
Licensing and Regulatory Sub-Committee



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Licensing and Regulatory Sub-Committee** held on
Wednesday 1 June 2016 at 2.00 pm in **Room GFR12, West Suffolk**
House, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds

Present: **Councillors**

Chairman Patsy Warby

Bob Cockle
Frank Warby

25. **Membership**

It was reported that originally Councillor Sarah Stamp had been included as a Member of the Sub-Committee but was unavailable for this meeting. Councillor Patsy Warby, the previously nominated substitute, had agreed to become a full member in Councillor Mrs Stamp's absence. Councillor Frank Warby had taken Mrs Warby's place as the nominated substitute.

26. **Substitute**

The following substitution was announced:

Councillor Frank Warby for Councillor Beccy Hopfensperger.

27. **Election of Chairman**

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED – That Councillor Patsy Warby be elected Chairman for this Licensing & Regulatory Sub-Committee meeting.

28. **Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Beccy Hopfensperger.

29. **Application by Film Suffolk for Film Classification**

The Licensing Team Leader presented Report LSC/SE/16/003 (previously circulated) which sought a decision on an application from Film Suffolk for an unclassified film, 'With Love From ... Suffolk', to be classified. Guidelines issued by the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) were attached as an Appendix to the report. It was intended that the film would be exhibited at the Abbeygate Cinema, Bury St. Edmunds on 19 June 2016 and the Haverhill Arts Centre on 26 June 2016. Before the film could be shown at these venues it had to be viewed and given an appropriate classification by the Sub-Committee.

Under the Licensing Act 2003 the Borough Council had to carry out its functions with a view to promoting the Licensing Objectives. In terms of film exhibitions the most relevant licensing objective was the Protection of Children from Harm. Cinema proprietors licensed by the Borough Council were obliged by mandatory conditions to comply with the admission criteria awarded by the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC). The same criteria were to be used in respect of the film under consideration by the Sub-Committee at this meeting.

Promotional material for the film stated that *'it is a feature film that celebrates love in all its guises. Set entirely in Suffolk, it is not just a funny and tender exploration of relationships....'With Love From Suffolk' offers a compilation of stories about the unique bonds between characters living in this county'.*

The Sub-Committee viewed the film in its entirety (1 hour 20 minutes) with a short comfort break midway. Members noted that the film contained some scenes involving sexual innuendoes and homophobic behaviour and the use of, albeit infrequently, strong language. The Sub-Committee assessed the content of the film having regard to the BBFC Guidelines and the promotion of the Licensing Objective of Protecting Children from Harm.

Decision

That, taking into consideration the British Board of Film Classification Guidance, the film 'With Love From ... Suffolk' be classified 12A , i.e. suitable for 12 years and over unless accompanied by an adult, for the purposes of its exhibition in St. Edmundsbury Borough.

The meeting concluded at 3.45pm

Signed by:

Chairman

