

LICENSING LIAISON PANEL – 11 June 2007

PRESENT Councillor Iris Smith, Councillor Edward Smith, Janet Brereton, Jayne Day, Simon Clark, Paul Carter, Paul Dunne, Mark Davies, Yaqoob Illahi, Mazafar Hussain, Lynne and Philip Cooper, Brian Crompton, David Hamer, Peter Verhaege, Andy Wilson, Fern Jones, Hifzur Mala, Zulfikar Nawaz, Tony Bushell, Lindsey Ralston.

1 SMOKE-FREE LEGISLATION – Simon Clark, Environmental Health Manager, Chorley Borough Council gave an informal presentation outlining the health aspect, the Council's enforcement position and the offences and penalties under the legislation which comes into force on 1 July 2007. He explained that the Council would be employing a Public Health Team Technical Officer whose job it would be to deal with complaints and give advice and assistance. The officer would not be uniformed, but carry necessary authorisation. Where several complaints about premises were received a visit would be made and if no changes occurred, then enforcement action would be taken. There was a pack available with additional material which Janet Brereton agreed to get out to proprietors. Further information is also available at www.smokefreeengland.co.uk

The following questions were asked:

Smoking shelters on taxi rank – it was unlikely that the Highway Authority would agree to place a smoking shelter on the taxi rank.

Signs on taxi rank to state vehicles were smoke free – it was generally agreed that the required signage in the vehicles would be sufficient for people to know hackney carriages were smoke free.

Mark Davies from the Crown Public House, Chapel Street pointed out that litterbins had not been replaced following the recent landscape scheme in Chapel Street and Simon Clark agreed to look into this.

It was agreed that there were sufficient litterbins by the rank in High Street.

1.1 SIGNAGE TO COMPLY WITH SMOKE-FREE LEGISLATION – Janet Brereton informed everyone that smokefree vehicles will need to display a small no-smoking sign in a prominent position in each compartment of the vehicle in which people can be carried. Signs could be ordered from the smokefree england website (see above). A small number of signs were available at the meeting and more had been ordered. Brian Crompton agreed to distribute them. Janet Brereton said that if anyone was having difficulty obtaining signs, to contact the Licensing Unit in advance of 1 July 2007. A limited number of 'credit card' size promotional cards would also be supplied by the Council for drivers to give out to members of the public. These had been seen at an earlier meeting. A sheet of the cards which was printable would also be handed out so that proprietors could, if they wished, have more cards printed.

2 PAVEMENT CAFÉ DESIGN GUIDE – Lindsey Ralston, Landscape Assistant, Chorley Borough Council informed everyone that the Council had produced an interim guide which was due to go to the Council's Executive Cabinet on 26 June 2007 to be adopted. The guide sets out the requirements and standards expected of pavement café operations in Chorley Town Centre. The requirements were consistent with other Councils within Lancashire. It was envisaged that a 12-month licence would be £280. Existing premises would also need to comply with the requirements. There was a general discussion which covered areas such as waiter service, which the Police felt would be necessary. Janet Brereton advised people to check whether their Premises Licences allowed the sale of alcohol on and off the premises to accommodate waiter service.

Councillor Iris Smith and Lindsey Ralston noted some panel members had views on this which needed to be taken into account. Janet Brereton agreed to find out how views could be taken to the Executive Cabinet and liaise with Peter Verheage. After the 26 June meeting, the guide would be circulated for comments.

Lindsey Ralston, Simon Clark and Paul Lee left the meeting after being thanked for their presentations.

3 HACKNEY CARRIAGE RANK IN HIGH STREET/SIGNAGE – Paul Dunne attended from Lancashire County Council. He explained the current situation. A consolidation order was in the process of being made which should be finalised in 2 months. Then a new Order needed to be made which should be finalised in approximately 9 months. Time-scales depended on whether any objections were received. Paul Dunne said that the orders required for Hackney Carriage Rank would be a priority. Discussion followed and a plan of action agreed. Janet Brereton agreed to contact Parkwise to discuss whether leaflets could be produced. In addition, there was discussion regarding the dates when the taxi rank was implemented. Paul Dunne agreed to look into this and keep the Licensing Section informed.

Yaqoob Illahi produced a letter from the Executive Director of Environment at Lancashire County Council to Lindsay Hoyle which set out the situation in similar terms.

4 MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING –

4.1 PUB WATCH MEMBERSHIP – This item had been deferred from the previous meeting. It had become apparent that although it was a condition on some Premises Licences to be a member of Pub Watch, some Premises Licence Holders had not been attending meetings. It was agreed that a joint letter from the Police and Chorley Borough Council be sent reminding Licensees of this condition. Janet Brereton to liaise with Sergeant Bushell on this matter. It was further agreed that any literature provided to us by Pub Watch would be included in application packs which were sent out regularly by the Licensing Section.

4.2 UPDATE ON DRIVER TRAINING – Janet Brereton informed everyone that since the introduction of driver training had been deferred, there was no evidence that applicants were choosing Chorley because of this. The Licensing Section would continue to monitor the situation and any views from the trade are appreciated. Councillor Iris Smith said that this showed that the Licensing and Safety Committee did take on board the views and concerns of the proprietors.

5 BEST BAR NONE – Sergeant Bushell explained that this initiative was now being encouraged countywide. Sixty applications had been sent across Chorley, West Lancs and South Ribble. Five applications had been returned for premises in Chorley and inspections were starting that day. The closing date had been extended and it was noted that whilst some premises may not apply this year, they would be putting in place policies to meet criteria with a view to applying next year.

6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS – A panel member thanked the police for their assistance over the recent Bank Holiday weekend following an assault on one of the drivers.

6.1 Hackney Carriages – A panel member asked if some of the newer police officers could be reminded that hackney carriages were able to pick up/be flagged down in the street.

6.2 Policing of High Street Rank – Several panel members said that they appreciated the additional police presence at the Rank and said it had made a difference.

6.3 Private Hire Operators – A panel member said that if planning did not make conditions restricting the number of private hire vehicles which could return to a town centre base, it meant that the Council was encouraging 'plying for hire'. Janet Brereton agreed to take this matter back to Keith Ogden for comment.

6.4 Private Hire Ranking up on Flat Iron Car Park – A panel member complained that some private hire drivers were parking up on the flat iron car park. He said that when the rank in New Market Street was moved down into High Street, assurances had been given that this would not be allowed to happen. Janet Brereton was to take this back to Keith Ogden.

7 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING – the next meeting will take place on Monday 13 August 2007 at 10.30am in the Committee Room, Town Hall, Chorley.