

Public Protection Committee



Date	11 May 2005
Venue	Lowther Pavilion, Lytham
Committee members	Dawn Prestwich (Chairman) Elizabeth Clarke (Vice-Chairman) Christine Akeroyd, Elizabeth Clarkson, Kevin Eastham, Susan Fazackerley, Stephen Mason, Janine Owen, Heather Speak, Keith Wright
Other Councillors	Paul Hayhurst
Officers	Ian Curtis, Chris Hambley, Stuart Handley, Lyndsey Lacey

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 held on 8 March 2005 as a correct record for signature by the chairman subject to the words "option 2 being" included after the words "to adopt"(minute 5 refers)

3. Substitute members

The following substitutions were reported under council procedure rule 22.3:

Councillor Heather Speak for Councillor Kiran Mulholland

Councillor Kevin Eastham for Councillor Ron Wilson

4. Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1990: Hurst Lea Caravan Site

Following deferral at the last meeting of the Committee, Stuart Handley (Commercial Licensing Manager) presented an updated report on an application received to amend condition 23, relating to the occupancy of caravans at the Hurst Lea Caravan Site, Cartford Lane Little Eccleston.

Members were advised that the applicant sought approval to reduce the closure period from the current condition of 6 weeks in each year to 4 weeks .

The agenda contained the detailed report presented to Committee on 8th March. It also included the site licence and conditions; letter of objection from Little Ecclestone with Larbreck Parish Council; a letter of objection from Mr and Mrs Norton together with a letter from the Wyre NHS Primary Care Trust.

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

A full debate took place and 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 following reasons:
 - Notwithstanding the reference in the existing licence to “holiday caravans”, reducing the time during which caravans should not be occupied on the site would effectively legitimise the use of the site as a residential park
 - Agreeing to the application would be likely to result in similar applications being made in respect of other caravan sites in the area, which would then be difficult to resist.
 - Widespread residential use of caravan parks in the area around Little Ecclestone would lead to unacceptable pressure on local services and infrastructure.
 - Reducing the period of closure would conflict with expected good practice in the holiday caravan industry.
2. That the committee was minded to add new conditions to the site licence as follows:
 - The holder of the licence must maintain a written record of all persons over the age of eighteen who occupy a caravan on the site for any continuous period of more than 21 days. The entry for each person must contain:

Name

The address of their only or principal home
 - The holder must not allow any person who does not provide the address of their only or principal home, or whose only or principal home is within the site, to occupy a caravan on the site for any continuous period of more than 21 days.
 - The site owner must not permit delivery of post to individual caravans on the site and must not make any arrangement for post addressed to

individuals occupying caravans on the site to be kept for or collected by them.

and that the holder of the licence be invited to make written representations about the proposed conditions.

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

Chris Hambley (Licensing Officer) reported on a request received from the Fylde Hackney Drivers Association for an increase in the level of hackney carriage fares.

The proposed increase was 20 pence on tariff 1 journeys and 40 pence on tariff 2 journeys.

Details of the submission together with a comparison of the current and proposed fares and information on neighbouring authority tariffs were included in the report.

A letter of objection from the Fylde Taxi and Private Hire Association was circulated to members prior to the meeting.

A general debate took place and the committee RESOLVED:

1. To agree the request submitted by the Fylde Hackney Drivers Association to an increase of 20 pence on tariff 1 journeys (for the first 548 yards) and 40 pence on tariff 2 journeys (for the first 424 yards) subject to the removal of the existing surcharge.
2. To advertise the proposals in accordance with the regulations.
3. To authorise the Unit Business Manager (Consumer Well Being and Protection) in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to deal with any objections received on the proposed increase in fares.
4. To present a report to the next meeting of the Committee summarising the views of the Taxi Associations.

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 item of business, on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

7. Private hire driver application

Chris Hambley (Licensing Officer) reported receipt of a private hire driver application. The application was referred to the committee because of medical concerns about the applicant's fitness to act as a private hire driver. The

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

The committee then discussed the application and RESOLVED:

- (1) That the applicant was not considered to be fit and proper person to hold a private hire drivers' licence because of his excessive alcohol consumption and
- (2) To refuse the application

Hackney carriage driver application

Chris Hambley (Licensing Officer) reported receipt of a hackney carriage driver application. The application was referred to the committee because of the possibility of legal action being taken against the applicant for a hackney carriage licensing matter.

Following discussion IT WAS RESOLVED to adjourn this matter until the outstanding issue had been disposed of.
