

## Minutes of the meeting for the Cross Party Group on Beer and Pubs

Date: Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2017  
Location: Fairfax Somerville Room  
Time: 6pm-8pm

### **Agenda:**

1. Minutes from the last meeting
2. Cross Party Group Reception
3. Post Legislative Scrutiny Committee call for evidence
4. Pub Company Reform – Update from Neil Bibby MSP
5. Guest talk from James McKenzie from the 'Have you got the bottle' campaign
6. Upcoming Opportunities
7. AOB

**Apologies for absence:** Colin Smyth MSP, Gordon Macdonald MSP

### **Present at the meeting:**

**MSP attendees:** Patrick Harvie MSP, Neil Bibby MSP, Rachael Hamilton MSP, Graham Simpson MSP, Maurice Corry MSP, Maurice Golden MSP, Liam Kerr MSP, and George Adam MSP

**Other member attendees:** Andrew Richardson (SIBA), Faye Grima (CAMRA – Secretariat), Tim Page (CAMRA), Ray Turpie (CAMRA), Martin Meteyard (Plunkett Foundation).

### **Guest attendees:**

Emma Hyndman (Office of Neil Bibby MSP), and James Mackenzie (Have you got the Bottle campaign)

#### **1. Minutes from the last meeting**

Approved with no amendments

#### **2. Cross Party Group Reception**

- We held our first CPG Reception in May and our intention is to make this an annual event
- Attendance was good – with higher numbers of MSPs attending the reception than CAMRA events in previous years
- Next year, we should invite a guest speaker from the industry.
- Thanks were passed on from Patrick Harvie MSP for making it a success

#### **3. Post legislative scrutiny committee**

- There has recently been the establishment of a 'Post-Legislative Scrutiny Committee' which will consider previous Acts of the Scottish Parliament to determine whether they have achieved their intended purpose.
- This gives opportunity to provide examples of pieces of legislation relating to beer and pubs which have been introduced and could be improved
- It was agreed that the CPG would write to the committee with areas that required post legislative scrutiny.

#### **4. Pub Company Reform**

- Neil Bibby MSP provided an update on the Pubs Code Consultation – which has been extended to 31<sup>st</sup> July due to the General Election
- There has been huge support thus far for reform
- Neil will meet with the Business Minister shortly to discuss further
- To support the consultation, MSPs could encourage constituents to respond to the consultation – particularly any tied tenants.

#### **5. Guest talk: James McKenzie from the 'Have you got the bottle' campaign**

##### Who we are

The Have You Got The Bottle? campaign was started by the Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland in September 2015. We are urging ministers to introduce a deposit return system for all drinks containers in Scotland. The primary powers for this legislation were put in place in 2009, and a sub group of the Environment Committee have recently announced that they will consider deposit return as part of a wider investigation into the issue of waste.

##### Benefits of DRS

Deposit return systems already exist in more than forty countries or regions in the world, including parts of the US and Australia, Norway, Estonia, Germany and Denmark. Lithuania is the most recent country to introduce deposit return system, and since February 2016 they have seen rates of bottle recycling increase from less than 50% to more than 70%.

Deposit return systems have many positive benefits, including contribution to the circular economy, reducing litter, increasing recycling and access to higher quality separated materials, decreasing climate change due to less reliance on the extraction of fossil fuels, and savings for local authorities and those paying for trade waste collections.

Deposit return has previously existed in the UK in a more old fashioned form. Plenty of people remember taking jam jars and glass bottles back to the shops or the cinema for a refund. A modern system would include plastic and metal in addition to glass, and would be modelled on the best modern, international system examples.

Legislation on this is currently going through the Scottish Parliament – and an update should be provided to the Group next year.

#### **6. Upcoming opportunities for the CPG**

- Edinburgh Beer Festival is coming up – with an opportunity for MSPs on the Group to judge. Faye Grima to circulate details
- It was agreed that we'd organise a visit to Stewart Brewery in November
- It was agreed we'd try and organise an event in a constituency to spend half a day learning about beer
- Awards: It was agreed we'd discuss the option of running an 'Award scheme' in 2018.

#### **7. AOB**

- None noted. Next get together will be a visit to Stewart Brewing, and next formal CPG meeting to be held in January 2018

**Next event dates:**

**Stewart Brewing Tour – TBC / Christmas Drinks – TBC. Faye Grima to circulate ASAP**