

LICENSING COMMITTEE

11th July 2012

TAXI RANK REDDITCH TOWN CENTRE – SHORT STAY CARPARKING

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

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

To receive a report on the Unicorn Hill Hackney Carriage rank and whether Officers undertake a 12 week consultation with the trade.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to **RESOLVE**;

whether or not Officers conduct a 12 week consultation on 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.

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

- 3.1 If the rank needs to be amended, costs will be incurred in advertising the proposed changes, remarking and signing of the rank.

Legal Implications

- 3.2 LG(MP)A 1976 s63 is for establishing and amending Hackney Carriage Ranks.

Service / Operational Implications

History

- 3.3 A petition was received by 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

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which has arisen since the siting of a taxi rank on the left side of Unicorn Hill (looking down the hill from the Churchyard).

- 3.4 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 24th May 2011 referred the petition to the Council's Licensing Committee for further consideration.
- 3.5 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 including West Mercia Police, West Mercia Road Traffic Management Police, Redditch Taxi Association (the trade) and the County Council.
- 3.6 The consensus amongst those consulted was that the current position/location of the Hackney Carriage rank on Unicorn Hill was the most ideal location to service travellers that side of the town. In a previous consultation during 2003/2004 the Highways Department advised that it was not legally possible to provide road markings for short term parking in the day time and a taxi rank at night due to the different road markings required.

The Committee RESOLVED that

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

Current Petition

- 3.7 A further petition was then received through the Town Centre Partnership regarding the provision of short stay parking in the Town Centre on the 29th November 2011.
- 3.8 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the petition on 24th January 2012 and made the following two recommendations to the Executive Committee:

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) the Executive Committee refer the issue of short-stay car parking in Redditch town centre for consideration to the Worcestershire County Council's Highways Forum; and**
- 2) the Executive Committee ask Officers to facilitate a meeting with relevant agencies and stakeholders, including the petitioners, to obtain further information on proposals for short-stay car parking in the town centre prior to its consideration at the Highways Forum.**

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- 3.9 The Executive Committee considered the petition at their meeting on 31st January 2012, they decided to drop the first recommendation, and amended the second recommendation slightly to RESOLVE that:

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

- 3.10 This meeting was facilitated on 1st March 2012. Please see attached minutes, in summary:

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 a Hackney Carriage rank at night. WCC to incur costs for lines and signs associated with this.

- 3.11 A member of staff from Licensing was unable to attend the meeting held on 1st March to highlight the implications and problems in creating and amending the rank, but also to highlight the outcome of the previous petition held less than six months ago 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. Licensing therefore asked for a meeting between all Officers to be held to discuss these issues.
- 3.12 On 9th May 2012 a meeting was held with all parties present where the issues of consultation with the taxi trade, the costs to be incurred of amending the rank such as remarking, new signage and advertising the rank were discussed and it was suggested at that meeting that a report be brought back before the Licensing Committee for discussion.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 None.

5. APPENDICES

None.

AUTHOR OF REPORT

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