



Notes of evidence

Name of meeting

POLICY COMMISSION FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES

Date and time

THURSDAY, 1 MAY 2008 AT 6.00 PM

Venue

COMMITTEE ROOM ONE, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT

Commission

Cllrs David Williams (Chair), Henry Adams, Mike Cunningham, Heather Humby, Susan Scoccia, Margaret Webster and Jilly Wood

Officers Present

April Ross, Overview and Scrutiny Team
Jill Laurence-Tilley, Committee Administrator
Stuart Love, Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods
Zoryna O'Donnell, Head of Safer Neighbourhoods Partnership
Warren Haynes, Environmental Health Manager

Apologies

None received.

1. Notes of Evidence

1.1 The notes of evidence from the meeting held on [27 March 2008](#) were agreed.

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 None received.

3. To consider and agree the Blue Paper on the Isle of Wight Act Enquiry

3.1 Cllr Susan Scoccia thanked Warren Haynes and Louise Biggs for their hard work in gathering evidence over the last nine months and the production of an excellent Blue Paper.

3.2 Cllr Susan Scoccia informed the Commission that the Isle of Wight Act is important to the Island and has the support from stakeholders, event organisers and the Chamber of Commerce.

3.3 The Isle of Wight Act has proved not to be detrimental to the Island.

3.4 The four options contained in the Blue Paper were considered. These were:
Option 1: To retain The Act (retain the status quo)
Option 2: To retain The Act and produce guidance on its application

Option 3: To retain and amend The Act and produce guidance on its application

Option 4: To seek to repeal Section 5 of The Act

- 3.5 Option 2 was recommended to the Commission.
- 3.6 It was noted that Members are taking a more active role in the decision making process. Stuart Love added that this involvement is welcome and encouraged.
- 3.7 Stuart Love advised that the events team are ensuring that guidance on the Isle of Wight Act is clear and transparent for event organisers.
- 3.8 It was agreed that the Island is unusual in its location and having the Isle of Wight Act is a useful tool for the Island and a bed rock on which to build.
- 3.9 It was highlighted that although not covered in the Isle of Wight Act the Commission has noted that the Environment Agency have raised concerns that the River Medina's west bank is detrimentally affected by the presence of the Isle of Wight Festival.
- 3.10 It was hoped that steps could be taken to prevent any future damage to the natural habitats whilst accepting that much of the land is privately owned.
- 3.11 Cllr Susan Scoccia proposed the recommendations contained within the Blue Paper as follows:
- 4.1 That the Policy Commission for Safer Communities recommend Option 2 to Cabinet for approval and that the Cabinet and Licensing Committee adopts a policy relating to the involvement of Councillors in the decision making process for the application of Section 5 by 1 June 2008.
- 4.2 That the Chairman of the Licensing Committee produces an annual report to the cabinet Member for Safer Neighbourhoods relating to the application of Section 5 to ensure that an assessment of the impact of the legislation is undertaken and acted upon as necessary.
- 3.12 It was unanimously resolved to accept these recommendations.

The meeting closed at 6.33 pm

CHAIRMAN