

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

**LICENSING
COMMITTEE**

29th November 2010

HACKNEY CARRIAGE RANK PROVISION – EVESHAM ROAD

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Juliet Brunner
Relevant Head of Service	Steve Jordan – Head of Worcestershire Regulatory Services.
Non-Key Decision	
This report contains exempt information as defined in Paragraph(s) of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

Further to Minutes 16 of the Committee's 19th July meeting and 25 of the Committee's 25th January 2010 meeting, to site an additional and/or an alternative rank on Evesham Road, Headless Cross with an increase of 6/7 rank spaces, the Committee is asked to consider further consultation responses.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Committee is asked to RESOLVE that

the new and alternative taxi ranks, as described below and detailed on the Map at Appendix 1 to this report, be approved, as required under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976:

- a) **re-siting of the rank on the pavement outside the White Hart on Evesham Road to on the road opposite the White Hart incorporating the bus stop between the hours of 8pm and 7am; and**
- b) **a new rank on Evesham Road outside Steps Night Club incorporating the bus stop between the hours of 8pm and 7am.**

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 At it's meeting on the 25th January 2010 the Licensing Committee approved the provision of an additional Hackney Carriage rank for 6/7 spaces outside Steps Bistro and to re-site the current provision of 3 spaces situated outside the White Hart on the pavement; to the roadside opposite the White Hart public houses subject public consultation.

3.2 Public consultation took place between February and May 2010.

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- 3.3 The matter was brought back before the Licensing Committee on the 3rd June 2010 for Members to consider objections to the proposals following the public consultation.
- 3.4 A Ward Councillor also withdrew her support for the original proposals and raised the following points:
- a) There are 30-40 taxis in the area on a Thursday, Friday and Saturday night, we would only be increasing rank space by 6 bays. Therefore for most of the evening there would be 30 plus vehicles parked in exactly the same places as at present or cruising up and down the road waiting for a taxi rank space to become available.
 - b) There is a big parking problem in this area already as the Dog and Pheasant has no parking, our own sheltered scheme has parking for residents only and that is already over subscribed. Local residents fronting onto that part of Evesham Road have no garages or drives and it is obviously an issue for some of the shops, particularly the hair dresser. At the moment the situation is not ideal but they are able to park on the road.

and suggested:

- a) That the rank could be replaced by a bay but it would require the Borough, the Police and the County Council to agree.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The Licensing Committee re-visited the matter on 19th July 2010 following a site visit by members and the Licensing Manager on 25th June 2010.
- 4.2 Members Resolved that the report be noted and put forward an alternative proposal to be referred to West Mercia Police and Worcestershire County Council, as follows:
- a) removal of existing rank on pavement outside the White Hart Inn;
 - b) an additional rank be provided from the letter box (marked LB) to the junction of Highfield Avenue.
 - c) an extension of the proposed rank outside Steps to increase available space toward the junction of Highfield Avenue. (as shown on the map attached at Appendix 1 of the report);

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d) removal of the proposed taxi rank at the bus shelter outside 100 and 100a Evesham Road. (as shown on the map attached at Appendix 1 of the report);

4.3 Licensing Officers have now consulted on the alternative suggestion put forward by Members on the 19th July 2010 mentioned at 2 (b) and 2 (c) above with Worcestershire County Council Highways department and West Mercia Road Police Traffic Management. This alternative suggestion was not supported by either County Council Highways or Police Traffic Management Officers.

4.4 The County Council Highways Department require the removal of the current taxi facility located on the footpath outside the White Hart, due to the vehicle/pedestrian conflict, and they are keen to remove the rank off the pavement as soon as possible.

4.5 Officers recognise that there is no ideal solution to the taxi rank facility in such a busy congested area. In the circumstances all viable options including those put forward by members in the July meeting have now been considered and consulted upon and it would appear that the only option is the one that has been agreed by all partnership agencies, which was previously put before the Licensing Committee in January.

4.6 A map of the proposals can be found at Appendix 1.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The cost of installing new ranks by the County Council Highways Department, to include any necessary signs, road markings and road works is:-

5.2 £1500 – This cost is an estimate by the County Council and has not been included in the current year's budget, however, in consultation with finance the money can be found from the existing budget.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Under Section 63 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the Borough Council may from time to time appoint stands (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

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so maintainable and may from time to time vary the number of Hackney Carriages permitted to be at each stand.

- 6.2 Before appointing any stand or varying the numbers to be at each stand, the Council is required to notify the Police for the areas in which the stands will be situated.
- 6.3 The Council is required to give public notice of the proposals by advertising in at least 1 local newspaper and take into consideration any objections or representations in respect of such proposals which may be made to them in writing within 28 days of the first publication of the notice.
- 6.4 A District Council may not appoint a stand:
- a) so as unreasonably to prevent access to any premises;
 - b) so as to impeded 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.
- 6.5 It is necessary for ranks to be signed and the road marked out accordingly.

7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

See legal implications

8. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

This item links with the Council Priority – Safe

9. RISK MANAGEMENT INCLUDING HEALTH & SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 The current provision of rank space on Evesham Road is for three spaces. This rank is situated on a pavement close to a licensed premise “The White Hart”. There is some doubt as to the legalities of this rank; the problem of encouragement by the Local Authorities of Hackney Carriages parking on the narrow pavement and issues around enforcement for both the Local Authority, Civil Parking Enforcement Officers and West Mercia Police.

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- 9.2 There is also major traffic congestion on Evesham Road especially during the evening with Hackney Carriages and privately owned vehicles parking both sides of the road. This new proposal will help legalise Hackney Carriages ranking up on Evesham Road and enable responsible authorities to enforce the new order, discourage Hackney Carriages parking on pavements and reduce the risk of accidents and road blockages.

10. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

None.

11. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

None.

12. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS, PROCUREMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT

None.

13. CLIMATE CHANGE, CARBON IMPLICATIONS AND BIODIVERSITY

The provision of the additional rank and the alternative rank could have a possible impact on carbon emissions if enforced as it may cut down on the congestion issues and the number of vehicles in that location at any one time.

14. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

None.

15. GOVERNANCE/PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

None.

16. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING SECTION 17 OF CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998

Provision of the new ranks will improve the safety of residents and users of the licensed premises by reducing to a minimum the walking distance of those enjoying the night time economy of Evesham Road whilst also having, if enforced, a reduction impact on the congestion within the area.

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17. HEALTH INEQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

None.

18. LESSONS LEARNT

18.1 The area of Evesham Road has a vibrant night time economy and is densely populated. There are a number of licensed premises in the area which are very popular. The current provision of 3 rank spaces has proved to be inadequate for the area and has had an adverse impact; Hackney Carriages, when the rank is full are currently parking half on and half off the pavements, u – turning in the street and generally adding to the already heavily congested areas. At the closing time of these licensed premises the area becomes extremely busy and it is essential to get these visitors away from the area safely and as quickly as possible to help reduce any noise, litter and other related issues.

18.2 Whilst Officers do recognise there is no perfect solution to the current issues on Evesham Road, it is hoped that the provision of two ranks each facing opposite directions will cut down on u-turns; and help to provide adequate transport for visitors leaving the area and work towards easing the congestion problems.

19. COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

19.1 This report has been prepared in consultation with relevant Borough Council Officers.

19.2 Other consultees were Redditch Taxi Association; West Mercia Traffic Police, West Mercia Police, the Ward Councillor and Leader of the Council and the Highways Agency.

20. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Portfolio Holder	yes
Chief Executive	yes
Executive Director (S151 Officer)	No
Executive Director – Leisure, Cultural, Environmental and Community Services	No

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Executive Director – Planning & Regeneration, Regulatory and Housing Services	yes
Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships	No
Head of Service	yes
Head of Resources	No
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	Yes
Corporate Procurement Team	no

21. WARDS AFFECTED

The Wards of Headless Cross and Crabbs Cross are affected by this report.

22. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Map of Evesham Road showing new rank details.

23. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Previous reports
Details of previous rank allocation on Evesham Road.
Emails from Highways Authority
Emails from West Mercia Traffic Management

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