

## **LICENSING LIAISON PANEL – 15 May 2006**

**PRESENT** Councillor Snape, Councillor Mrs Iddon, Howard Bee, Janet Brereton, Keith Ogden, Lynne and Phil Cooper, Ann Clitheroe, Julie Price, Abdul Manan, Brian Crompton, Peter Verhaege and David Hamer.

Councillor Snape informed those present that this was his last panel meeting as Chair of the Licensing Liaison Panel and that he would not be Chair on future meetings of the Licensing and Safety Committee. Councillor Margaret Iddon would not be Vice-Chair. It was yet to be confirmed who would be the next Chair of this Committee. Councillor Snape thanked everyone for the support and work in making the panel a success. Brian Crompton thanked him for his time chairing and the achievements of the panel and went on to say that his experience on the Licensing and Safety Committee would be missed.

### **1 MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING:**

New Licence Disc – Keith Ogden handed round the new design of licence disc which contained the expiry date of the licence. This had been discussed at the last meeting and no one objected to the new design.

Signage at Cleveland Street – Paul Dunne had been notified by Keith Ogden and an email had been received from him, which he asked to be put in the minutes:

‘following an earlier licensing panel at the request of drivers we have provided two arrows to guide motorists into two lanes on Cleveland Street one for left and one for right in addition to KEEP CLEARS on Union Street itself. Unfortunately, drivers don’t look at the markings and get in an appropriate lane in time which renders the markings obsolete. However, if and when the Rank o/s Wetherspoons proves successful without adverse comments by the Police due to Public Disorder, and we decide to remove the rank on Cleveland Street, we would look at reducing the redundant rank on Cleveland Street and provide additional lane lengths indicated by centre line markings with more arrows to try and encourage this’. He also stated that the KEEP CLEAR markings in Union Street would be attended to.

Enforcement provisions/road traffic order/rank update – Janet Brereton informed the panel that the report was in its draft form and would be taken to the next available committee once the new Committee cycle following the elections was agreed.

- 2 DRIVER TRAINING UPDATE** – Keith Ogden explained that a report on driver training would be going to the Licensing and Safety Committee on 7 June 2006. Howard Bee and Keith Ogden had recently attended a meeting between Preston City Council and South Ribble Borough Council

to discuss the implications of training. There were many questions raised and the information given is summarised below:

- Each course would cost £150 and take place over 4 days (24 hours in total).
- Runshaw College was accredited to carry out the training using existing trainers and bringing in experts in particular fields.
- Each successful applicant would gain a nationally recognised qualification in Passenger Transport. This includes disability, discrimination, disabled persons getting in and out of vehicles. It would take over the knowledge test and route planning and include the conditions relevant to Chorley Borough Council.
- Relevant to both Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers
- Some funding had been available where people had no previous qualifications, but this had been withdrawn. There was a possibility of funding being reinstated but this was not guaranteed.
- National Association of Private Hire is in favour.
- A minimum of 15 persons required to run a course, but run in conjunction with Preston City Council and South Ribble Borough Council.
- Other alternatives looked at but not considered being as effective as this course.
- Could be used by Licensing Committee as an additional measure following a complaint about a driver.
- Kept under review to ensure no adverse effect on numbers of new applicants.

### **3 PROVISION OF HACKNEY CARRIAGES ON RANK DURING**

**MORNINGS** – Keith Ogden had noted that between 8am and 9am most mornings there had been no hackney carriages on the rank. He explained that it did not help visitors to Chorley Town Centre if the rank was empty. Brian Crompton agreed to have a word with the other proprietors and work something out.

**4 PROBATIONARY LICENCES FOR NEW DRIVERS** – Howard Bee reminded everyone that this was an item deferred from the last meeting when the panel's views had been sought. Brian Crompton said that he did not feel there was any real benefit in this as anyone who contravened the conditions would expect to go before a committee whether it was an existing licensee or a new licensee. Phil Cooper agreed with this view.

**5 NEW LICENCE FEES IN FORCE** – Keith Ogden informed everyone that the new licence fees were now in force. The main change was that a higher fee was payable if a licence lapses as there is now a distinction between a 'new' vehicle licence and an 'existing' vehicle licence. Keith Ogden pointed out that if any vehicle was off the road, proprietors should let us know.

**6 ADDITIONAL HACKNEY CARRIAGE PLATES** - Howard Bee updated the panel members on the additional plates. The criteria had been agreed on 5 April 2006. The questionnaire was being compiled and it was expected to go out to all people on the licensing database within the next

2/3 weeks. Brian Crompton asked about the delay and Howard explained that the implementation of the Licensing Act was a major factor.

- 7 CCTV COVERAGE** – Peter Verhaege (on behalf of Pub Watch) stated that he was not happy with the times of manned CCTV coverage. Janet Brereton said that it was unlikely that the Licensing Liaison Panel was the correct forum to take this matter forward although it could support any moves to improve the protection/safety of all its representative bodies. Councillor Snape suggested that it may be a matter for the Town Centre Forum and asked Janet Brereton to find out how to include an item in the agenda. Keith Ogden asked if Brian Crompton could find out if John McKenna was still the representative from the Hackney Carriage trade.

## **8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Peter Verhaege asked about the Best Bar None Initiative and Keith Ogden said that it was currently on hold during the time that new legislation was being implemented.

Brian Crompton and Abdul Manan stated that they could smell gas coming from Wetherspoons by the Rank and Keith Ogden agreed to email Environmental Health to inform them.

(Phil and Lynne Cooper left the meeting)

David Hamer pointed out that the Notice of Variation displayed at Wetherspoons gave the address as Cleveland Street when it should be New Market Street. Howard Bee agreed to look into this matter and any implications.

Brian Crompton raised issues regarding the Disability Discrimination Act, in particular as to why Chorley had been included in Phase 1 when it did not seem to meet the criteria. He felt that a mixed fleet was the best way forward and offered the best choice for disabled persons. Keith Ogden explained that it was the government, and not the Council, who chose who was included in the first phase. Keith Ogden agreed to look into this matter further and report back.

- 9 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING** – It was agreed that the date and time of the next meeting would be made after discussion with the new Chair of Licensing.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NEXT MEETING HAS NOW BEEN ARRANGED AND WILL TAKE PLACE ON WEDNESDAY 12 JULY 2006 AT 1PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, CHORLEY. The new Chair of Licensing is Councillor Mrs Iris Smith.**