol Policies (LAP) that have been adopted nationwide only one has not been appealed.
- LAPs in Horowhenua and Wanganui have been appealed based on off licence trading times.
- MidCentral Health had been collecting data from Emergency Department over a number of years that provided useful evidence but probably did not meet the standard required for Hearings.

Creative Catering at the Awapuni Function Centre (20)

Representing Awapuni Function Centre, Mr Alasdair Robertson, provided a PowerPoint presentation and made the following additional comments:

- Were supportive of the initiative to encourage the minimisation of harm caused by alcohol but the draft proposal did not recognise the existence of a designated and purpose built facility.
- There should be a distinction between a blanket geographic ban and the approved existence of a planned, approved and well managed facility.

- The proposed LAP would affect the vast majority of events that are held at the Function Centre and cause significant commercial and social benefit damage to the Function Centre.

Big Barrel (21)

Representing Big Barrel, Ms Vicki Samuels and Ms Shelley Kennard spoke to the submission and made the following additional comments:

- Closing at 9.00pm would prevent the public from “pre-loading” prior to heading into town and reduce amount of drunk drivers on our roads.
- The current proposal of 10.00pm closing would not make enough of an impact and would encourage young drivers to be driving late at night to get last minute supplies. A lot of these drivers are on restricted driver licenses and this would encourage them to drive illegally outside their restricted hours.

The Albert Sports Bar (27)

Representing The Albert Sports Bar, Mr Jared Rawiri spoke to the submission and made the following additional comment:

- Currently the availability of alcohol was huge and changing the time that places open or close will not affect that. If individuals wanted to drink they will find a place.

Jonathan P Galuska (28)

Mr Galuska spoke to his submission and made the following additional comment:

- The Policy needed to be evidence and there is not enough evidence to make the changes that are being proposed.

Health Promotion Agency (30)

Representing the Health Promotion Agency, Ms Cathy Bruce and Ms Giselle Bareta spoke to the submission and made the following additional comments:

- Were supportive of Council’s decision to develop a LAP and encouraged the Council to be bold, and ensure that the policy reflects the views of the community
- Overall were supportive of the LAP and suggest strengthening the content to ensure that it meets the object of the Act. The areas that could be strengthened are around location and number of premises, special licences and discretionary conditions.

Corrine Smith (34)

Ms Corrine Smith spoke to her submission and made the following additional comments:

- Had concerns regarding the negative affect of alcohol on communities and as a nurse had seen many incidents of domestic violence fuelled by alcohol and carnage from car accidents
- Believed that the LAP should be strengthened as it was about finding ways of reducing harm and protecting communities.

Andy Towers (35)

Mr Andy Towers spoke to his submission and made the following additional comments:

- The policy was not a strong policy and there was no evidence to back it up. There was a real concern regarding the level of data available as the law states evidence has to be shown to support the policy.
- It was not clear once you buy alcohol from the supermarket where the harm comes in.

Warren McLaughlin (38)

Mr Warren McLaughlin spoke to his submission and made no additional comments.

Safety Advisory Board (40)

Representing the Safety Advisory Board, Cr Vaughan Dennison and Ms Zoe Kavanagh spoke to the submission and made no additional comments.

Willow Park Tavern (41)

Representing Willow Park Tavern, Mr Fraser Donaldson spoke to the submission and made the following additional comments:

- Did not see how changing the closing time would reduce harm. On premise operators were generally operating at a good level.
- Willow Park had two branches to its business (a tavern and function area) and if hours were changed wouldn't be able to cater to those that use the function area.

Alcohol Healthwatch (42)

Representing Alcohol Healthwatch, Mr Nathan Cowie and Ms Nicki Jackson spoke to the submission and made no additional comments.

Foodstuffs North Island Limited (43)

Representing Foodstuffs North Island Limited, Mr Iain Thain spoke to the submission and made the following additional comments:

- It was positive that the policy was clear and simple as other LAPs had been appealed due to their ambiguity.
- The main business for supermarkets was not alcohol and therefore wanted to be able stay open longer to provide better service to their customers.

Hospitality New Zealand Palmerston North (44)

Representing Hospitality New Zealand Palmerston North, Mr Chris Hince and Ms Colleen Maxwell spoke to the submission and made the following additional comments:

- A policy had to be proportionate to the amount of harm.
- Individuals will drink alcohol regardless of what is in a Policy and reducing hours could increase the at home drinking.

Progressive Enterprises Limited (45)

Representing Progressive Enterprises Limited, Mr Paul Radich spoke to the submission and made the following additional comment:

- The proposed change of time would have significant impact on their stores but they understand what Council is trying to achieve.

Moved Aleisha Rutherford, seconded Gabrielle Bundy-Cooke.

The COMMITTEE RESOLVED

1. That the oral and written submissions on the draft Palmerston North Local Alcohol Policy 2017 be received.
2. That the Community Development Committee note the Procedure for Hearing of Submissions, as described in the Procedure Sheet.

The clause 33-17 above was carried 14 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Brent Barrett, Susan Baty, Rachel Bowen, Adrian Broad, Gabrielle Bundy-Cooke, Lew Findlay QSM, Jim Jefferies, Lorna Johnson, Duncan McCann, Karen Naylor, Bruno Petrenas, Aleisha Rutherford and Tangi Utikere.

NOTE

Councillors Vaughan Dennison and Leonie Hapeta declared a conflict of interest and withdrew from discussion and voting on clause 33-17 above.

The meeting finished at 3.51pm

Confirmed 11 December 2017

Chairperson