



Bromsgrove Police Station,
17 The Crescent,
Bromsgrove,
B60 2 DF
Telephone :ext 3233

30 April 2013

Our Ref:SAC

Dear Sir or Madam:

A recent meeting was held with representatives from Bromsgrove District council (Kevin Dicks ,Chief executive , Martin Ashcroft , Partnerships and Projects manager) , Worcester regulatory services (Susan Garratt) , taxi association (Lee Eacock and Lee Shepherd) and West Mercia Police (Insp Sharron Cannings and PC Anna Harding) .The meeting discussed issues relating to the situation with the status of the current taxi ranks in existence in Bromsgrove Town and in particular on Worcester Road and concerns relating to the night time economy .

The current situation is that in order to service the patrons from the night time economy , there are only 3 dedicated /approved taxi ranks on the Worcester Rd , being situated outside Love to Love . This means that the remaining taxi drivers have to park and queue along Worcester Rd causing issues , relating to illegal parking on the footpath and obstructions for emergency vehicle access.

As a result of this an unofficial , temporary practise has been in place since December 2012 , where the waiting taxis are now parking along Station Street awaiting fares . However this has caused problems for residents on Station Street , such as noise and traffic congestion during the early hours and is not a long term solution as it is not an officially approved or designated rank .

It is proposed that the taxi association will request a formal review of the current provision and enable the due process to be considered through the Licensing Committee.

I understand that the suggested proposal relates to the consideration for extra provision for taxi parking ranks as part of the ongoing Bromsgrove regeneration scheme .The suggestion being that the current rank which is situated outside Love to Love is extended by moving the lay by from the offside to the nearside of Worcester Road with the request for the addition of further ranks being accommodated into this space as part of the highways plans.

The police would support this proposal in conjunction with the taxi association as clearly the current situation is that the number of taxis parked waiting for fares on Worcester Rd far out numbers the allocated taxi parking ranks .The addition of further designated ranks would alleviate this .

From the police point of view the taxi drivers provide a crucial service in the policing of the night time economy in Bromsgrove as they ensure that members of the public are safely and quickly transported away from the

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town centre and thus prevent the potential for alcohol fuelled disorder and prevent large groups gathering . This is of particular importance when the licensed premises on Worcester Rd close their doors in the early hours (Love to Love and The Dog and Pheasant) and a large number of people leave these premises at the same time , converging onto the Worcester Rd.

Our taxi colleagues provide a valuable service in transporting customers away from the town safely and the addition of extra ranks would allow them to continue to operate their businesses efficiently as well as supporting our policing operations.

Further parking spaces would also enable the drivers to keep a moving , constant flow of taxis, preventing illegal parking and congestion and the associated noise pollution.

The unofficial temporary rank on Station Street would no longer exist and this would alleviate issues for the residents in this area.

Yours sincerely ,

Inspector Sharron Cannings
Bromsgrove Safer Neighbourhood Inspector .

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