

Licensing Liaison Panel

Meeting notes for 15 June 2015

Chorley Council, Town Hall

Attendance: Chorley Council: Cllr Paul Walmsley - Exec Member Public Protection
Simon Clark – Head of Health Env and N'hoods

Licensing Trade: Peter Verhage – Licensed Premises
Charles Oakes (Hackney Drivers Association)
Shakail Ahmed – Hackney
Shamail Ahmed – Private Hire
Lynn Brakewell- Kes Cars
James Stewart- Kes Cars
Phil Cooper- Coopers Taxis
Lynne Cooper- Coopers Taxis
Yaqoob Illahi- Star cars
Andrew Price- Yellow Cabs
Anthony Price – Yellow Cabs
Paul Clitheroe – Yellow Cabs
Asaed Musa- Hackney
Mohammed Sajid - Hackney

Agenda Item	Discussion Notes	Actions
1	Apologies- None	
2	Minutes from Meeting on 12 January 2015	Agreed
3	Matters Arising – discussion on item 8 and the cancellation of an arranged consultation meeting the trade thought was fixed to discuss proposed changes to taxi policy/conditions.	
4	Constitution Chair and Representation – Cllr W explained the change in Council Member representation at the LLP. As Executive Member for responsibility in relation to policy and process for licensing he was more appropriately placed to attend which meant that the licensing committee Members who previously attended could undertake licence committee duties with a greater degree of impartiality. CO expressed his objection this change. Cllr W expressed a desire to have an open and honest dialogue with the licensing trade and to ensure that we were all working together for the benefit and public safety of visitors and residents of the Chorley area. Cllr Walmsley emphasised the Councils commitment to ensure we have a strong and healthy taxi trade in the Borough. It was agreed that this means of Member representation would be tried for several meetings and reviewed.	
5	Licensed Premises Update – PV updated on concerns expressed by Town Centre Working Group on travelling football fans stopping off in Chorley on way to matches. In addition the proposed pavement café	

	<p>licence at Pearsons on Market Street as well as established on pavement drinking areas at PoW and Sir Henry Bates, which if in use at the time may exacerbate the potential for public disorder.</p> <p>SC advised that police aware of the issue and use intelligence led approach to police activities but noted that if no intelligence to suggest travelling fans would be meeting in Chorley were then reliant on real time response to deal with issues. The Council have visited town centre pubs and advised re the use of door staff to control customer access.</p> <p>PV noted that recent events in Chorley had a positive impact on trade and was complimentary about the appearance of the town centre. Noted that the Flower Show would increase footfall but overall licenced trade was quiet at present.</p> <p>PV raised the issue of a mobile burger van parked on Mealhouse Lane and queried street trading laws in Chorley. SC advised of the Councils 'consent' scheme and that town centre streets were prohibited to street traders. So any information on the vehicle including registration plate no. and times of operation should be passed through to be investigated by officers.</p> <p>Shakail Ahmed queried why the Flat Iron Car Park was resurfaced when there is a pending proposal to build over it with Market Walk extension – Cllr W responded that the work was necessary to improve the surface where the previously installed concrete sub layer had failed the resurface work had to be undertaken</p>	
6	Gambling Act - SC advised that Gambling and Licensing Policy Statements to be revised this year	
7	Police Items- None – it was noted the lack of attendance and SC to follow up with police.	
8	<p>Taxi Items – Cllr W invited an open discussion on issues with regard to taxi policy and conditions that were of concern to the trade. He noted that policies and conditions were there to protect public safety and that would not be compromised.</p> <p>Several issues were raised including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7" rear seat condition, • pre application vehicle checks • restriction on some vehicle types e.g. Dacia • use of 6 seat MPV's, • taxi plate fees – trade were given to understand additional cost of new style plates would be absorbed by the Council • licensing budget and general level of fees including why single licence fees were more than joint application fees e.g PHD cost more than combined HVD and PHD? <p>Issues around process were also raised relating to applicants rights of challenge to delegated decisions made by officers.</p> <p>Issues of providing insurance documents at time of application were raised.</p>	LM to respond

	<p>CO expressed that Chorley's policies and conditions were 'unbearable' for the trade and were impacting significantly on business profit margins.</p> <p>Several points were raised about how the Council handle implementation of policy and representatives felt this could be too inflexible and at times seem harsh. Cllr PW agreed to look into this and noted that the Council are committed to acting professionally and with flexibility if appropriate, but this does not mean allowing the flouting of policy or regulations.</p> <p>Queries were raised about who pays for officer error in terms of wrongly issued plates or mistakes with paperwork. It was explained that these were small in number and value and absorbed in the licensing budget. If the trade had evidence of widespread and high volume errors then they should make the Council aware.</p> <p>Cllr PW advised that he wished to conduct a thorough consultation on taxi trade concerns and that a consultation response sheet would be distributed to licenced operators, vehicle proprietors and drivers to seek their views. Cllr W emphasised that written responses should be sent in and SC advised that he would provide a pro-forma and send out with a deadline date for returns around August time.</p>	<p>LM and AW to review error rate in application process and plate issues</p> <p>SC to send out consultation proforma</p>
9	<p>Date and Time of Next Meeting</p> <p>SC to arrange in September following issue and response to consultation paper on taxi conditions and policies.</p>	<p>SC to arrange</p>