

## Public Protection Committee



Date	24 October 2007
Venue	Town Hall, Lytham St Annes
Committee members	David Eaves (Chairman) Dawn Prestwich (Vice-Chairman)  Christine Akeroyd, Keith Beckett, Elizabeth Clarkson, John Davies, Ken Hopwood, Angela Jacques.
Other Councillors	None
Officers	Stuart Handley, Chris Hambley, Peter Welsh

### 1. Declarations of interest

Members were reminded that any personal/prejudicial interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct adopted in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000.

### 2. Confirmation of minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Public Protection Committee meeting held on 28 June 2007 as a correct record for signature by the chairman.

### 3. Substitute members

Nil

### 4. Request for the establishment / amendment of hackney carriage stand located on Hastings Place, Lytham

Chris Hambly (Licensing Officer) reported that a request had been received from the Fylde Licensed Hackney Drivers Association for an amendment to the hackney carriage rank located on Hastings Place, Lytham, namely, that the rank be extended to the full length of the road.

It had also been requested that the timings of the stand, currently 0700 to 0000 be extended to reflect the later opening hours of licensed premises in the Borough.

The chairman advised the committee that a possible alternative would be the provision of an additional late night taxi rank by utilising the bus lay-by opposite the Ship and Royal, Lytham.

Following consideration of this matter it was RESOLVED:-

1. The request for an amendment to the hackney carriage rank located on Hastings Place, Lytham be deferred until the use of the bus lay-by opposite the Ship & Royal as an additional late night taxi rank is fully investigated by officers.

2. That if it is found that the lay-by can be used as a late night taxi rank the portfolio holder for community and social wellbeing be requested to approve the implementation by way of an individual cabinet member decision.
3. That any matters of detail on the implementation of the proposed new taxi rank be delegated to the chairman of the public protection committee in consultation with the portfolio holder and the Executive Manger for Consumer Wellbeing and Protection.
4. That subject to the above, the executive manger for consumer wellbeing and protection in consultation with the portfolio holder and the chairman of the public protection committee be delegated authority to consider any representations received following the advertisement of the proposals.

5. Establishment and removal of hackney carriage stands

Chris Hambly (Licensing Officer) reported that the last review of Hackney Carriage Stands in the Borough had taken place some years ago, and it was now found that a number of stands were in locations where there was little or no demand for Hackney Carriages and that there was a shortage of stands where they were actually required.

Officers had identified a number of locations for additional stands as listed below which would provide an additional usable 14 spaces for Hackney Carriages to utilise. The proposed stands were:-

- Henry St, Lytham. Stand for 8 vehicles on the north side of Henry St, for 45m in a westerly direction, from approximately 2m from the junction of Henry St and Dicconson Terrace, between 1800 and 0200.
- Pleasant St, Lytham. To extend the existing stand by 1 vehicle on the west side of Pleasant St from a point 10m from the junction with Clifton St for distance of 20m for 3 vehicles. The additional space to be available between 1800 and 0900.
- Wood St, St Annes. Stand for 2 vehicles on the northwest side of Wood St, from a point 30m southeast of Park Road for 11m in a south easterly direction, between the hours of 1800 and 0600.
- Wood St, St Annes. Stand for 3 vehicles on the northwest side of Wood St, from a point 60m southeast of Park Road for 22m in a south easterly direction between the hours of 1800 and 0600 to feed the stand referred in point c.

A number of ranks had been identified as obsolete and the Committee were requested to give consideration to the cancellation of the following stands:

- New Road, St Annes
- Smithy Lane, St Annes
- Anchorage, Lytham
- Clegg St, Kirkham

The chairman indicated that there was a need for additional taxi ranks in the vicinity of Henry Street and Dicconson Terrace and he offered to work with officers in looking for suitable sites that could be used as additional late night ranks.

Following discussion it was RESOLVED-

1. That the chairman in consultation with officers investigates possible sites for additional hackney ranks in the Henry Street/Dicconson Terrace locality and report back thereon.

2. That the provision of new hackney ranks on Henry Street and Pleasant Street Lytham be deferred.
3. That the provision of a new hackney rank on Wood Street (stand for 2 vehicles on the northwest side of Wood St, from a point 30m southeast of Park Road for 11m in a south easterly direction, between the hours of 1800 and 0600) be approved.
4. That the provision of a new hackney rank on Wood Street (stand for 3 vehicles on the northwest side of Wood St, from a point 60m southeast of Park Road for 22m in a south easterly direction between the hours of 1800 and 0600 to feed the stand referred to above) be approved.
5. That the following ranks be deleted - New Road, St Annes; Smithy Lane, St Annes; Anchorage, Lytham and Clegg St, Kirkham.
6. That the portfolio holder for community and social wellbeing be requested to approve the implementation and deletion of the hackney carriage ranks referred to above by way of an individual cabinet member decision.
7. That subject to the above, the executive manger for consumer wellbeing and protection in consultation with the portfolio holder and the chairman of the public protection committee be delegated authority to consider any representations received following the advertisement of the above proposals.

6. Request for increase in the level of hackney carriage fares

Chris Hambly (Licensing Officer) reported that a request had been received from the Fylde Licensed Hackney Drivers Association for a 15% increase in the level of hackney carriage fares and an amendment to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy suggested formula for calculating fares.

Following consideration the committee RESOLVED-

1. That approval be given to increase the level of taxi fares by 10%.
2. That there be no change to the previously adopted council policy on hackney carriage and private hire fare increases.
3. That the request to vary the waiting time tariff be incorporated within the 10% fares increase.
4. That the portfolio holder for community and social wellbeing be requested to approve the above recommendations by way of an individual cabinet member decision.
5. That subject to the above, the executive manger for consumer wellbeing and protection in consultation with the portfolio holder and the chairman of the public protection committee be delegated authority to consider any representations received following the advertisement of the above proposals.

6. Private Hire drivers licence

Chris Hambly (Licensing Officer) reported that a current licensed Private Hire Driver had been convicted of number of offences.

In light of the convictions, and the failure to notify the Licensing Authority of the convictions, the matter had been referred to the Public Protection Committee for consideration as to whether the driver was fit an proper to hold a licence.

Mr AL addressed the committee in support of his application and answered questions from committee members.

The committee then discussed the application and RESOLVED to revoke the private hire drivers licence with immediate effect on the grounds that Mr AL was not a fit and proper person to hold a private hire drivers licence.

8 Private Hire driver application

Chris Hambly (Licensing Officer) reported receipt of a Private Hire driver application from Mr SC. The application was referred to the committee because of a conviction in October 2005 and a pending matter which was due before the magistrates in November 2007.

The committee discussed the application and RESOLVED to defer consideration of the application until the outcome of the pending magistrates hearing is known.

9 Private Hire driver application

Chris Hambly (Licensing Officer) reported receipt of a Private Hire driver application from Mr NH. The application was referred to the committee because of a conviction in September 2003 and a pending matter which was due before the magistrates in November 2007.

The committee discussed the application and RESOLVED to refuse the application on the grounds that Mr NH was not a fit and proper person to hold a private hire drivers licence.

10 Hackney carriage and private hire drivers licence

Chris Hambly (Licensing Officer) reported that Mr SM, a current driver benefiting from both a hackney carriage and a private hire drivers licence had been convicted of number of motoring offences.

Mr SM addressed the committee in support of his application and answered questions from committee members.

Following consideration the committee RESOLVED to officially warn Mr SM of his future conduct whilst driving a licensed vehicle.

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