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Licensing Committee

Monday 17th December 2012 7.00 pm

Committee Room 2 Town Hall Redditch



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> Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH Tel: 01527 64252 (Extn. 3269) Fax: (01527) 881406 e.mail: ivor.westmore@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

Welcome to today's meeting. Guidance for the Public

Agenda Papers

The Agenda List at the front Decisions at the meeting will of the Agenda summarises the issues to be discussed and is followed by the supporting Officers' full Reports.

Chair

The Chair is responsible for the proper conduct of the meeting. Generally to one side of the Chair is the Democratic Services Officer who gives advice on the proper conduct of the meeting and ensures that debate and the the properly decisions are recorded. On the Chair's other side are the relevant Council Officers. The Councillors ("Members") of the Committee occupy the remaining seats around the table.

Running Order

Items will normally be taken in the order printed but, in particular circumstances, the Chair may agree to vary the order.

Refreshments : tea, coffee and water are normally available at meetings please serve yourself.

Decisions

be taken by the Councillors who are the democratically elected representatives. advised Thev are bv paid Officers who are professionals and do not have a vote.

Members of the Public

Members of the public may, by prior arrangement, speak at meetings of the Council or its Committees. Specific procedures exist for Appeals Hearings or for meetings Licence involving or Planning Applications. For further information on this point, please speak to the Committee Support Officer.

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Licensing

Committee

17th December 2012 7.00 pm Committee Room 2 Town Hall

Membership: Agenda Cllrs: Pattie Hill Andrew Fry (Chair) Luke Stephens (Vice-Chair) Roger Hill Joe Baker Gay Hopkins Wanda King Juliet Brunner Michael Chalk Alan Mason Carole Gandy To receive the apologies of any Member who is unable to 1. **Apologies** attend this meeting. To invite Councillors to declare any interests they may have 2. **Declarations of Interest** in items on the agenda. To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of 3. Minutes the Licensing Committee held on 11th July 2012. (Pages 1 - 4) (Minutes attached) To consider the outcome of the recent consultation exercise 4. Statement of Gambling undertaken with stakeholders in relation to the 2013 -2016 **Principles** Statement of Gambling Principles. (Pages 5 - 26) (Report attached) Head of Worcestershire **Regulatory Services** (All Wards) 5. To consider a summary of the findings and recommendations Access for Disabled made by the Access for Disabled People Task Group on the **People Group - Referral** subject of taxi licensing. This report should be considered Report alongside which provides a more detailed description of the review process, the evidence basis for the group's (Pages 27 - 36) recommendations and the implications of proposed actions. Access for Disabled (Report and Executive Committee minute extract attached -PeopleTask Grouop Access for Disabled People Task Group's final report under separate cover) (All Wards)

Licensing

Committee

17th December 2012

6.	Feedback from the Unicorn Hill Taxi Rank consultation exercise	To consider a report following the 12 week consultation on the short stay parking and the Hackney Carriage rank on Unicorn Hill.	
	(Pages 37 - 52)	(Report attached)	
	Head of Worcestershire Regulatory Services	(All Wards)	
7.	Exclusion of the Public	Should it be necessary, in the opinion of the Chief Executive, to consider excluding the public from the meeting in relation to any items of business on the grounds that exempt information is likely to be divulged, it may be necessary to move the following resolution:	
		"that, under S.100 I of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following matter(s) on the grounds that it/they involve(s) the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant paragraphs <i>(to be specified)</i> of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) of the said Act, as amended."	
		These paragraphs are as follows: Subject to the "public interest" test, information relating	
		to:	
		 Para 1 – <u>any individual;</u> 	
		• Para 2 – the identity of any individual;	
		• Para 3 – <u>financial or business affairs;</u>	
		• Para 4 – <u>labour relations matters;</u>	
		Para 5 – <u>legal professional privilege;</u>	
		• Para 6 – <u>a notice, order or direction;</u>	
		Para 7 – the prevention, investigation or	
		prosecution of crime;	
		may need to be considered as 'exempt'.	



REDDITCH BAROUGH COUNCI

LICENSING

Committee

11th July 2012

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Andrew Fry (Chair), Councillor Luke Stephens (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Joe Baker, Juliet Brunner, Michael Chalk, Pattie Hill, Roger Hill and Gay Hopkins

Officers:

C Flanagan and A Fox

Committee Officer:

P Ross

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Gandy, King and Mason.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Baker declared that he had a disclosable pecuniary interest in agenda item 24 (Taxi Rank Redditch Town Centre – Short Stay Car parking) and stated that his business premises was located on Unicorn Hill and withdrew from the meeting during the discussion of this item.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the Licensing Committee held on 9th January 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. STREET TRADING - AMENDMENT

The Committee received a report that detailed an amendment to the Borough's Street Trading Policy and the application process.

The Senior Licensing Practitioner introduced the report and in doing so informed Members that the current Street Trading Application process required the applicant to provide a Basic Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) Disclosure.

Chair

Members were further informed that although a CRB was required there was no standard set or guidance given within the Street Trading Policy to identify if an offence/caution/conviction justified a review or refusal of a Street Trading Consent.

The Senior Licensing Practitioner and Principal Solicitor responded to Members' questions with regard to Street Traders operating in isolated areas and the potential risk to children. The Principal Solicitor informed the Committee that the Council was not been asked to determine if the applicant was a 'fit and proper person' to be granted a Consent and was it a reasonable requirement requesting a Basic CRB Disclosure; as during the application process relevant agencies, including the Police, were consulted with and that prior to the granting of a Street Trading Consent the Council would pay particular attention to the views of the Police and any other agency consulted with.

Further discussion followed on Street Traders in other authorities and if the requirement of a Basic CRB Disclosure for Street Traders was fair and proportionate. The Senior Licensing Practitioner informed Members that no other authority required applicants to provide a Basic CRB Disclosure.

On the matter being put to the vote and with the Chairman having the casting vote it was

RESOLVED that

1) applicants for a Street Trading Consent no longer be required to undertake a Basic Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) Disclosure.

5. THE LICENSING ACT 2003 AS AMENDED BY THE POLICE REFORM AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT 2011

The Committee received a report on an amendment to the Police Reform and Social Responsibilities Act 2011 in relation to the suspension of Premises Licenses and Club Premises Licenses due to non payment of fees.

The Senior Licensing Practitioner introduced the report and in doing so informed Members that currently non payment of fees were only recoverable as a civil debt and the licence itself remained in force and the premises could legitimately continue to trade year after year whilst owing the Licensing Authority money. The amendment to the Licensing Act 2003 enabled the Licensing Authority to suspend licences until the debt was paid, once paid the licence would be reinstated.

11th July 2012

The Senior Licensing Practitioner responded to Members' questions with regard to information received by licence holders. Members were informed that in future licence holders would receive an annual invoice from the Council's finance department together with a statement reminding them of their duty to pay the invoice in a timely manner and the consequences of failure to do so. If the Council suspends a licence, the holder will be notified in writing specifying the date on which the suspension takes effect.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the report be noted; and
- 2) the Scheme of Delegation be amended to authorise the Head of Worcestershire Regulatory Services to suspend Premises and Club Premises Licenses following non payment of fees.

6. TAXI RANK REDDITCH TOWN CENTRE - SHORT STAY CAR PARKING

The Committee received a report on the Unicorn Hill Hackney Carriage rank and the proposed amendments to the Unicorn Hill Hackney Carriage rank to reduce the number of spaces by four during the day with the rank remaining in its present state during the evening.

The Senior Licensing Practitioner introduced the report and in doing so informed the Committee of the petitions received by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 24th May 2011 and 24th January 2012 and the Executive Committee on 31st January 2012 where is was RESOLVED that:

"Officers facilitate a meeting with relevant partner agencies and stakeholders, including the petitioners, to discuss proposals for short stay car parking in the town centre".

As detailed in the report a meeting was facilitated on 1st March 2012, but a member of staff from Licensing was unavailable to attend the meeting to highlight the implications and problems in creating and amending the rank and that any proposed changes to the rank would need to be subject to a full 12 week consultation with those affected including the taxi trade. A further meeting was held on 9th May 2012 with all parties present where it was suggested a report be submitted to the Licensing Committee for Members to determine whether or not officers should conduct a 12

LICENSING Committee

11th July 2012

week consultation on the proposed amendments to the Unicorn Hill Hackney Carriage Rank.

The Senior Licensing Practitioner responded to Members' questions with regard to the potential cost of the consultation and the proposed changes should the rank be amended.

RESOLVED that

1) Officers conduct a 12 week consultation with all parties on the proposed amendments to the Unicorn Hill Hackney Carriage rank to reduce the spaces by four during the day, but in the evening the rank to remain in its present state.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm and closed at 7.53 pm

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Agenda Item 4

LICENSING COMMITTEE

17th December 2012

GAMBLING ACT 2005 - STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES - REVIEW

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Rebecca Blake, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Regulatory Services
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Steve Jorden – Head of Worcestershire Regulatory Services
Wards Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor Consulted	N/A
Non-Key Decision	

1. <u>SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS</u>

To advise members of the outcome of the recent consultation exercise undertaken with stakeholders in relation to the 2013 -2016 Statement of Gambling Principles and invite Members to make a recommendation that the updated Statement be adopted.

2. <u>RECOMMENDATIONS</u>

The Committee is requested to RECOMMEND that

the outcome of the consultation exercise be noted and the 2013 -2016 Statement of Gambling Principles be adopted from 31st January 2013.

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

3.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report, other than statutory consultation with licence holders and other interested parties.

Legal Implications

- 3.2 Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005 requires all licensing authorities to prepare and publish a statement of the principles that they propose to apply in exercising their functions under the Act during the three year period to which the policy applies.
- 3.3 The statement of Policy will last for a maximum of three years but can be reviewed and revised by the authority at any time. The statement must be produced following consultation with the bodies specified in section 349(3) of the Gambling Act.

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LICENSING COMMITTEE

17th December 2012

- 3.4 In addition to the legislative requirements guidance issued by the Gambling Commission sets out certain information that the Commission considered should be included in all licensing authority Statements of Policy.
- 3.5 If it is anticipated that there may be changes to the Gambling Act before the next Statement is published. Any relevant changes will be brought to the attention of the Licensing Committee by way of report.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.6 The Gambling Act requires the Council to carry out a review of its Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Gambling Principles which is used to determine all applications made under the terms of the Act, every three years.
- 3.7 The Council adopted its current Statement of Principles in December 2009. A review of the current document has now been completed. In conducting the review the Council as Licensing Authority consulted with all interested parties to ensure that the policy continues to reflect the local balance between the commercial interests of the licensed trade and the communities they serve and impact on.
- 3.8 The current Statement of Gambling Principles is due to expire in December 2012 and a new Statement of Principles must be in place by 31st January 2013.
- 3.9 The Statement of Gambling Principles was originally written in conjunction with the County Licensing Group representing all the district councils within Worcestershire. Since the introduction of Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) in June 2010 the responsibility for overseeing gambling issues generally rests with officers from WRS.
- 3.10 A copy of the 2013 -2016 Statement of Gambling Principles is attached at **APPENDIX 1**. Officers can advise that there have been no significant changes to the legislation or guidance affecting gambling since the previous Statement of Principles was adopted by the Council. Members will see that subject to a limited number of very minor changes the new document that has been consulted on and is to be adopted is essentially the same in content as the previous version.
- 3.11 Members of the Licensing Committee received an earlier report on this matter on 2nd July 2012 and authorised officers to proceed with a 12 week consultation exercise. The consultation period commenced and closed on 17th October 2012. During the Consultation process, the following bodies were consulted -

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17th December 2012

- The Chief Police Officer for the Borough
- Hereford & Worcestershire Fire Authority
- Worcestershire County Council Child Protection
- Persons representing the interests of those carrying on gambling businesses in the Borough
- Persons representing the interests of those who are likely to be affected by the exercise of Redditch Borough Councils functions under the Gambling Act 2005.
- All Borough Councillors
- Feckenham Parish Council
- Consultation document was also featured on the Council web page.
- 3.12 Each Licensing Authority in Worcestershire has conducted a review of their Statement of Gambling Principles. Officers can confirm that no responses were received within the consultation period countywide.
- 3.13 A response was received from Redditch Community Safety Partnership which expressed concerns of a Crime and Disorder nature that so far have not been an issue in the administration of the Gambling function. Unfortunately this response was out of time and Officers explained that the Gambling Commission vetted all applicants; and that the Licensing Authority was responsible for ensuring the premises were fit for the licensable activity that the applicant intended to carry out.
- 3.14 Accordingly, Members are asked to consider this report and make a recommendation to Executive Committee that the 2013-2016 Statement of Gambling Principles be adopted.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

Failure to consult on the Statement of Gambling Principles will result in the Council failing to exercise its duty under the requirements of the Gambling Act 2005.

5. <u>APPENDICES</u>

Appendix 1 2013 -2016 Statement of Gambling Principles

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Gambling Commission Guidance to Local Authorities.

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LICENSING COMMITTEE AUTHOR OF REPORT

17th December 2012

Name:Sue Garratt – Licensing Manager
Worcestershire Regulatory ServicesE Mail:sue.garratt@worcsregservices.gov.ukTel:01527 534196

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Gambling Act 2005

Statement of Principles

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Appendices

- Appendix A Map of the Borough of Redditch
- Appendix B List of Consultees

Statement of Principles – Gambling Act 2005

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Redditch Borough Council is situated in the County of Worcestershire, which contains 6 District Councils in total. The Council area has a population of 78,807 (2001 Census) and covers an area of 5,435 hectares (13,430 acres) making it the smallest in the County in terms of population and area.

The Borough of Redditch consists of 2 distinct areas:-

- An essentially urban area, which includes a vibrant and thriving town centre and smaller centres within local districts; and
- An essentially rural area, which includes the villages of Astwood Bank, Feckenham, Elcocks Brook and Ham Green.

The Borough and its address districts are shown in the map at Appendix 'A'.

- 1.2 Redditch Borough Council's overall vision is "an enterprising community which is safe, clean and green" This statement accords with that vision in seeking to promote the licensing objectives set out in the Act, which are central to the regulatory regime created by the Act. These are:
 - Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime;
 - Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way, and
 - Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.
- 1.3 The Licensing Authority has produced this statement as required by Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005 (referred to in this statement as "the Act") and having had regard to the Gambling Commission's formal guidance issued under Section 25 of the Act, the licensing objectives and to the views of those that the Licensing Authority have consulted. The Licensing Authority consulted widely upon this statement before finalising and publishing. The list of those persons and organisations consulted is appended. The consultation took place between June and October 2012 in line with HM Government Code of Practice on Consultation. The policy was approved at a meeting of the Full Council on XXXXXXXX. Should you have any comments with regards to this policy statement please send them via email or letter to: wrslicensing@worcsregservices.gov.uk.

This statement must be published at least every three years. The statement may also be reviewed from 'time to time' and any amended parts re-consulted upon.

- 1.4 The Licensing Authority intends that this document should provide information and guidance on the general approach that the Licensing Authority will take to licensing. A series of advice sheets with more specific guidance is available on request; advice tailored to individuals is available by phone or to personal callers.
- 1.5 Nothing in this policy takes away the right of any person to make an application under the Act and to have that application considered on its merits; nor does it undermine the right of any person to object to an application or to seek a review of a licence where the law provides that they may do so. Applications will be considered in line with our statement of general principles, below.

2.0 Gambling Act 2005

- 2.1 This policy reflects our key priorities to be a well managed organisation; with a vision statement of an enterprising community which is safe, clean and green to provide sustainable culture and leisure opportunities; and to work with the public and our partners.
- 2.2 The Act provides for gambling to be authorised in a number of different ways. Our main functions are to:
 - licence premises for gambling activities, including the issue of provisional statements;
 - regulate and grant permits for gambling and gaming machines in clubs, including commercial clubs,
 - regulate gaming and gaming machines in alcohol licensed premises;
 - grant permits to family entertainment centres for the use of certain lower stake gaming machines;
 - grant permits for prize gaming;
 - receive and endorse notices given for the temporary use notices;
 - receive occasional use notices for betting at tracks;
 - register small societies lotteries;
 - Maintain public registers; and
 - Provide information to the Gambling Commission on issued licences.
- 2.3 The Gambling Commission regulates remote gambling and issues personal and operating licences for premises. Spread betting is regulated by the Financial Services Authority. The "National Lottery" is regulated by the National Lottery Commission.

3.0 Authorised Activities

- 3.1 'Gambling' is defined in the Act as gaming, betting, or taking part in a lottery.
 - gaming means playing a game of chance for a prize;
 - betting means making or accepting a bet on the outcome of a race, competition, or any other event; the likelihood of anything occurring or not occurring; or whether anything is true or not, and
 - a lottery is an arrangement where persons are required to pay in order to take part in an arrangement whereby one or more prizes are allocated by a process which relies wholly on chance.

4.0 General Statement of Principles

- 4.1 In carrying out the licensing functions in accordance with the Act, particularly with regard to premises licences, the Licensing Authority will generally aim to permit the use of premises for gambling as long as it is considered to be :-
 - in accordance with any relevant Codes of Practice issued by the Gambling Commission;
 - in accordance with any relevant Guidance issued by the Gambling Commission; in accordance with this Statement of Principles, and
 - reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives.
- 4.2 The Licensing Authority will not seek to use the Act to resolve matters that are better dealt with by other legislation. Licensing is not the primary mechanism for general control of nuisance and the antisocial behaviour of people once they are away from licensed premises.

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- 4.3 The Licensing Authority will ensure that in dealing with applications under the Act the Licensing Authority follows the required procedures, and only takes into account issues that are relevant. Specifically the Licensing Authority will not have regard to "demand" when considering applications for gambling premises; nor will the Licensing Authority consider the suitability of applicants for premises licences (which is a matter for the Gambling Commission). The Licensing Authority will not reject an application on moral grounds. If the Licensing Authority decides to reject an application, the Licensing Authority will make known the reasons for doing so.
- 4.4 The Council has delegated its licensing function to its Licensing Sub-Committee and Licensing Officers. In the remainder of this Statement of Principles they are referred to collectively as the 'Licensing Authority'.
- 4.5 Where an application is for a new premises licence, the responsible authorities may visit to check that gambling facilities meet all necessary legal requirements.
- 4.6 Where there are no representations (objections), licences and permissions will be granted subject only to any appropriate mandatory conditions (Section 167 of the Act) and any conditions having at least the effect of appropriate default conditions made under Section 168.
- 4.7 If there are objections that can't be resolved informally, or the Licensing Authority intends to impose extra conditions, the Licensing Authority will hold a public hearing at which the licensing sub-committee will hear evidence and make a decision in accordance with the Act.
- 4.8 This statement is not intended to override the right of any person to make an application under the Act, and to have that application considered on its merits. Equally, this Statement of Principles is not intended to undermine the right of any person to make representations about an application or to seek a review of a licence where provision has been made for them to do so.

5.0 Preventing gambling from being a source of crime and disorder

- 5.1 The Gambling Commission takes the leading role in preventing gambling from being a source of crime, and maintains rigorous licensing procedures aiming to prevent criminals from providing facilities for gambling. Applicants need an operating licence from the Commission before the Licensing Authority will issue a licence to use premises for gambling.
- 5.2 The Licensing Authority will not issue a premises licence to someone who does not hold an operator's licence, the Licensing Authority is not generally concerned with the suitability of an applicant. Where concerns about a person's suitability arise the Licensing Authority will bring those concerns to the attention of the Commission.
- 5.3 If an application for a licence or permit is received in relation to premises which are in an area noted for particular problems with organised crime, the Licensing Authority will, in consultation with the Police and other relevant authorities, consider whether specific controls need to be applied to prevent those premises from being a source of crime. This could include a requirement for Security Industry Authority registered door supervisors.
- 5.4 Disorder will only be considered under this Act if it amounts to activity which is more serious and disruptive than mere nuisance, and where it can be shown that gambling is the source of that disorder. A disturbance might be serious enough to constitute disorder if police assistance was required to deal with it; the Licensing Authority will then consider how

threatening the behaviour was to those who could see or hear it, and whether those people live sufficiently close to be affected or have business interests that might be affected.

- 5.5 "Disorder" is generally a matter for the Police; the Licensing Authority will not use this Act to deal with general nuisance issues, for example, parking problems, which can be better dealt with using alternative powers.
- 5.6 When making decisions relating to disorder, the Licensing Authority will give due weight to comments made by the police.

6.0 Ensuring gambling is conducted in a fair and open way

- 6.1 The Gambling Commission does not expect local authorities to become concerned with ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way. The Commission, through the operating and personal licensing regime, will regulate the management of the gambling business and the suitability and actions of an individual.
- 6.2 Because betting track operators do not need an operating licence from the Commission the Licensing Authority may, in certain circumstances, require conditions of licence relating to the suitability of the environment in which betting takes place.

7.0 Protecting children and vulnerable people from being harmed or exploited by gambling

- 7.1 The intention of the Act is that children and young persons should not be allowed to gamble, and should be prevented from entering those gambling premises which are 'adult-only' environments.
- 7.2 Codes of Practice, including advice about access by children and young persons may be published by the Gambling Commission for specific kinds of premises. Applicants will be expected to heed this advice where applicable.
- 7.3 The Licensing Authority expects steps to be taken to prevent children from taking part in, or being in close proximity to, gambling. This may include restrictions on advertising to ensure that gambling products are not aimed at children, nor advertised in such a way that makes them particularly attractive to children.
- 7.4 When determining a premises licence or permit the Licensing Authority will consider whether any additional measures are necessary to protect children, such as the supervision of entrances, the segregation of gambling from areas frequented by children and the supervision of gaming machines in non-adult gambling specific premises like pubs, clubs and betting tracks.
- 7.5 In seeking to protect vulnerable people the Licensing Authority will include people who gamble more than they want to, people who gamble beyond their means, and people who may not be able to make informed or balanced decisions about gambling, perhaps due to a mental impairment, alcohol or drugs.
- 7.6 The Licensing Authority will always treat each case on its own individual merits and when considering whether specific measures are required to protect children and other vulnerable people will balance these considerations against the overall principle of aiming to permit the use of premises for gambling.

8.0 Premises licences

8.1 A premises licence can authorise the provision of facilities at the following : 2013 -2016

• casino premises

- bingo premises
- betting premises, including betting tracks
- adult gaming centres
- family entertainment centres
- 8.2 Premises can be 'any place' but the Act generally prevents more than one premises licence applying to any one place. A single building could be subject to more than one premises licence provided they are for different parts of the building and those parts can be reasonably regarded as being separate 'premises'.
- 8.3 This will allow large, multiple unit premises such as tracks, shopping malls or service stations to obtain discrete premises licences, with appropriate safeguards in place. The Licensing Authority will pay particular attention if there are issues about sub-divisions of a single building or plot and mandatory conditions relating to access between premises are observed. The Licensing Authority will not consider that areas of a building that are artificially or temporarily separated, for example by ropes or moveable partition, can properly be regarded as different premises. Whether different parts of a building can properly be regarded as being separate premises will depend on the individual circumstances of the case.
- 8.4 A particular requirement might be for entrances and exits from parts of a building covered by one or more licences to be separate and identifiable so that the separation of the premises is not compromised and people are not allowed to 'drift' accidentally into a gambling area. It should normally be possible to access the premises without going through another licensed premises or premises with a permit. The Licensing Authority would also expect customers to be able to participate in the activity named on the premises licence.
- 8.5 The Secretary of State has appointed an independent Casino Advisory Panel to advise the Government on the areas in which small and/or large casinos may be located. The District of Redditch has not been identified as a suitable location for a casino; consequently the Licensing Authority will be prevented from granting a Casino Premises Licence.
- 8.6 The Licensing Authority will not turn down applications for premises licences where relevant objections can be dealt with through the use of licence conditions.
- 8.7 Other than an application for a betting premises licence for a track, the Licensing Authority are not able to issue a premises licence unless the applicant holds the relevant operating licence from the Gambling Commission.
- 8.8 When considering applications for premises licences the Licensing Authority will not take into account either the expected 'demand' for facilities or the likelihood of planning permission or building regulation approval being granted, as well as 'moral' objections to gambling. Equally, the grant of a premises licence would not prejudice or prevent any action that may be appropriate under the law relating to planning or building regulations.
- 8.9 The Licensing Authority are aware that demand issues cannot be considered with regard to the location of premises but that considerations in terms of the licensing objectives are relevant to our decision-making. Should any specific policy be decided upon as regards areas where gambling premises should not be located, this statement will be updated.
- 8.10 The Licensing Authority will only issue a premises licence once the Licensing Authority are satisfied that the premises is ready to be used for gambling in the reasonably near future, consistent with the scale of building or alterations required. If the construction of a

premises is not yet complete, or if they need afteration, or the applicant does not yet have a right to occupy them, then an application for a provisional statement should be made.

- 8.11 The Licensing Authority will apply a two stage consideration process if there is outstanding construction or alteration works at the premises:
 - should the premises be permitted to be used for gambling;
 - can appropriate conditions be imposed to cater for the situation that the premises is not yet in the state in which they should be before gambling takes place.
- 8.12 The Licensing Authority is entitled to decide whether or not it is appropriate to grant a licence subject to conditions.
- 8.13 Applicants for premises licences are encouraged to propose any prohibitions or restrictions of their own in circumstances where it is felt that the presence of children would be undesirable or inappropriate.
- 8.14 The Licensing Authority will maintain a public register of Premises Licence applications received which may be viewed at the Council Offices during normal office hours which are generally Monday Friday 9am until 5pm.

9.0 Responsible authorities

- 9.1 Responsible authorities are identified in the legislation, and have to be notified about licence applications so that they can identify any risks. The responsible authorities that the Licensing Authority recognises are listed below, contact details for each of the responsible authorities identified are available on our website www.redditchbc.gov.uk, and will be sent on request.
 - The Gambling Commission
 - The Chief of Police for the area
 - Fire & Rescue Service
 - Redditch Planning Department
 - Environmental Services Department
 - Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board
 - HM Revenue and Customs
 - Redditch Licensing Department
 - Any other bodies identified in Regulation by the Secretary of State,
 - For vessels, the Environment Agency, British Waterways Board, Secretary of State.
- 9.2 Any concerns expressed by a Responsible Authority cannot be taken into account unless they are relevant to the application itself and the licensing objectives. However, each representation will be considered on its own individual merits.

10.0 Interested Parties

- 10.1 An interested party is someone who:
 - lives sufficiently close to the premises to be likely to be affected by the authorised activities; or
 - has business interests that might be affected by the authorised activities; or
 - represents persons in either of the two groups above.
- 10.2 The Licensing Authority will generally require written evidence that a person/body 'represents' someone who either lives sufficiently close to the premises to be likely to be affected by the authorised activities and/or has business interests that might be affected by the authorised activities. A letter from one of these persons, requesting the representations is sufficient. Whilst this may not apply to those elected ward members or MP or Parish Councillors, those persons should be aware of the need to represent the whole of the community that they represent and not just the vocal 'minority'.
- 10.3 In determining whether someone lives sufficiently close to a particular premises so as to be affected, the Licensing Authority will take into account, among other things :
 - the size of the premises
 - the nature of the premises
 - the distance of the premises from the person making the representation
 - the nature of the complainant
 - the potential impact of the premises
- 10.4 In determining whether a person has a business interest which could be affected the Council will consider, among other things:
 - the size of the premises
 - the catchment area of the premises, and
 - whether the person making the representation has business interests in the catchment area that might be affected
- 10.5 If an existing gambling business makes a representation that it is going to be affected by another gambling business starting up in the area, the Licensing Authority would not consider this, in the absence of other evidence, as a relevant representation as it does not relate to the licensing objectives and instead relates to demand or competition.
- 10.6 The Licensing Authority may consider a representation to be either frivolous or vexatious, and reject it. This will generally be a matter of fact given the circumstances of each individual case but, before coming to a decision the Licensing Authority will normally consider:
 - who is making the representation and whether there is a history of making representations that are not relevant,
 - whether it raises an issue relevant to the licensing objectives, or
 - whether it raises issues specifically to do with the premises which are the subject of the application.

11.0 Licence conditions

11.1 In particular cases the Licensing Authority may find it necessary to impose conditions beyond appropriate mandatory and default conditions. Any such conditions will be relevant to the need to make the building suitable for use as a gambling facility; directly related to the premises and the type of licence applied for; fairly and reasonably related to the scale

and type of premises and reasonable in all other respects. The Licensing Authority will not have recourse to a pool of standard conditions.

- 11.2 The Licensing Authority will also ensure that where category C or above machines that are on offer in premises to which children are admitted are located in an area of the premises which is separated by a physical barrier to prevent access other than through a designated entrance; the designated area is supervised and observed by staff or the licence holder.
- 11.3 Examples of conditions which are likely to be attached in certain circumstances include those relating to opening hours, segregation of gambling from non-gambling areas frequented by children, SIA licensed door supervisors, appropriate signage for adult only areas, age limits, or keeping children and young persons away from gaming machines. The Licensing Authority will also expect the applicant to offer their own suggestions as to way in which the licensing objectives can be promoted effectively.
- 11.4 The Licensing Authority will not seek to control those matters specified in the Act with conditions:
 - which make it impossible to comply with an operating licence condition imposed by the Gambling Commission;
 - relating to gaming machine categories or method of operation;
 - which specify that membership of a club or other body is required; or
 - in relation to stakes, fees, winnings or prizes.
- 11.5 Duplication with other statutory or regulatory regimes will be avoided as far as possible. The need for conditions will be assessed on the specific merits of each application.

12.0 Gaming Machines

- 12.1 Gaming machines include all types of gambling activity which can take place on a machine, including betting on 'virtual' events.
- 12.2 The Act itself prescribes the number and category of gaming machines that are permitted in each type of gambling premises.
- 12.3 Subject to the provisions of the Act, gaming machines can be made available in a wide variety of premises, including:
 - Casinos;
 - bingo premises;
 - betting premises, (including tracks);
 - adult gaming centres;
 - family entertainment centres;
 - clubs;
 - pubs and other alcohol licensed premises;
 - travelling fairs.
- 12.4 A machine is not a gaming machine if the winning of a prize is determined purely by the player's skill. However, any element of 'chance' imparted by the action of the machine would bring it within the definition of a gaming machine.
- 12.5 The Licensing Authority will encourage permit and premises licence holders to adopt applicable codes of practice which may be introduced by the amusement industry or Gambling Commission, from time to time.

13.0 Temporary Use Notices

- 13.1 These allow the use of premises for gambling where there is no premises licence but where a gambling operator wishes to use the premises temporarily for providing facilities for gambling. The Licensing Authority would object to notices where it appears that their effect would be to permit regular gambling in a place that could be described as one set of premises. Premises that might be suitable for a temporary use notice would include hotels, conference centres and sporting venues. A temporary use notice may only be granted to a person or company holding a relevant operating licence.
- 13.2 Temporary use notices may only be used to permit the provision of facilities for equal chance gaming, where the gaming is intended to produce a single overall winner. Equal chance gaming is gaming which does not involve playing or staking against a bank and gives equally favourable chances to all participants. Examples of equal chance gaming include games such as backgammon, mah-jong, rummy, kalooki, dominoes, cribbage, bingo and poker.

14.0 Occasional Use Notices

14.1 The Licensing Authority has very little discretion as regards these notices aside from ensuring that the statutory limit of 8 days in a calendar year is not exceeded. Whilst tracks are normally thought of as permanent racecourses, this can also include land which has a number of uses for example agricultural land upon which a point-to-point meeting takes place. Land used temporarily as a track can qualify, provided races or sporting events take place or will take place there. The track need not be a permanent fixture.

15.0 Lotteries

- 15.1 All lotteries are unlawful unless they are run in accordance with an operating licence issued by the Gambling Commission - unless they are 'exempt' lotteries as defined by the Act. One of those exemptions is for "small society lotteries," which the Licensing Authority will allow, after registration. The Licensing Authority will maintain a register of small society lotteries.
- 15.2 A society will be allowed to register with us if it is 'non-commercial', in other words, if it is established and conducted:
 - for charitable purposes ;
 - for the purpose of enabling participation in, or of supporting, sport, athletic or a cultural activity; or
 - for any other non-commercial purpose other than for private gain.

16.0 Exchange of Information

- 16.1 To ensure the licensing objectives are met, the Licensing Authority will establish a close working relationship with the police, the Gambling Commission and, where appropriate, other responsible authorities.
- 16.2 Subject to the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998, the Licensing Authority will share any information it receives through the application process with the Gambling Commission and any relevant responsible authority. In doing so The Licensing Authority will have regard to the Act itself, any guidance issued by the Commission and to any Regulations issued by the Secretary of State. People can access personal information that The Licensing Authority holds about them by contacting our Information Management Officer.

- 16.3 The Licensing Authority is committed to being open about what it does and how The Licensing Authority comes to decisions, in accordance with the spirit of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). An important feature of the FOIA is the requirement for each public authority to produce a publication scheme setting out what information it will publish as a matter of course, how and when it will be published, and whether this information will be free of charge or on payment. Copies of our FOI publication scheme are available on request from Redditch our Information Management Officer or via the Council's website www.redditchbc.gov.uk.
- 16.4 FOIA also provides the public with a general right of access to information held by public authorities, and subject to exemptions, be supplied with a copy of that information. Individual requests should be made in writing to the Information Management Officer or via the Council's website.
- 16.5 Unless restricted by the Gambling Act, details about applications, licences and representations will be made available in our public register. Representations that The Licensing Authority accepts will be copied in their entirety to applicants, to provide an opportunity for mediation and to ensure that the rights of the applicant are not compromised.

17.0 Enforcement Protocols

- 17.1 The main enforcement and compliance role for the Licensing Authority in terms of the Gambling Act 2005 will be to ensure compliance with the Premises Licences and other permissions which it authorises. The Gambling Commission will be the enforcement body for the Operator and Personal Licences and will also take the lead role on the investigation and where appropriate, the prosecution of illegal gambling. Any concerns about manufacture, supply or repair of gaming machines will not be dealt with by the Licensing Authority but will be notified to the Gambling Commission.
- 17.2 The Licensing Authority will work with the Commission, the Police and other enforcing authorities, having regard to any specific guidance produced by the Gambling Commission, relevant codes of practice, the licensing objectives and this statement of principles, to provide for the targeting of agreed problem or high-risk premises. A lighter touch will be applied to those premises which are shown to be well managed and maintained.
- 17.3 The overall aim is to permit the use of premises for gambling. With that in mind it is intended that action will generally be taken against 'problem' premises through the licence review process.
- 17.4 The Licensing Authority will also be mindful of future developments as regard the work of the Better Regulation Executive whilst carrying out our regulatory functions.
- 17.5 The Licensing Authority will endeavour to be proportionate; accountable; consistent; transparent and targeted, as well as avoiding duplication with other regulatory regimes so far as possible.

18.0 Reviews

- 18.1 A review of a premises licence can be made by interested parties or responsible authorities, however, The Licensing Authority will decide if the review is to be carried out on the basis of the following:
 - In accordance with any relevant Code of Practice and/or guidance issued by the GC
 - Consistent with the licensing objectives
 - In accordance with our statement of principles.

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- 18.2 The Licensing Authority will also consider whether or not the request for a review is frivolous, vexatious, or repetitious or whether the Licensing Authority would wish to alter/revoke or suspend the licence.
- 18.3 The Licensing Authority can also initiate a review of a premises licence on the basis of any reason which The Licensing Authority think is appropriate, including if a premises licence holder has not provided facilities for gambling at the premises. This is to prevent people from applying for licences in a speculative manner without intending to use them.
- 18.4 Once a valid application for a review has been received by the Licensing Authority, representations can be made by responsible authorities and interested parties during the statutory consultation period. The purpose of the review will be to determine whether The Licensing Authority should take any action in relation to the licence. The options available are:
 - Add, remove or amend a licence condition;
 - Remove or amend a default condition, such as opening hours;
 - Suspend the premises licence for a period not exceeding 3 months;
 - Revoke the licence.

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES STATEMENT

This statement is intended to operate within the Council's commitment to equalities and diversity including:

- Equal treatment regardless of race, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, religion or belief, with reasonable adjustments where necessary in line with the Disability Discrimination Act.
- Working to eliminate *unlawful* discrimination.
- Promoting equal opportunities
- Promoting community cohesion, *including good relations between people from different racial groups*.
- Providing reasonable access to interpretation or support on request.
- Responding to the needs of all, and working to engage all sections of the community.

This statement will be assessed as part of a rolling programme of reviews to ensure that it does not have a detrimental or disproportionate effect on any group. Any concerns that the policy is operating in a way that could be construed as discriminatory should be passed to the responsible Manager and will be dealt with as part of the official Complaints Procedure, in line with the Council's Equality Schemes.



Appendix A



Redditch Borough Council Boundary

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List of Consultees

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

GAMBLING ACT 2005 – STATEMENT OF POLICY

LIST OF CONSULTEES

Statutory Consultees

- Licensing Officer, West Mercia Police, Police Station, Grove Street, Redditch, B98 8DD.
- Hereford & Worcester Fire & Rescue, North District, Kidderminster Fire Station, Castle Road, Kidderminster, DY11 6TH
- The Gambling Commission, 4th Floor, Victoria Square House, Victoria Square, Birmingham, B2 4BP
- Customs and Excise, HM Revenue & Customs, National Registration Unit, Portcullis House, 21 India Street, Glasgow, G2 4PZ.
- Service Development Manager (Safeguarding), Pavilion J/2 Children's Services, County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester, WR5 2NP.

Trade Associations

- Flint Bishop Solicitors, St Michaels Court, St Michaels Lane, Derby, DE1 3HQ.
- Leisureline, 10 Severn Road, Stourport, DY13 9EZ.
- Recaf Equipment Ltd, Stone Pointon Way, Stonebridge Cross Business Park, Droitwich, WR9 0LW.
- Gamestec Leisure Ltd, Low Lane, Horsforth, Leeds, LS18 4ER.
- Bromyard Automatics, Areley Farm, Burnthorne Lane, Dunley, Stourport, Worcs. DY13 0TL.
- Town & County Leisure Ltd, Langham House, 23 Bickford Road, Aston, Birmingham, B6 7EE.
- Crown Leisure Ltd, 139 Brookfield Place, Walton Summit Centre, Bamber Bridge, Preston, PR5 8BF.
- Punch Taverns Plc, Jubilee House, Second Avenue, Burton-Upon-Trent, Staffs, DE14 2WF
- Bathams Delph Limited, Delph Brewery, Delph Road, Brierley Hill, West Midlands, DY5 2TN
- Admiral Taverns Ltd, Suite H3, Steam Mill Business Centre, Steam Mill Street, Chester, CH3 5AN
- Enterprise Inns Plc, Monkspath Hall Road, Shirley, Solihull, B90 4SJ
- Premier Automatic Machines Ltd. Unit 9 Ninian Park, Ninian, Wilncote.
- M S Entertainments, 23a Hagley Road, Halesowen. B63 3AU.
- Claremont Automatics Ltd, 19 Churchill Way, Fleckney, Leicestershire, LE8 8UD.
- Games Media Licensing, 99 Green Lane, Hounslow, TW4 6BW.
- Sceptre Leisure Solutions Ltd, 139 Brookfield Place, Walton Summit Centre, Bamber Bridge, Preston, PR5 8BF.

Betting Offices within Redditch

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- SPR Sports Bookmakers Ltd, 10 Matchborough Centre, Matchborough Way, Redditch, Worcestershire, B98 0EP.
- Lodge Park Racing Ltd, 5A Shakespeare Avenue, Redditch. Worcestershire B98 7LB.
- Wilf Gilbert, 9 Alcester Street, Redditch. Worcs. B98 8AE,
- William Hill, 169 Batchley Road, Redditch, Worcs. B97 6JB.
- William Hill 19-21 Unicorn Hill, Redditch, Worcs. B97 4QR
- T & R Sports, 106 Evesham Road, Redditch, Worcs. B98 5ES.
- William Hill, 7 Woodrow Centre, Redditch, Worcs. B98 7RY.
- Coral 8-10 Unicorn Hill, Redditch, Worcs.
- SPR Sports Bookmakers Ltd, 1196a Evesham Road, Redditch, Worcs. B96 6AA.

Director of Services

- Acting Chief Joint Executive, Redditch Borough Council.
- Acting Deputy Chief Executive, Redditch Borough Council.
- Director of Environment and Planning, Redditch Borough Council.
- Director of Housing, Leisure and Customer Services, Redditch Borough Council.

Interested Parties

- All Council Members, Redditch Borough Council
- All other relevant Council Officers. (Legal, Committee Services)

Solicitors

- Roger Etchells Chartered Surveyors, The Old Bank, Kilwarby Street, Ashby De La Zouch, Leicestershire, LE65 2FR
- TLT Solicitors 1 Redcliff Street, Bristol. BS1 6TP
- Flint Bishop Solicitors, St Michaels Court, St Michaels Lane, Derby DE1 3HQ.
- Gosschalks Solicitors, Queens Gardens, Hull, HU1 3DZ.
- Bryan Colley & Co, 16 New Street, Stourport, Worcs. DY13 8UW.
- Kenneth Curtis & Co, 3 Alcester Street, Redditch, Worcs.
- Ian McLachlan Solicitor, 12 Church Green East, Redditch.
- Kerwoods Solicitors, 7 Church Road, Redditch, Worcs. B7 4AD.
- Thursfields, 14 Church Street, Kidderminster, Worcs. DY10 2AJ.
- Davis Priest & Co, Solicitors 24 Church Green East, Redditch, B98 8DE
- Browning & Co,. Alcester Street, Redditch, Worcs.
- John Gaunt & Partners, Omega Court, 372 Cemetery Road, Sheffield, S11 8FT.
- Maitland Walker, 19 Imperial Square, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 1QZ
- Poppleston Allen, 37 Stoney Street, The Lace Market, Nottingham, NG1 1LS.
- Locket & Co, Lockett House, 13 Church Street, Kidderminster, Worcs. DY10 2AH.

<u>Bingo Halls</u>

• Shipleys Luxury Bingo Club, The Quadrant, Redditch, Worcs. B98 8AE.

Amusement Arcades within Redditch

• Shipleys Amusement Centre, 21-22 Church Green East, Redditch, Worcs. B98 0DE..

Other Consultees

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- Gamblers Anonymous, Bromsgrove Methodist Centre, 19 Stratford Road, Bromsgrove, Worcs. B60 1AS.
- Citizens Advice Bureau, Redditch CAB, Suite E, Canon Newton House, Kingfisher Shopping Centre, Redditch, B97 4HA.
- Redditch Borough Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership.
- Drug Alcohol Action Team, Worcester County Council, County Hall, Worcester, Worcs., WR5 2NP
- Licensing Section, Wychavon District Council.
- Licensing Section, Wyre Forest District Council
- Licensing Section, Worcester City Council.
- Licensing Section, Malvern Hills District Council.
- Licensing Section, Bromsgrove District Council.

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LICENSING COMMITTEE

17th December 2012

ACCESS FOR DISABLED PEOPLE TASK GROUP - REFERRAL REPORT

Relevant Portfolio Holders	Councillor Phil Mould, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Management and Councillor Rebecca Blake, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Regulatory Services
Portfolio Holders Consulted	The Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Regulatory Services was present at the meeting of the Executive Committee on 21st August 2012 when Members endorsed the group's recommendations. There has been no direct consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Management.
Relevant Heads of Service	Head of Regulatory Services.
Ward(s) Affected	All wards
Non-Key Decision	

1. <u>SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS</u>

The report provides a summary of the findings and recommendations made by the Access for Disabled People Task Group on the subject of taxi licensing. This report should be considered alongside the Access for Disabled People Task Group's final report which provides a more detailed description of the review process, the evidence basis for the group's recommendations and the implications of proposed actions.

2. <u>RECOMMENDATIONS</u>

We RECOMMEND that

TAXI SERVICES

- taxi companies should be offered licences to operate adapted vehicles for a longer period of time than standard vehicles to incentivise taxi firms to increase the number of adapted vehicles in their fleets. The vehicles should be permitted to operate for these lengthier periods of time subject to passing the three inspection tests and the MOT that the Council's licensing regime requires for each vehicle;
- 2) taxi drivers should be offered disability awareness training, which would include information about manually assisting people with disabilities, by Redditch Borough Council;

Agenda Item 5

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LICENSING COMMITTEE

3. <u>KEY ISSUES</u>

Background

- 3.1 The Access for Disabled People Task Group review was commissioned in September 2011 by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The group consisted of five elected Members: Councillor Mason (Chair) and Councillors Fry, Hartnett, Quinney and former Councillor A. Clayton. An initial report was presented for the consideration of the Committee in April when Members concluded that further work was required. Following the elections in May 2012 Councillor Fry was appointed to Chair the group. In addition Councillors M Chalk and Smith were appointed to replace Councillor Hartnett and former Councillor A. Clayton. The group was tasked with completing this additional work by September 2012.
- 3.2 The main focus of the review was on the accessibility of Redditch Town Centre for people with disabilities. In particular, the group was tasked with scrutinising accessibility of local taxi services and public transport as well as provision of disabled parking spaces in the town centre. Members considered the needs and requirements of people with different types of disabilities including, mobility impairments, sensory impairments and learning disabilities.
- 3.3 During the first stage of the review evidence was obtained from a variety of sources. This included face-to-face interviews with representatives of local taxi firms, interviews with relevant Officers from Redditch Borough Council and scrutiny of written reports. The group also obtained information through consultation with local residents, particularly residents with disabilities.
- 3.4 The Executive Committee received the group's report on 21st August 2012. During the course of this meeting the Committee endorsed the group's recommendations. As part of this process the Executive Committee agreed to make the two recommendations for the consideration of the Council's Licensing Committee.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1: We RECOMMEND that taxi companies should be offered licences to operate adapted vehicles for a longer period of time than standard vehicles to incentivise taxi firms to increase the number of adapted vehicles in their fleets. The vehicles should be permitted to operate for these lengthier periods of time subject to passing the three inspection tests and the MOT that the Council's licensing regime requires for each vehicle

3.5 There are currently a small number of adapted vehicles licensed to operate as taxis in Redditch. In November 2011, when Members gathered data on this subject, there were four adapted hackney carriages and 10 adapted private hire vehicles, representing approximately two per cent of the taxi fleet. This

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compared favourably with Bromsgrove, Malvern Hills and Wychavon districts respectively where approximately one per cent of the local fleets consisted of adapted vehicles. However, it compared less favourably with Worcester City where 30 per cent of the fleet and Wyre Forest district where 50 per cent of the fleet consisted of adapted vehicles.

- 3.6 Licences are granted for both hackney carriage and private hire vehicles to operate until a vehicle is nine years old, though licences are not awarded to second hand vehicles that are more than six years old on the date of registration. New applications for licences must apply to vehicles that are accessible to wheelchairs. However, applications to renew existing licences do not currently require taxi drivers to purchase vehicles that are wheelchair accessible. Taxi firms can appeal to the Council's Licensing Committee to extend a licence for a further year once a vehicle reaches the age limit for a licence, though there is no guarantee that an extension to a licence will be granted.
- 3.7 The group were concerned about the relatively low number of adapted vehicles currently in the taxi fleets operating in Redditch and believed that action needed to be taken to increase provision to meet the needs of residents with disabilities. The number of adapted vehicles may gradually increase as new drivers apply for licences for new vehicles. However, this is likely to be a relatively slow process. Consequently the Councillors believe that incentives should be provided to encourage taxi firms to increase the number of adapted vehicles in local fleets.
- 3.8 A key incentive that the group believes would encourage an increase in the number of adapted vehicles would be to offer licences for an extended period of time for adapted vehicles. In this context, adapted vehicles would be awarded licences to operate for a number of years longer than standard vehicles.
- 3.9 The group has not specified the exact length that adapted vehicles should be licensed to operate. The Councillors believe that this should be determined by professional licensing practitioners and the Council's Licensing Committee as well as through consultation with taxi companies. The group would urge, though, consideration of a significant difference in the age range requirements to ensure that the licensing arrangement represents a viable incentive. A lengthier licence could enable a taxi company to justify the significant expenditure required to invest in an adapted vehicle, which costs more than a standard vehicle as the costs involved in purchasing the vehicle would be offset by the additional trade that could be attracted over an extended period of time.

Recommendation 2: We RECOMMEND that taxi drivers should be offered disability awareness training, which would include information about manually assisting people with disabilities, by Redditch Borough Council

3.10 The Councillors discovered during the review that Redditch Borough Council does not currently provide training to taxi drivers on the subject of disability awareness. A number of taxi companies based in Redditch have confirmed that

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they do provide training to their employees on the subject. However, the content of this training is determined by the taxi firm and it is likely that there will be varying standards and levels of disability awareness throughout the sector. Furthermore, representatives of local taxi companies have confirmed that there are some drivers operating adapted vehicles within the Borough who do not understand the specific needs of passengers with disabilities or how to securely fasten equipment used by people with disabilities such as wheelchairs.

- 3.11 Trained drivers will recognise that passengers with disabilities, particularly mobility impairments, often require assistance with both access and egress from a vehicle. In cases where a passenger is travelling in a wheelchair or mobility scooter the wheelchair needs to be securely locked into position which can be achieved where the breaks are applied. Sometimes, passengers with disabilities also require assistance from the driver when applying their seatbelts. Drivers need to be prepared to provide a smooth drive, may need to drive more slowly than usual and might need to consider routes that avoid road features such as speed bumps as all of these elements impact on the comfort of a wheelchair user when travelling in a vehicle.
- 3.12 Passengers with other forms of disability also require particular assistance. Vehicles coated in bright colours, particularly yellow vehicles, are more likely to be recognised by visually impaired passengers, who may also require space for the use of a guide dog. In addition, instructions provided in a variety of formats, including Braille or clear print, can help passengers with sensory impairments and learning difficulties.
- 3.13 Disability awareness training is provided to licensed drivers by other local authorities in the country. In Worcestershire this training can be provided by local colleges as well as the Driver Safety Operative at Worcestershire County Council, which already undertakes driving standards tests on behalf of the Council. There are also a number of external training providers, such as the Vassall Centre Trust, which can provide disability awareness training.
- 3.14 Disability awareness training for taxi drivers costs approximately £40.00 per person at the majority of local authorities where training is currently provided, though costs are likely to vary according to the fees charged by the training provider. A number of local authorities provide disability awareness training to taxi drivers free of charge, though the group was advised that the majority of local authorities charge participants. Any fees charged for this training are used to cover the costs involved in delivering the training rather than to generate a profit. The group believes that if disability awareness training is made available to taxi drivers operating in Redditch the Council should not have to cover the costs for the training. However, the Councillors recognise that some taxi companies would struggle to pay for all drivers to participate in this training. For this reason, the group is not proposing that the training should be mandatory for licensed drivers.
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3.15 The Councillors believe that taxi firms and drivers would benefit from participating in disability awareness training provided by the Council. The drivers would receive standard guidance on the particular needs of people with different types of disabilities. Participation in this training could also have a positive impact on the reputation of local taxi firms and help to increase business for those firms. The Councillors believe that drivers participating in this training should be provided with a qualification or certificate that proves they have been trained to achieve certain standards in service delivery to customers with disabilities.

Financial Implications

- 3.16 Redditch Borough Council currently charges £258.65 to renew a licence for both a Hackney Carriage Vehicle and a Private Hire Vehicle whilst new applications for both types of vehicles cost £323.65. In addition, drivers must purchase a driving licence at a cost of £56.85 for both types of vehicles each year, although a combined driving license covering both types of vehicles can also be purchased for £83.00. Further charges are levied for the Council's licensing inspection process. As part of this process each licensed vehicle is required to pass two inspections as well as an MOT every year. (Redditch Borough Council website, 'fees', 2012).
- 3.17 Adapted vehicles are currently expensive to purchase. A second-hand adapted vehicle can cost a minimum of £8,000. Taxi firms have advised that in practice adapted vehicles cost between £15,000 20,000 to purchase.

Legal Implications

3.18 There are a number of legal implications which are detailed, where relevant, in relation to each of the recommendations in the Access for Disabled People Task Group's final report.

Service / Operational Implications

3.19 The actions proposed in both of these recommendations would constitute a change to licensing policy in the Borough. Any changes within the licensing regime require consultation to be undertaken over a twelve week period. All interested parties would need to be consulted during this period including: taxi drivers, vehicle owners, taxi operator, West Mercia Police and groups representing people with disabilities.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

3.20 The Equality Act 2010 focused on the needs of people with protected characteristics, which includes disabilities. Public bodies, including local authorities, have a lawful duty of regard to: eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not; and foster good

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relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. The findings and actions detailed in the Access for Disabled People Task Group report should enable Redditch Borough Council to pay due regard to the needs of people with disabilities living in the Borough in line with these legislative requirements.

3.11 The group attempted to consult widely with local residents, particularly residents with disabilities, during the review. A variety of consultation methods were used which included issuing questionnaires to the public, consulting the Redditch Access for Disabled Group and meeting with members of the Redditch Older People's Forum. The information provided by residents through consultation was addressed further during interviews with expert witnesses and in the group's final recommendations.

4. **<u>RISK MANAGEMENT</u>**

The group's findings and recommendations need to be considered in detail. There is a risk that if this does not occur the extent to which Redditch Borough Council has paid due regard to the needs of people with disabilities may be open to question.

5. <u>APPENDICES</u>

Appendix A - Extract from the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting on 21st August 2012.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Access for Disabled People Task Group - Final Report.

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Jess Bayley, Democratic Services Officer, on behalf of the Access for Disabled People Task Group

email: jess.bayley@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

Tel.: (01527) 64252 Extn: 3268



Executive

www.redditchbc.gov.uk

MINUTES

Committee

Tuesday, 21 August 2012

Present:

Councillor Bill Hartnett (Chair), Councillor Greg Chance (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Rebecca Blake, Michael Braley, Carole Gandy, Mark Shurmer and Debbie Taylor

Also Present:

Councillors Andrew Fry and Alan Mason

Officers:

C Flanagan, S Hanley, S Jones, T Kristunas, J Pickering, J Staniland, A de Warr and M Wright

Democratic Services Officer:

J Bayley

Minute 48

ACCESS FOR DISABLED PEOPLE TASK GROUP

Councillors Andrew Fry and Alan Mason, joint Chairs of the Access for Disabled People Task Group, presented the final report prepared on behalf of the Group to the Executive Committee.

The Committee was advised that the review had been launched by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee because Members believed it was important to ensure that people with all types of disabilities could access Redditch town centre. The review had focused specifically on access arrangements for people travelling by bus or taxi and had also considered provision of disabled parking spaces in the town centre.

The review had been completed in two stages. The majority of evidence had been gathered during the first stage of the review, which was completed in April 2012. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee had agreed that further work was required and this had formed the basis of the second stage of the review from May – August 2012.

Chair

Executive Committee

Members were advised that Councillor Fry had replaced Councillor Mason as the Chair of the review in May 2012. This change had occurred because there was a constitutional requirement for the Chairs of Task Groups to also be members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. However, Members expressed concerns that changes to the chairing arrangements for a Task Group in the middle of a review had implications for the consistency of the exercise. For this reason Members commented that this requirement should be considered in further detail by the Constitutional Review Working Party.

The map displaying the location of disabled parking spaces in the town centre, which had been produced at the request of the Task Group, was discussed by the Committee. Members suggested that the map would need to be produced in a simplified format in order to be a useful tool for residents and visitors. Furthermore, The Committee agreed that a small number of paper copies of the map should be made available to the public on demand.

The Committee noted that one of the group's proposals was for a disability awareness training session to be delivered to Members. The subject was considered to be particularly useful for new Members and it was suggested that this session could be incorporated into the Member induction process.

Arrangements in place to enable Members to report dropped kerbs were also considered. The Committee acknowledged that many experienced Members would be familiar with the process. However, newly elected Members would appreciate further information about the process for requesting dropped kerbs to Worcestershire County Council.

RESOLVED that

- a user friendly version of the map (detailed in Appendix E of the main report) demonstrating the location of disabled parking spaces and Shopmobility in Redditch town centre should be produced and promoted on the Council's website, on the Redditch Matters e-magazine and on the Palace Theatre's website and should be promoted to local businesses to use;
 - a) the contents of this map should be reviewed every twelve months to ensure that the information remains accurate;
- 2) Redditch Borough Council should work with the Redditch Town Centre Partnership, Worcestershire County Council's Highways Department and the Kingfisher

Shopping Centre to introduce collection and delivery points in the town centre that could be used by vehicles transporting people with disabilities;

- a disability awareness session should be delivered as part of the Member Development Programme at Redditch Borough Council;
- 4) ward Members should be made aware that they can use their knowledge of the local community to assess the condition of the pavements and dropped kerbs located in their wards and report their findings for the consideration of Worcestershire County Council's Highways Department and Redditch Borough Council's Environmental Services;
- 5) the Council's Planning Department should consider arranging for funding from Section 106 agreements to be allocated to the installation of tactile signage in the town centre for the use of people with sensory impairments;
- 6) Officers undertake further work into the following areas that should be reported for the consideration of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and subsequently by the Executive Committee at a later date:
 - a) a review of the potential to install a canopy over the ramp access to Shopmobility; and
 - a joint review in partnership with Apollo 2000 of the potential for the Council to undertake landscaping work in the company's car park in return for using the car park as a collection and delivery point for Dial a Ride vehicles;
 - c) a joint review with the Kingfisher Shopping Centre, concerning the potential activation of the RNIB React system in the centre;
 - d) a review of the implications of introducing disabled parking spaces and a Dial a Ride collection and delivery point in the former covered market area, as detailed in Appendix E;
- 7) to note the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's decision in relation to the group's following eleventh recommendation, which was determined on 14th August 2012:

Committee

the Overview and Scrutiny Committee should receive the following update reports in six months time:

- a) an update concerning the support provided by Officers to the Redditch Disabled Access Group in relation to disability issues;
- b) a report monitoring the implementation of the group's recommendations;

RECOMMENDED to the Licensing Committee that

- 8) taxi companies should be offered licences to operate adapted vehicles for a longer period of time than standard vehicles to incentivise taxi firms to increase the number of adapted vehicles in their fleets. The vehicles should be permitted to operate for these lengthier periods of time subject to passing the three inspection tests and the MOT that the Council's licensing regime requires for each vehicle;
- taxi drivers should be offered disability awareness training, which would include information about manually assisting people with disabilities, by Redditch Borough Council;

RECOMMEND that

- 10) Worcestershire County Council's Transport Department should work with local bus operators to apply for any future Better Buses Area Funding from the Department for Transport to finance the installation of audio-visual equipment on buses operating in Redditch Borough; and
- 11) Redditch Town Centre Partnership work with the Kingfisher Shopping Centre to introduce additional seating in the Kingfisher Shopping Centre, involving an investigation of the ergonomics of the seating provided.

The Meeting commenced at 7.04 pm and closed at 9.03 pm

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Agenda Item 6

LICENSING COMMITTEE

17th December 2012

UPDATE ON SHORT STAY PARKING/TAXI RANK REDDITCH TOWN CENTRE

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Rebecca Blake
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Steve Jorden – Head of
	Worcestershire Regulatory Services
Wards Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor Consulted	N/A
Non-Key Decision	

1. <u>SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS</u>

To receive a report following the 12 week consultation on the short stay parking and the Hackney Carriage rank on Unicorn hill.

2. <u>RECOMMENDATIONS</u>

The Committee is asked to consider

whether or not to reduce the Unicorn Hill taxi rank by four spaces during the day whilst maintaining its current status during the evening.

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

3.1 There are no financial implications to Redditch Borough Council if Members decide not to reduce the rank by four spaces. However, if the Committee decides to agree to the removal of four of the Hackney Carriage rank spaces the costs of changes to road markings will have to be borne by the Highways department of Worcestershire County Council. Members are referred to paragraph 3.16 of this report which refers to this issue.

Legal Implications

3.2 Under Section 63 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the Borough Council may from time to time appoint ranks for Hackney Carriage for the whole or any part of a day in any highway in the district which is maintainable at the public expense and, with the consent of the owner, on any land in the district which does not form part of a highway so maintainable and may from time to time vary the number of Hackney Carriages permitted to be at each stand.

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LICENSING COMMITTEE

17th December 2012

- 3.3 In the absence of any right of appeal set out in the legislation, the decision of the Committee on this matter could only be challenged through an application for judicial review.
- 3.4 Before appointing any rank or varying the numbers to be at each rank, the Council is required to notify the Police for the areas in which the stands will be situated.
- 3.5 A District Council may not appoint a rank:
 - a) so as unreasonably to prevent access to any premises;
 - so as to impede the use of bus stops, or in such a position to interfere with access to any station or depot of any passenger road transport operations, except with the consent of those operators;
 - c) on any highway except with the consent of the Highways Authority.
- 3.6 It is necessary for ranks to be signed and the road marked out accordingly.

Service / Operational Implications

<u>History</u>

- 3.7 A petition (Petition 1) was received by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 24th May 2011 from the Business Owners/traders located in Unicorn Hill, Redditch, whose concern was the detrimental effect on trade which has arisen since the siting of a taxi rank on the left side of Unicorn Hill (looking down the hill from the Churchyard).
- 3.8 The Committee on the 24th May 2011 referred the petition to the Council's Licensing Committee for further consideration.
- 3.9 The Licensing Committee considered the petition on 14th July 2011.
- 3.10 The petitioners requested that the rank either be moved or the hours of operation restricted. Following receipt of the petition licensing staff conducted a short consultation exercise with the relevant agencies, West Mercia Police, West Mercia Road Traffic Management Police, Redditch Taxi Association (the trade) and Worcestershire County Council.
- 3.11 The consensus amongst those consulted was that the current position/location of the Hackney Carriage rank on Unicorn Hill was the

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17th December 2012

most ideal location to service members of the public that side of the town. The Committee therefore decided as follows:-

The Committee RESOLVED that

- 1) the Petition and the report be noted; and
- 2) no further action be taken.

Current Petition

- 3.12 A further petition (Petition 2) was then received regarding the provision of short stay parking in the Town Centre on the 29th November 2011. (Appendix 1).
- 3.13 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee received the petition on the 29th November 2011 and resolved to defer to the meeting on 24th January.
- 3.14 On January 24th 2012 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the petition. The lead petitioner and other members of the public invited to speak expressed concern that the absence of a short stay car parking facility on Unicorn Hill was compromising the function of local businesses. It was felt that this was having a negative effect on business, particularly as suppliers were currently unable to park outside a particular unit for a short period to drop off supplies. The petitioners did not feel that the facility for short stay car parking on Bates Hill was sufficient to meet the needs of local business and customers. Members of the public invited to speak commented that not only did they represent the views of their business colleagues on Unicorn Hill on this issue, but also their customers.
- 3.15 Officers explained that a town centre parking meeting had been held on 2nd December 2011 to facilitate further discussion on the matter. It was the opinion of relevant agencies, including the Police and the Worcestershire County Council, that there were no other suitable locations in the town centre for short-stay car parking, including Unicorn Hill.
- 3.16 The Executive Committee of 31st January 2012 received a referral from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding the above petition. The Executive Committee;

RESOLVED that

Officers hold a meeting with relevant agencies and stakeholders, including the petitioners, to discuss proposals for short stay car parking in the town centre.

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LICENSING COMMITTEE

17th December 2012

Outcome of Town Centre Parking Meeting 1 March 2012

3.17 Please see attached minutes (Appendix 2), in summary;

County Councillor Clayton supported alterations to the following Traffic Orders to be carried out on a 12 month experimental basis. The Traffic Orders affected included Unicorn Hill as follows:-

- Unicorn Hill The 4 Taxi Rank spaces nearest the Traffic Signals be changed to limited waiting in the day, times to be the same as those on Bates Hill, and Taxi Rank at Night. Worcestershire County Council to incur costs for lines and signs associated with this.
- 3.18 A member of staff from Licensing was unable to attend the meeting held on 1st March to highlight the implications of making changes to the rank and to remind the meeting of the outcome of the previous petition received less than six months earlier. Therefore Licensing Officers asked for a meeting to be held to discuss the issues.
- 3.19 On 9th May 2012 a meeting was held where the matters of consultation with the Hackney Carriage trade, the costs to be incurred of amending the rank such as re-marking, new signage and advertising the rank were discussed.
- 3.20 These matters were reported to the Licensing Committee on the 12th July 2012 updating Members on the issue and requesting whether or not a 12 week consultation should be conducted.
- 3.21 Following the Licensing Committee meeting of the 12th July 2012, Officers conducted a 12 week consultation and the closing date for responses was 19th October 2012.
- 3.22 On the 19th October 2012 a representation in the form of a further petition (Petition 3) was received from the Redditch Taxi Association (Appendix 3). To summarise the signatories of Petition 3 are opposed to any plans to reduce the number of Hackney Carriage spaces at the rank on Unicorn Hill, and are also opposed to the introduction of short stay parking bays either above or below the existing rank.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

None

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LICENSING COMMITTEE

17th December 2012

5. <u>APPENDICES</u>

Appendix 1	-	Petition Prayer
Appendix 2	-	Minutes of Town Centre Parking Meeting on 01.03
		2012
Appendix 3	-	Redditch Taxi Association Response

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name:	Sue Garratt – Licensing Manager. Worcestershire Regulatory Services
E Mail:	sue.garratt@worcsregservices.gov.uk
Tel:	(01527) 534196

Petition Prayer

Petition for Short Stay Parking in Redditch, Church Green and Surrounding Areas

By signing this petition we are in support of the above and feel it will encourage us and others to support the local businesses and facilities on the Church Green and surrounding areas more so by creating a 20 minutes short stay or drop off zone.

Lead Petitioner: Mr A. P. Mitchell Number of signatures: 336.

<u>Minutes of Town Centre Parking Meeting</u> <u>Thursday 01st March 3:30pm</u> <u>Redditch Borough Council</u>

Present:

Lyndsey Hadley Debbie Degge Ian Connolly Peter Mitchell Dean Corrigan Affy Qadeer Cllr Brandon Clayton RBC Town Centre Coordinator WCC Senior Highways Liason Engineer West Merica Police – Traffic Petitioner Petitioner Vice Chair – Town Centre Partnership

1. Welcome and introductions

Introductions from all persons present and apologies from Sue Garrett – Senior Licensing Practioner from Worcs Regulatory Services.

2. Background Information

Lyndsey informed the group that as a result of the petition being presented at O&S and Executive Committee Officers had been asked to facilitate a meeting with relevant agencies and stakeholders, including the petitioners, to discuss proposals for short stay car parking in the town centre.

The petitioners gave an overview as to why the petition had been originally submitted to the council which in essence was that the Town particularly Church Green West and Unicorn Hill side did not have adequate short stay parking for the businesses in that location. Petitioners showed comments from The Standard Newspaper facebook page, an email to the MP and press cuttings regarding the issue and level of support.

3. Short Stay Parking

Mr Qadeer spoke of 2 issues one being short stay parking and the other being deliveries for businesses in Church Green East. Short stay parking is limited in the Church Green area at present which is not helping footfall particularly when people just want to drop items off/visit the bank etc and there are no short stay bays to accommodate this. In addition since the traffic order came into effect in Church Green East deliverie drivers have been booked when making deliveries to existing businesses. The issue with deliveries is affecting the day to day running of businesses as there is limited space to the rear of properties in Herbert Street. In the current economic climate where there are a high proportion of empty units the council should be doing everything possible to encourage operators to stay rather than presenting them with additional problems such as this.

Mr Mitchell and Dean Corrigan stated the absence of a short stay car parking facility on Unicorn Hill was compromising the function of local businesses. It was felt that this was having a negative affect on business, particularly as suppliers were currently unable to park outside a particular unit for a short period to drop off supplies. The group then proceeded to discuss a number of locations as possible sites for additional parking however as space is limited within the Town Centre it was proving difficult to find possible solutions;

Church Green West – Highways and West Mercia explained it would not be possible to implement new short stay spaces here due to the bus stops located in the vicinity and the number of buses pulling into the area. The amount of space the buses need would when pulling in and out would make it dangerous for any parking to be accommodated here if space would allow.

Church Rd – the group discuss how well utilised the parking bays in Church Rd were. Debbie Degge informed the group these were disabled parking bays and were used in the day. No other locations were available in this area for short stay parking.

Unicorn Hill/Bates Hill – Petitioners stated that the shorts stay bays on Bates Hill were well utilised whilst the Unicorn Hill taxi rank in the day was very slow moving with taxis waiting there all day at times for a fare. The group debated the possibility of using 4 taxi rank spaces in the day for short stay and reverting back to a taxi rank in the evening as an experimental traffic order which Highways, West Merica and Cllr Clayton agreed to. The benefit of having an experimental traffic order would be to see how this worked for both parties before making permanent. Lyndsey explained this would have to be fed back to Taxi Licensing for their views.

4. Coach drop off and current traffic orders

Traffic orders were discussed throughout the meeting but focussed on the Church Green East traffic order and the issues of loading/unloading for business deliveries. Coach drop off were not discussed due to time.

Conclusion

County Councillor Clayton supported alterations to the following Traffic Orders. These Orders will be done on a 12 month Experimental basis first.

- 1. Unicorn Hill The 4 Taxi Rank spaces nearest the Traffic Signals be changed to limited waiting in the day, times to be the same as those on Bates Hill, and Taxi Rank at Night.
- 2. Church Rd Make the Disabled Bays 8am to 6pm only so that free parking is available here for Restaurants etc at night
- 3. Church Green West Low Priority investigates the provision of a Single Yellow line 8 to 6 restriction.

 Herbert St – Requests the provision of Two Loading/Unloading only bays in the existing limited waiting bay. This will depend on feedback of Trader requirements to Lyndsey from Town Centre.

Redditch Taxi Association.

Date: 19/10/12

To,

The Chair of the Licensing Committee, Redditch,

Regarding the placing of pay and display parking spaces on Unicorn Hill for the general public, We believe strongly that this has not been thought through. The main reasons for this are as follows:

- 1. There are already empty car parking spaces in the multi-story car parks.
- 2. There is a **new** short stay pay and display car park on Bates Hill, that is empty most of the time.
- 3. There is short stay parking on Bates Hill for more than twenty cars which is free.
- 4. If more parking spaces are need we believe that the single yellow line outside the Royal Enfield could be removed?
- 5. Unicorn Hill Rank is already one of the busiest ranks in the town so reducing spaces would affect the travailing public.
- 6. We also believe that the Rank attracts foot fall to Unicorn Hill, as the public request to be dropped off there and get picked up from there.
- 7. Unicorn Hill Rank is already stretched for taxi parking spaces and we believe that this would put an extra burden on the taxi drivers who use the rank.

We hope that this letter and the attached partition by the taxi drivers who use Unicorn Hill Rank on a daily bias. Will help the respected members of the Licensing committee make the right decision.

Please can your Scan in re-orient to Tom Phelon, Andy Fox, cc Pauline Ross, cc Shein Jones, Tap capy to Torn Phelan, internal post. Thanks Sheena



Nadeem Naz



Redditch Taxi Association.

We the below signed confirm that we are strongly against any plans to reduce the number of Hackney Rank space on Unicorn Hill or to place any short stay car parking bays below or above the existing Unicorn Hill Hackney Rank.

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Redditch Taxi Association.

We the below signed confirm that we are strongly against any plans to reduce the number of Hackney Rank space on Unicorn Hill or to place any short stay car parking bays below or above the existing Unicorn Hill Hackney Rank.

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Redditch Taxi Association.

We the below signed confirm that we are strongly against any plans to reduce the number of Hackney Rank space on Unicorn Hill or to place any short stay car parking bays below or above the existing Unicorn Hill Hackney Rank.

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