

**HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE TRADE MEETING BARROW**  
**TOWN HALL 31/10/07**

Present

Phil Newton – Commercial Services Team Leader  
John Chattaway – Commercial Services Team  
Dave McArthur – Licensing Enforcement Officer  
Cllr Dave Armstrong – Licensing Committee Chair  
Paul Brereton – Trade Member  
Anthony Armstrong – Trade Member  
Mike Jones – Trade Member  
Dennis Horan – Trade Member  
Paul Watt – Trade Member  
J Morrow – Trade Member  
Bernard Cooper – Trade Member  
Jim Linton – Trade Member  
Bob Backen – Trade Member

Apologies

Henry Fayyazi – Trade Member

**Items for Discussion**

**1. Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Plates**

Phil Newton opened the meeting and reminded the group that this issue was taken to members of the licensing committee 12 months ago with a view to altering the plates to include details such as the colour & type of vehicle, date of expiry etc. Examples of the plates were passed around the group. The suggestion to change the plates was made to improve the distinction between private hire vehicles and hackney carriages.

The cost of replacing the plates every year was queried. Exact figures are not available as yet but it is estimated that there will only be a small increase in the renewal fee.

Tony Armstrong questioned whether the current plates could be modified to improve the information on the plates. There was a consensus that the fading of the current plates is an issue that needs resolving.

Bob Backen passed a written objection to changing the plates to Phil Newton. This was signed by a number of drivers.

Tony Armstrong queried the price of door signs similar to those in SLDC as they make a good distinction. John Chattaway to look into the cost. John also made the point that brackets are available to attach the plates to the bumper so that the bumper doesn't have to be drilled.

It was agreed that a clear distinction between HCs & PHVs needs to be made. A poll was made to canvas the opinion of the group. All bar Bob Backen and Dennis Horan were in agreement to change the plates.

## **2. Roof Signs**

PN informed the group of a request to relax the condition for the colour of PH roof signs. The firm's roof signs in question displayed yellow to the front and red to the rear, as appose to the condition of white to the front and red to the rear. All the group were in agreement that there is a problem with the distinction between HCs and PHVs. Bob Backen reminded the group of the court case in 1980 where roof signs were discussed, however there is some confusion over the significance of the case and why the outcome was never enforced.

The group agreed that the current condition should remain the same.

## **3. Princess Selandia**

PN informed the group that the authority are currently in discussions with Morrisons to formalise a rank on the car park. The request has not been refused but contact with the person responsible has been difficult.

John Chattaway informed the group of the current situation. Councillor Roberts questioned Tony Armstrong about the purpose of his Marshall. Tony replied that his purpose is to direct customers to the vehicle that they have booked via the free phone or on their mobile. Councillor Roberts asked Tony directly whether the Marshall was touting. Tony replied that he wasn't, and he is reacting to public demand.

Tony Armstrong stated that he has still been receiving complaints about overcharging from customers who have used a hackney carriage thinking it was one of his vehicles.

Councillor Roberts addressed the whole group and stated that he is sure that Tony Armstrong would not risk his operating licence by allowing illegal pickups/touting outside the selandia.

## **4. Unmet Demand Survey**

If the limit on the number of hackney carriages is to remain then another unmet demand survey will need to be carried out. The cost of a survey is likely to be similar to the last one plus 3 years inflation. All hackney carriage drivers will be written to, to determine opinion about the survey.

## **5. Bus Stops**

Following a meeting with Stagecoach and other partners there has been a request to ask drivers not to obstruct bus stops when picking up/dropping off customers – in particular from outside Wilkinsons.

## **Any Other Business**

### **CRBs**

An application for a new drivers licence, but a former PH driver, was received and he was informed that he needed a CRB check even though his 'existing' check was still in date. PN informed the group that a new driver would need a new CRB check unless they had an enhanced check carried out less than 6 months ago and the authority that carried out the check allow portability.

### **Hours of Work**

A complaint about the long hours drivers work was discussed, but it was agreed that drivers are considered self-employed therefore this was difficult to regulate.