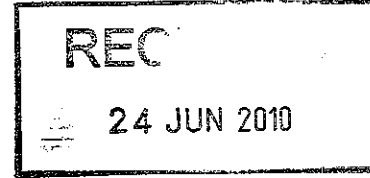


North Worcestershire Division
Kidderminster Police Station
Habberley Road,
Kidderminster,
Worcs, DY11 6AN
Tel: 0300 333 3000

21st June 2010

Mr Kieran Hemstock
Worcestershire County Council
County Hall
Spetchley Road
Worcester
WR5 2NP



Dear Kieran,

Re: Evesham Rd, Headless Cross, Redditch. Proposed TRO Alterations for Taxi Ranks.

I reply on behalf of the Chief Constable following the objection period for this TRO proposal having read the objections listed by Redditch Borough Council. I have also consulted with the local police officer, PC Simon WORLEY and his area line manager Inspector Ian JOSEPH.

Whilst the police support the creation of the taxi ranks on either side of the road as planned we do have reservations and comments as follows:

1. This is the best option available out of a number considered. The removal of the 'unofficial' taxi rank adjacent to the White Hart public house will prompt the need for a rank or ranks elsewhere regardless of any decision on the current proposal. The proposed ranks are of insufficient size to manage the normal number of taxis congregating in this area and those unable to use the rank will probably continue to ignore traffic regulation signs concerning no waiting or driving on the footpath. Where this occurs now there is a narrowing of the road adjacent to the White Hart public house and down the Evesham Road towards Steps public house as a consequence of taxis parking, illegally in some instances. Where this occurs it should be noted that normal vehicle speeds will be reduced along the road.
2. The police cannot enforce breaches of parking regulations concerning the proposed taxi ranks and would encourage the council to consider how parking enforcement officers could and should be deployed to manage this. The police can and will, where appropriate, take action concerning offences such as obstruction of the highway but see (3) below.
3. The police would discourage the active removal of taxis from zones outside the ranks created as this will inevitably lead to an increase in vehicular traffic along the Evesham Road and raise the prospect of disputes between drivers as they jostle and compete for taxi rank position, thus leading to complaints of noise and nuisance from local residents. Increased vehicle traffic coupled with the possibility of increased pedestrian traffic might increase the risk of collisions.

4. The council may wish to consider some form of taxi marshalling process in this area to alleviate the concerns of local residents but the police recognise the budgetary restraints now in place would make such a scheme difficult to achieve. Whichever solution is identified, the council may need to be prepared to deal with increased complaints of noise nuisance, not amounting to offences of disorder, as a consequence of the creation of the new ranks.

I have recently raised these issues at the taxi forum on 16th June 2010.

Yours sincerely,

PP 

PC Julian Turner MBE MIHT
Traffic Management Officer
West Mercia Police
North Worcestershire Division

CC: Sue Garrett – RBC
Nick Churchill – WCC
Worcestershire County Council Legal Section
Insp Ian Joseph & PC Simon Worley – West Mercia Police