

LICENSING COMMITTEE

At a Special Meeting of the Licensing Committee held in the Council Chambers, Municipal Buildings, Station Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 28 September 2005 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors Douglas McAllister, Duncan McDonald and Connie O'Sullivan.

Attending: Dan Henderson, Director of Development and Environmental Services; Stephen Brown, Head of Legal and Administrative Services; John Stevenson, Section Head, Environmental Health; Lorraine MacGillivray, Team Leader, Environmental Health; Raymond Lynch, Solicitor and David Rooney, Senior Administrative Officer.

Also Attending: Ms. Anna Meredith, Secretary of State Zoo Inspector and Mr. Iain Strachan, Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Provost Alistair Macdonald and Councillors Denis Agnew and Linda McColl.

Councillor Douglas McAllister in the Chair

ZOO LICENCE APPLICATION FOR DRUMKINNON TOWER, LOCH LOMOND SHORES, BALLOCH

7115 A report was submitted by the Director of Development and Environmental Services on an application for grant of a Zoo Licence for a proposed animal enclosure within Drumkinnon Tower, Loch Lomond Shores, Balloch for the display of native and tropical fresh water and marine species.

7116 The Convener, Councillor McAllister, introduced the representatives of the applicants, Merlin Entertainments Group Limited, Mr. Mike Stephenson, Business Development Manager, Mr. Rob Hicks, Head of Biological Services and Ms. Sue Thornton, External Veterinary Advisor.

7117 At the invitation of the Convener, Messrs. Stephenson and Hicks gave a presentation in support of the application.

- 7118 Thereafter the Committee heard the undernoted individuals who had intimated that they wished to address the Committee in support of objections which had been submitted and who were in attendance:-

Mr. McNeil on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Graham, Millershaw, Milton Brae,
Milton

Mr. James Graham, 12 Elm Road, Clydebank

- 7119 In the course of hearing Mr. McNeil's submission, the Committee heard from Ms. Meredith, the Secretary of State Zoo Inspector, who advised that she had no concerns in relation to the application and that the proposal fulfils all the requirements of the Secretary of State's Standards of Modern Zoo Practice.
- 7120 It was noted that two objectors to the application, Mr. John Robins of Animal Concern and Mr. Kenneth Anderson, 10 Raploch Avenue, Scotstoun, Glasgow, who had intimated that they wished to address the Committee in support of objections which had been submitted, were not present.
- 7121 It was further noted that copies of an additional two letters of objection to the application, which had been received after the agenda had been issued, had been circulated for information.
- 7122 Having heard further from Mr. Stephenson, it was noted that the applicants intended entering into detailed discussions with representatives of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority, with a view to addressing various points which had been highlighted in the National Park Authority's consultation response in relation to the application for a zoo licence.
- 7123 Thereafter, on the motion of the Convener, Councillor McAllister, seconded by Councillor McDonald, it was unanimously agreed that the application by Merlin Entertainments Group Limited for a Zoo Licence at Drumkinnon Tower, Loch Lomond Shores, Balloch be approved, subject to (a) such conditions to be specified by the Director of Development and Environmental Services after consulting with the applicant; and (b) a satisfactory final inspection of the premises being carried out all in accordance with Section 4(1A) of the Zoo Licensing Act 1981.

The meeting closed at 10.42 a.m.