

Public Protection Committee



Date	16 th November 2005
Venue	Lowther Pavilion, Lytham
Committee members	Dawn Prestwich (Chairman) Albert Pounder (Vice-Chairman) Christine Akeroyd, Elizabeth Clarkson, Susan Fazackerley and Ronald Wilson
Other Councillors	Paul Hayhurst
Officers	Stuart Handley, Chris Hambly and Andrew Lee
Others	None

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 11th October 2005 as a correct record for signature by the chairman.

3. Substitute members

No substitute members were reported.

4. Hurst Lea Caravan Site, [Cartford Lane, Little Eccleston]

Stuart Handley (Commercial and Licensing Manager) introduced a report setting out the representations of the site owner in response to additional conditions put forward by the committee at its meeting on 11th May 2005.

RESOLVED: To attach the additional conditions contained within the report to the Hurst Lea site licence under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1961.

5. Hurst Lea Caravan Site, [Cartford Lane, Little Eccleston]

Stuart Handley (Commercial and Licensing Manager) presented a report on an application received from the owner of Hurst Lea Caravan Park for a variation of the site licence so as to allow:

1. A reduction in the sites closure period from six weeks to four weeks.
2. Moving the closure period so that it commences on 1st February.

Councillor Paul Hayhurst (representing Little Eccleston with Larbreck Parish Council) attended the meeting and addressed members on the concerns raised by the Parish Council.

Mr Brian Barden (representing Tom Hanley, the applicant) also addressed members.

Following a short discussion it was RESOLVED:

1. To refuse the application to reduce the closure period from the current condition of 6 weeks in each year to 4 weeks for the same reasons as outlined by the committee on 11th May 2005.
2. To allow the applicant to move the closure period, and that the revised closure period be agreed between the applicant and the Councils officers.
3. That the following additional condition be attached to the site licence:
 - The Holder of the Site Licence must require persons residing at the site to produce evidence of a primary residence by way of Utility Bill, Council Tax Bill or other official document.
4. That the holder of the licence be invited to make written representations about the proposed condition.

6. Review of Taxi Licensing Policy

Stuart Handley (Commercial and Licensing Manager) presented a report on the proposed development of a Taxi Licensing Policy. Mr Handley detailed the numerous existing policies, which the council has developed on an 'ad hoc' basis in respect of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles. He highlighted the fact that few of these policies are readily accessible to the public.

Mr Handley proposed the development of a statement of Taxi Licensing Policy, the aim of which would be to draw together all the existing policies into one comprehensive policy document. This would provide clarity and guidance to all interested parties. In undertaking this review process various interested parties would be consulted, including the taxi trade, the police and local businesses.

Members welcomed the idea of a Taxi Licensing Policy and following a short discussion it was RESOLVED:

That the Licensing department should begin formulation of a Draft Statement of Licensing Policy, to be brought back to committee as soon as practicable.

7. Exclusion of the Public

RESOLVED: That under Section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business, on the grounds that it

involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

8. Private Hire Driver Application - KM

Chris Hambly (Licensing Officer) reported receipt of an application for a Private Hire Drivers Licence. KM addressed the committee.

RESOLVED: That the application in respect of KM be refused as the Sub-Committee was not satisfied that the applicant was a fit and proper person to hold a licence.

9. Private Hire Driver Application - JC

Chris Hambly (Licensing Officer) reported receipt of an application for a Private Hire Drivers Licence.

RESOLVED: That the application in respect of JC be refused as the Sub-Committee was not satisfied that the applicant was a fit and proper person to hold a licence.

10. Hackney Carriage Driver Application - RT

Chris Hambly (Licensing Officer) reported receipt of an application for Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence.

RESOLVED: That the application in respect of RT be deferred until the next meeting of the Public Protection Committee.