

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

LICENSING COMMITTEE

3RD JUNE 2008

APPOINTMENT OF A NEW HACKNEY CARRIAGE STAND

Responsible Portfolio Holder	Councillor Peter Whittaker
Responsible Head of Service	David Hammond

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 To consider creating a new Hackney Carriage Stand (rank) outside the Golden Cross Hotel, High Street, Bromsgrove. The proposed rank will accommodate 5 vehicles.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Members approve the creation of a new Hackney Carriage Stand outside the Golden Cross Hotel, High Street, Bromsgrove, in accordance with the attached plan, subject to the necessary amendments being made to Traffic Regulation Orders.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council has been approached by the Police Authority to look at introducing an additional Hackney Carriage Stand in the Town area to help reduce crime and disorder during the evenings, as well as enhancing current taxi rank provision by making proper provision for public transport providers and users.

- 3.2 At present the Council operates the following Hackney Carriage Stands:

The Strand (outside Oceans fish bar) - Two spaces

The Bus Station - Five spaces

Hanover Street Car Park (evenings only) - Six spaces
(this rank may be affected by the town centre re-development project)

- 3.3 At present the Council currently licenses 77 Hackney Carriage owners, who mainly operate from the rank at the Bus Station.

3.4 Following meetings with the Police Authority and the Worcestershire County Council, the Highways Authority have put forward the following detailed proposal in respect of the new rank:

- Proposed loading/unloading 7am-7pm and hackney carriage stand 7pm-7am (equivalent to 3 spaces), from a point 4 metres south-west of the northern property boundary of no. 24 High Street for a distance of 15 metres in a south-westerly direction; and
- Proposed full-time hackney carriage stand (equivalent to 2 spaces), from a point 19 metres south-west of the northern property boundary of no. 24 High Street for a distance of 10 metres in a south-westerly direction.

3.5 Members may wish to note that if the Traffic Regulation Order is amended to incorporate the new rank, the daytime usage of the existing 'loading bay' as set out in the first bullet point above, will prevent any long stay parking (this would also apply to Blue Badge Permit Holders) and would only be used for loading and unloading of any vehicle. If long stay parking was permitted, it could prevent goods vehicles using the lay-by and could encourage them to off-load deliveries elsewhere, possible in hazardous locations.

3.6 A plan showing the location of the proposed rank is attached at Appendix 'A'.

3.7 No objections have been received from the public following the publication of a notice in the Bromsgrove Standard. Formal consultation has also taken place with the local Police Authority, the Chief Constable and the Highways Authority, who have no objections to the proposal.

3.8 All Hackney Carriage Owners have been consulted on the proposal and the majority of the responses received were in favour of the proposed rank in this location.

3.9 Should Members approve the detailed proposal, the Highways Authority will then be in position to start their consultation process to amend the Traffic Regulation Order.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The cost of the public notice and other administrative costs will be met from existing budgets.

4.2 The cost of the signage and appropriate road markings will be met by the Police Authority through the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.

4.3 The cost of amended the Traffic Regulation Order will be met by the Highways Authority.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Licensing Authorities have power under Section 63 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to create and revoke ranks.
- 5.2 The Traffic Regulation Order would need to be amended and the Worcestershire County Council's Highways Unit have the power to do this.

6. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 This proposal contributes to the Council's objective "Sense of community and well being".

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 The main risk associated with the detailed included in this report are:
- To ensure that public transport is readily available, accessible and effective in contributing to the night time economy.
- 7.2 This risk is being managed as follows:

Risk Register: Planning and Environment Services
Key Objective Ref No. 8
Key Objective: Effective, efficient and legally compliant Licensing Service

8. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 All Hackney Carriage owners will be notified in writing before the new rank takes effect and will be kept informed of progress via newsletters.

9. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Although the proposed new rank will provide additional public transport facilities, blue badge permit holders will not be permitted to park on the taxi rank and will only be permitted to park in the loading/unloading lay-by for as long as it takes to load/unload their vehicle. However, permit holders will still be able to park for up to 3 hours on the remaining single and double yellow lines in the vicinity, providing they are not causing an obstruction.

10. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The Council is working in partnership with the Police Authority and the Highways Authority to help keep costs down to a minimum.

11. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Procurement Issues None
Personnel Implications None
Governance/Performance Management None
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime and Disorder Act 1998 The creation of the additional rank will help reduce crime and disorder and compliment the night time economy
Policy None
Environmental None

12. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Portfolio Holder	Yes
Chief Executive	Yes
Executive Director (Partnerships and Projects)	Yes
Executive Director (Services)	No
Assistant Chief Executive	No
Head of Service	Yes
Head of Financial Services	Yes
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	Yes
Head of Organisational Development & HR	No
Corporate Procurement Team	No

13. WARDS AFFECTED

The proposed Stand will be situated in the St. Johns Ward.

14. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Location plan of proposed Stand

15. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Letter of response received from the Local Police Authority
Letter of response received on behalf of the Chief Constable
Emails received from the Highways Authority

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