

LICENSING LIAISON PANEL – 13 August 2007

PRESENT Councillor Iris Smith, Councillor Edward Smith, Eleanor Bale, Keith Ogden, Jayne Day, Mazafar Hussain, Brian Crompton, Peter Verhaege, Antony and Julie Price, Ann Clitheroe, Margaret Redshaw

1 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING

The following questions were asked:

Parkwise leaflet – It was agreed that leaflets could be produced and issued to Brian Crompton who could pass them out to Hackney Carriage Drivers to place on vehicle parked illegally on the rank. Keith Ogden suggested inviting the police along to the next meeting to ask for their input on enforcement. There is a possibility that the Fixed penalty system could be used after 01 March 2008 as a Traffic Management Act is currently in the pipeline.

Pub Watch membership. Members of the panel were informed that the police had received a list of all pubs who had agreed to become members of pub watch and that once literature has been received it could be incorporated into renewal packs for Licensing Act applications. Tony Bushell will be contacted again on this matter and also asked if he is in a position to supply a letter to be distributed to premises that had agreed to become members of pub watch and had not yet attended.

Private hire forming Rank on Flat Iron Car Park. It was agreed that this was not a problem, and a panel member said they would mention it to the person who had raised it last time.

2. GO SKILLS – DRIVER TRAINING – Eleanor Bale attended from this Company and explained what qualifications and skills drivers could obtain from signing up to the course. Funding was discussed and panel members felt it was something that would be beneficial for drivers and if funding was available they would be interested. Antony will contact Eleanor to find out more information and liaise with the Licensing Section. Keith said it would also be good publicity for companies if they looked at implementing this training.

3. RANK PROVISION OUTSIDE TUT 'N' SHIVE – Peter Verhaege is to speak to Pub Watch regarding staff parking on the Rank in an evening. Councillor Iris Smith suggested that Hackney Carriage Drivers keep a log of the times and dates when there is a problem. Keith Ogden agreed to do a Log sheet and let Brian Crompton have a few copies to give to some of the other Hackney Carriage Drivers.

4. COMPLAINT RE HACKNEY CARRIAGES SOUNDING HORNS ON THE RANK – Keith Ogden brought this matter up with the panel members and asked that they be aware that it is an offence to do this.

5. POSITION REGARDING MOTORISED WHEELCHAIRS – Lancashire County Council has advised Keith Ogden that motorised wheelchairs should not be used in Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles, as they cannot be secured properly in the vehicles. Panel members queried this as they felt that manual wheelchairs were more difficult to secure and Keith Ogden is going to ask LCC to provide more information which will be put forward at the next meeting.

6. BOOTHS SUPERMARKET – SHOPPING AND TROLLEYS – Panel members were asked how they dealt with shoppers from Booths with trolleys and was told that sometimes Booths provide a member of staff to take the trolley back, otherwise Hackney Carriage drivers would assist. Didn't feel that there was a problem.

7. NEW DRIVERS – minor changes to procedure (obtain CRB first before medical and Knowledge Test undertaken) – Jayne Day informed everyone that we advise new drivers not to have a medical and that they cannot do a knowledge test until we have received the CRB back, this information is also provided in the application pack.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

A panel member stated that since the introduction of the 7 new Hackney Carriage Vehicles existing Hackney Carriage drivers had noted that there seemed to be less work and that some drivers had obtained radios from Private Hire operators who were giving them work. It was also mentioned that Chorley Town Centre as a whole was very quiet at weekends and that more people seemed to be going out of Town for nights out. This was noted by the Pub Watch chairman and it was suggested that both a member from the Hackney Carriage Association and someone from the private hire industry could look at attending the Town Centre Forum Liaison Committee. Jayne Day will look into this and contact the relevant panel members.

Brian Crompton asked for clarification on when it is an offence to fail to pay on a taxi fare. Keith stated that the offence was "knowing that payment is due making off without payment" and that any part payment or dispute as to the fare or service provided would probably be a civil matter.

Councillor Iris Smith asked that we add No Smoking in Taxis and Pubs to our next meeting and if any comments?

9. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING – the next meeting will take place on Monday 1st October at 10.30am in the Committee Room, Town Hall, Chorley.