

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

TEMPORARY EVENT NOTICES

Background

Members and officers of the Authority became concerned about the unintended consequences of what seemed to be a loophole in the Licensing Act 2003, which was apparently being increasingly exploited by organisers of small scale, one-off events.

A Temporary Event Notice was required to be submitted to the licensing authority no later than ten days before the event with a copy submitted to the police at the same time. The legislation allowed 48 hours for the police to make any objections under the grounds of concern for crime and disorder but did not specify that these had to be working hours. It had become more frequent for a TEN to be served on a Friday requiring any objection to be made by 5pm on the following Sunday. Therefore, a risk is present where an event will procure a temporary licence resulting in increased crime and disorder for which the police did not have sufficient time to object. The anecdotal evidential impact on communities was considerable, with the police being blamed for the lack of intervention, which in turn has damaged our reputation.

The Authority adding value

The Community Engagement Steering Group (CESG) considered a report on Temporary Event Notices (TENS) in June 2008. Following a further report from the Group to the Authority at its meeting in July 2008, the Authority agreed to raise its concerns with the Government and also agreed to seek the support of Sussex MPs, the Association of Police Authorities, the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Local Government Association in pursuing the amendment of the legislation.

As a direct result of Sussex Police Authority taking a lead role in the lobbying for change, an amendment to allow for more time for the police to consider applications for a TEN has been granted with an extension of the objection time from 48 hours to 48 working hours.

Outcome

As a direct result of Sussex Police Authority taking a strategic lead in tackling the unintended consequences of this legislative loophole, which has positively impacted communities in Sussex, and wider afield. It is a strong example of how this Authority influences strategic direction on behalf of the public of Sussex.

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