

28th March 2018

Meeting at Scottish Parliament

In attendance were Billy Hammond – Chairman, A J Colquhoun, Morgan Miller, Christine Stirling, Richard Lyle MSP, Jackson Carlaw MSP, David Torrance MSP, Claire Haughey MSP

Apologies Andy Wightman & Mary Fee

Richard pointed out he felt alone as he wanted a launch at the SECC. Also he wanted the papers to be involved which didn't happen. Richard stated there is three years to launch this bill, he feels confident that he could get the support for it, 74% were going to support.

David said as someone who has been on this bill for 6 years he also feels we should go ahead now. Richard agreed and said if we don't support it now it will be lost. Jackson said we should go now there is a significant amount of support in parliament, now is the moment before all the Brexit stuff kicks in he also said he would advocate a short bill and get on with the consultation now or we could miss out Richard agreed with him

A J said we would always support you but we had a wobble due to some of the guild committees concerns that we could make licencing worse. Richard replied the more you put in a bill the more you can get people wanting to amend it.

David said he is confident we will get the support.

Richard requested we get the Guild Lawyer to meet with him ASAP, Morgan asked what comes next Richard replied nothing too elaborate keep it simple.

Moving on to the situation with Govan

A J said Johnsons have been on the site in question for 30 years. Theresa Johnson was born on a site which was previously opposite (water row). Richard asked if they have been in contact with their local MSP. A J replied that they were in contact with people and were intending on going to the next community council meeting. Billy said that they are not opposed to moving but was unhappy how it was handled ie a knock on the door. Richard asked if showman where aware of the community right to buy and advised that he would write to Glasgow list MSP and councillors about how this was handled. Jackson agreed and said this should not happen again. Richard went on to ask if this was the only site this was happening to. Richard said he will find out all the information he can.

Moving on to National Records

Richard said that National Records were waiting on an email from A J regarding it. A J replied he was getting a letter wrote for us with the help of Mitch Miller, Tara Beale and Andrea Salvona. Richard said if we get this through the census i.e. our identity everything else will fall in to place. Billy said we get the stigma of being ethnic but not the benefits. Claire said she thought the meeting was really positive and doesn't understand why they need an email she went on to say why would you tick this box i.e. gypsy/traveller if it's the group you want to be separate from.

Moving on to licences for food kiosks

Billy said that recently a fair operator had been asked for 3 separate licences for 3 different sites in the same council area for food units for one week at each but a street traders licence lasts 3 years A J asked the question do we need a separate licence for snack bars he was told no but they won't change the way they operate. Richard said he asked the same question of North Lanarkshire Council; do fairgrounds need a separate licence for snack bars he was told no. Christine asked if Mary Fee had any word back from North Ayrshire Council or police as she was going to ask them there stand on this but there was nothing back from her at the group. Billy said he was worried that this was another season started and they were still adamant we need a separate licence he then went on to say its different criteria for street licences.

Moving on to incinerator

Claire said that Monica Lennon had said in parliament about an incinerator next to a traveller site Claire said she corrected her and said it was a showman's site. A few days later she was quoted again in the paper as saying it was a travellers site she said we have to get on to her for a correction in the paper to set the record straight.

Moving on

A J brought up that one of our members had put an application in for a licence for fairground, A j said he was livid at the language that the local MSP used. Jackson replied that it might not have been her opinion she would have been supporting her constituents. Richard said it was there job to deal with complaints and support constituents. Billy said there was 5 letters of concern and that she should not be putting this out. Richard asked if we had made her aware of her remarks and stated we have had this discussion before you should be getting your lawyer to write to the council to tell them that they are not following procedure. Billy asked if this happened to someone opening a corner shop, was this bad press passed on to the applicant. Claire said Aileen probably didn't write the letter. David said you have the right to see the complaints but not to pass them on. Claire said she could ask Lanarkshire council and ask if they pass on complaints. David said councils must pass complaints on to the applicant if it ended up going to a hearing and it got read out at licensing court. Claire asked if those responses were racist and if so, what would their response be. David asked; had the responses been put on line? David said he would ask fife council. Richard said he would ask the MSP in question and Lanarkshire council, he also stated that he felt she would be horrified by this and that he would be talking to her the next day. A J asked; could he meet her? Richard said we have to take councils to task. Keep the bill simple and let's get going.