



**WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE
LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE**

ON

MONDAY 4 JULY 2011

AT

7PM

AGENDA

**Civic Offices
Shute End
Wokingham
Berkshire**

**Susan Law
Chief Executive**



**WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

THE COUNCIL'S VALUES

In making a difference to other people's lives we are ...

- **ONE Wokingham, ONE Borough – working in partnership**
- **FOCUSED on Customers and Community**
- **BOLD – innovative and flexible**
- **OPEN – integrity, trust and transparency**

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WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

To: The Chairman and Members of the Licensing and Appeals Committee

An Extraordinary Meeting of the **LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE** will be held at the Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham on **Monday 4 July 2011** at 7pm

Susan Law
Chief Executive
24 June 2011

Members:- Barrie Patman (Chairman), Chris Bowring (Vice Chairman), Annette Drake, Michael Firmager, Lee Gordon-Walker, Mike Gore, Mike Haines, Philip Houldsworth, Abdul Loyes, Ken Miall, Sam Rahmouni, Chris Singleton, Dee Tomlin and Bob Wyatt

ITEM NO.	WARD	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
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13.00		APOLOGIES To receive any apologies for absence	
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14.00		DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of interest	
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15.00		PUBLIC QUESTION TIME To answer any public questions	
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The Council welcomes questions from members of the public about the work of this Committee

Subject to meeting certain timescales, questions can relate to general issues concerned with the work of the Committee or an item which is on the Agenda for this

meeting. For full details of the procedure for submitting questions please contact Democratic Services on the numbers listed below or go to www.wokingham.gov.uk/publicquestions

Explanatory leaflets are also available in the Civic Offices and Libraries.

- 15.01** None Specific Sue Caldwell has asked the Chairman of the Licensing and Appeals Committee the following question:

Question

Should the Council progress following this consultation and implement a licence where Pet Sitters are restricted in terms of the number of dogs allowed to board. How can the Council justify the loss of incomes and potential closures of many healthy and professional businesses that in turn will affect many other working people who currently rely heavily on those Pet Sitters to enable them to earn a living themselves?

- 15.02** None Specific Mrs Sue Locke has asked the Chairman of the Licensing and Appeals Committee the following question:

Question

Re clause 4.2 (only dogs from the same household may be boarded at any one time):
Please could the chairman and/or panel justify the decision to include clause 4.2 in the proposal by providing proof points and expert opinion that it's in the best interests of the dogs?

- 15.03** None Specific Mrs Miranda Sambles has asked the Chairman of Licensing and Appeals Committee the following question:

Question

Why are the council imposing this rule on local residents rather than leaving them to decide who is capable and qualified to leave their animals in the care of? Clause 4.2 in particular is completely unworkable and will result in worse welfare for the animals not better.

- 15.04** None Specific Mrs Elaine Hale has asked the Chairman of the Licensing and appeals the following question:

I would like to ask the Council what arrangements they intend to put in place if they do not agree to animals being boarded with responsible minders in their own homes. Just where will these animals go when owners

go on holiday. Is this not asking for yet more strays to be dumped on the side of the road or in graveyards? Why change a system that works so well for dog and cat owners such as myself who would not consider putting our dogs into any kennels. To quote a relevant saying "if it ain't broke why fix it".

This consultation is a totally stupid waste of tax payers money and perhaps the cost of this consultation would be better spent on finding the heartless people who dump their animals by the wayside and not looking at a system that works for the caring animal owners such as myself who have found a great, reliable and caring person to leave their dogs with where they are well cared for, loved, exercised, fed etc and have a great chance to socialise with other dogs and make them better behaved dogs.

15.05 None Specific Mrs Barbara Hooper has asked the Chairman of the Licensing and Appeals the following question:

Question

How is anybody expected to have a business like this if they are restricted to one household pet at a time/ where else are we meant to go for somebody to look after our dog especially as in the past we have had a bad experience with so called "professional" kennels?

15.06 None Specific Mrs Eileen Copeman has asked the Chairman of the Licensing and Appeals Committee the following question:

Question

I have a dog that is on lots of tablets. Niki can cope with all medical issues and I have lots of confidence in her. Our vet recommends her to everyone. Why are you thinking of now allowing such a good person not to have more than one dog if not from the same family?

15.07 None Specific Mrs Rosemary Smith has asked the Chairman of the Licensing and Appeals following question:

Question

If the owners of a dog or cat are happy for their animal to be boarded in a home with other dogs and cats, and are prepared to confirm that in writing after a trial familiarisation of the domestic premises, then why should you object to that?

15.08 None Specific Mr John Day has asked the Chairman of the Licensing and Appeals Committee the following question:

Question

In correspondence with Philip Mirfin, Leader of Wokingham Town Council, Steve Richardson, Environmental Health and Licensing Manager, stated that "there has recently been national guidance on the issue of home boarding". Who issues this guidance?

- 15.09** None Specific Mr Geoff Ridout has asked the Chairman of Licensing and Appeals Committee for following question:

Question

What funds and plans has Wokingham Borough Council put in place to allow me to place my pet in a situation that is "Exactly like Home Boarding" if the regulations change in the future?

- 15.10** None Specific Mr Robert Davis has asked the Chairman of the Licensing and Appeals Committee the following question:

Question

I can find no mention in the Animal Boarding Establishment Act 1963 of any stipulation that animals boarded should be from the same household. Why has the council sought to include this clause, if not in response to vested interest pressure?

- 15.11** None Specific Mrs Sarah Huxford has asked the Chairman of the Licensing and Appeals Committee the following question:

Question

I should like to ask what has prompted this review of dog boarding in the Borough? Why is now the time to start regulating this service offered to people privately? Will ironing and cleaning services be next for more red-tape?

- 15.12** None Specific Ann Cavalli has asked the Chairman of Licensing and Appeals Committee the following question:

Question

We would like to know what precipitated the need for this proposal. We should be grateful if you would explain fully the background and rationale to this proposal.

- 15.13** None Specific Tania Clentworth has asked the Chairman of the Licensing and Appeals Committee the following question:

Question

I have a question regarding Clause 4.2 of the proposed Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963 Licence Conditions For Home Boarding (Dogs). The proposed Clause 4.2 states: "Only dogs from the same household may be boarded at any one time....."

My question; what justification has the council found for imposing such a clause that appears to me to be overly restrictive and totally impractical?

- 15.14 None Specific Gill Fraser has asked the Chairman of the Licensing and Appeals Committee the following question:

Question

Since dogs are by nature pack animals and would, if left in their natural state form a pack, why on earth would you even consider introducing a clause in your consultation that denies them this opportunity, and in doing so, would cause the most devastating impact on not only those people that run superb home boarding facilities, but to those who use them also? These people provide an essential service to members of Wokingham's tax paying community and should be applauded, nor thwarted?

- 15.15 None Specific Mr Ian Stone has asked the Chairman of the Licensing and Appeals Committee the following question:

Question

Under Section 4.2 - "Only dogs from the same household may be boarded at any one time." This would put dog carers out of business, as they house dogs from several homes at any one time. Does the Council intend to close dog carers who have been housing dogs from several families at one time for many years and therefore ruin a perfectly good business and service to the community?

- 15.16 None Specific Lynne Hunt has asked the Chairman of the Licensing and Appeals Committee the following question:

Question

Why are you trying to the limit the number of dogs when dogs are pack animals and like being with other dogs?

- 15.17 None Specific Michelle Rowan has asked the Chairman of the Licensing and Appeals Committee the following question.

Question

Pet sitters provide a caring family environment for dogs on a small scale. Kennels provide an impersonal

environment for dogs as a commercial operation. How does this align with the objectives to put animal welfare first, by pushing more dogs into the unfamiliar, possibly more stressful environment that kennels provide?

- 15.18 None Specific Mr Phil Lepp has asked the Chairman of the Licensing and Appeals Committee the following question:

Question

I would like to ask how much you intend to monitor those within the Council's catchment area who board "for a friend "to ensure that the full time and professional boarders are not being unfairly disadvantaged (by having to pay an annual fee and be compliant with whatever regulations are to be put in place.). Will the Council tax payer be funding this monitoring and if so to what extent?

- 15.19 None Specific Mr Noel Billing has asked the Chairman of the Licensing and Appeals Committee the following question:

Question

In these times of reduced budgets and cut-backs of essential services provided by local Councils, we ask how you can justify the allocation of scarce resources to investigate and seek to control private arrangements for pet sitting, mainly in the case of dogs?

- 15.20 None Specific Mr Richard Hampton has asked the Chairman of the Licensing and Appeals Committee the following question:

Question

What are the Council's plans to provide additional animal sitting services if this licensing scheme causes current providers of animal home boarding services to stop?

- 15.21 None Specific Sue Carlaw has asked the Chairman of the Licensing and Appeals Committee the following question:

Question

What would be the cost implications for administrating this scheme and would the licence fee charge be adequate to cover this cost?

- 15.22 None Specific Sue Istead has asked the Chairman of the Licensing and Appeals Committee the following question:

Question

Why do the Council think that they are in a better

This is an agenda for an Extraordinary Meeting of the Licensing and Appeals Committee

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