

LICENSING LIAISON PANEL – 1 October 2007

PRESENT Councillor Iris Smith, Councillor Edward Smith, Janet Brereton, Keith Ogden, Yaqoob Illahi, Lynne and Philip Cooper, Brian Crompton, Neil Kirkham

1 APOLOGIES – Peter Verhaege, Ann and Paul Clitheroe, Antony and Julie Price.

2 MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING –

2.1 Sounding horns in general – at the last panel meeting, it had been mentioned that a complaint had been received regarding the sounding of horns during daytime hours on the Rank in High Street. Licensing had been asked by a Member of the Licensing and Safety Committee to remind drivers to be courteous regarding sounding horns outside public houses etc when waiting to pick up customers. Keith Ogden reminded the panel that the Highway Code states that car horns should not be used after 11.30pm or when the vehicle is stationary.

2.2 Update re taxis outside Tut ‘n’ Shive/White Hart – Keith Ogden had been assured that the door staff from the White Hart were not parking outside the Tut ‘n’ Shive. He reminded everyone that there would be a possibility that the Fixed Penalty System could be used after 1 March 2008 as a Traffic Management Act is currently in the pipeline. A notice for vehicles parked in contravention of Section 64 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 was passed round for information and everyone agreed it should be used to help to prevent vehicles parking on the Rank. It was suggested that the a representative from the Police should be asked to attend the next Panel meeting and Janet Brereton agreed to write to Inspector Roberts asking if he could nominate someone to attend.

3 SMOKEFREE LEGISLATION – COMMENTS, FEEDBACK – Neil Kirkham, the Public Health Technical Officer from the Council’s Environmental Services attended. He reported that he had had no problems with the smokefree legislation regarding the private hire/taxi trade. Those representing the trade also said they had had no problems and that the drivers are aware of the smokefree legislation. He stated that licensed premises needed to be aware of the litter issue regarding cigarettes. A panel member raised a question regarding smoking in his licensed vehicle when he was, for example, on holiday and using the vehicles as his own private vehicle. He was told that under the legislation it was not allowed. Janet Brereton reminded everyone that there were still some smokefree cards available which can have the operator’s phone number added on.

4 MOTORISED WHEELCHAIRS (UPDATE) – Keith Ogden reported that he had asked for further advice regarding motorised wheelchairs and had been sent a Device Bulletin from the Medical Devices Agency on

Guidance on the Safe Transportation of Wheelchairs. He said that a copy of this guidance would be given to the owners of wheelchair accessible vehicles.

5 ROOF SIGNS ON HACKNEY CARRIAGES – Keith Ogden pointed out that the licensed conditions for hackney carriages state that ‘the proprietor shall cause to be fixed to the roof of Saloon Type Hackney Carriages an illuminated sign bearing the words “CHORLEY BOROUGH TAXI” on both the forward and rearward faces of the sign’. The panel members representing the trade said that they continued to prefer this wording. Keith Ogden agreed that one or two vehicles were not complying at present and he would make sure this was put right. It was agreed that the new purpose built taxis came with the word ‘TAXI’ on and this was acceptable. A panel member raised a question about advertising company names on vehicle doors and Keith Ogden agreed that he would check the legal ruling again regarding this.

6 TEXT SERVICE FOR CUSTOMERS – Janet Brereton asked if anyone had seen the system available which sends a text message to customers confirming which vehicle would be arriving and approximate time of arrival. A panel member said that he had seen it working but it was expensive. Everyone agreed that it was an excellent system, but the cost was prohibitive and it would be too time-consuming to send texts out manually.

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Tariff increase – A panel member asked whether a tariff increase was due. Keith Ogden explained that a request for an increase could only come from the hackney carriage trade. He pointed out that the next available Licensing and Safety Committee meeting to take a request to would be held on 21 November 2007, but sufficient notice must be given for a report to be put together. This would mean that an increase could in theory be in place before Christmas, provided there were no objections.

7.2 Subsidised buses – this led on to a discussion regarding subsidised buses, which Keith Ogden explained was a matter for the MP as it was government policy.

7.3 Drop off in Trade – this led on to a discussion regarding the perceived lack of shops, nightlife and a general drop off in trade. Councillor I Smith suggested that a representative of Regeneration and Development should be invited to attend the next meeting to discuss these concerns and listen to comment and feedback and Janet Brereton was to arrange this.

8. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING – the next meeting has since been arranged for Monday 3 December 2007 at 10.30am in the Committee Room, Town Hall, Chorley.