

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Licensing and Environmental Committee

Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Stourport-On-Severn

Monday 18 July 2005 (10.30AM)

PRESENT:

Councillors: Mrs M B Aston, J Baker, S.J.M. Clee, G W Ballinger, N J Desmond, P Dyke, Mrs L Edginton, P B Harrison, Mrs P V Hayward, W G Jones, M B Kelly, Mrs. R.L. Lewis, A D Williams.

OBSERVERS:

There were no members present as observers

Also present: Mr. Bob South – WFDTA
Mr. Trevor Owen – Albany, Regency and Hollands Taxis

LIC.7 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors: B T Glass, Mrs A T Hingley, M M G Oborski, Mrs P A Rimell

LIC.8 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTES

Councillor S J M Clee was a substitute for Councillor Mrs A T Hingley.
Councillor Mrs R L Lewis was a substitute for Councillor M M G Oborski.

LIC.9 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were made.

LIC.10 MINUTES

DECISION:

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd May and 10th June, 2005 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

LIC.11 HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE LICENCE DEREGULATION PLAN

The Head of Planning, Health and Environment outlined the history and present position with regard to the proposed hackney carriage vehicle licence deregulation plan.

The plan proposes the following key issues

1. Issue of ten additional, new, purpose built, wheelchair accessible hackney carriage vehicle licences to comply with the Halcrow 'Unmet Demand Survey';
2. The issue of another additional 5 hackney carriage vehicle licences in April 2006 and again in April 2007 and number restriction to cease in April 2008;
3. Revised conditions for hackney carriage vehicle licences, private hire vehicle licences, operators licences and drivers licences; and
4. All new licences issued in 2006 and 2007 will have to comply with the new conditions as outlined in the Plan as will all subsequent issues.

Mr. Bob South, Secretary of Wyre Forest Taxi Drivers Association addressed the meeting, having first circulated a copy of a letter which had been sent to the Association by the Head of Planning, Health and Environment.

Mr. South expressed serious concern about the effect that this deregulation plan would have on the taxi drivers and owners within the District. The Association felt that this plan was being rushed through, and it would not give sufficient time for owners to get funding to buy new vehicles, which would cause hardship to both owners, drivers and customers alike.

Mr. Trevor Owen, proprietor of Albany, Regency and Hollands taxis expressed serious concern about the viability of the scheme. He was of the opinion that this scheme would not benefit the community overall, and his main concern was the customer.

Mr. Owen informed the Committee that although purpose built cabs were suitable for manual wheelchairs, they were not suitable for electric wheelchairs, and other disabled persons, who did not use wheelchairs, found these vehicles almost impossible to get in and out. These persons preferred, and always ask for, a saloon car.

He was also concerned about the lack of commitment from the District Council and cited specifically the fact that no taxi rank had been included in the design for Weavers Wharf and was concerned that the same would happen in the Worcester street develop.

Members asked questions of Messrs South and Owen and some Members expressed concern about the timescale of the proposal and the availability of a wheelchair accessible vehicle that met Government guidelines. They were informed that at present there are no Government guidelines in place and that there is no vehicle available which is totally wheelchair accessible.

RECOMMENDED to Cabinet.

- a) **That the Wyre Forest Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence Deregulation Plan 2005-2008 be approved; and**

- b) **apply the provisions of the Wyre Forest Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence Deregulation Plan 2005-2008 to the nine Hackney Carriage vehicle licences issued as a result on the ballot on 18th July 2005.**

LIC.12 HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE LICENCE ALLOCATION BALLOT

The Chairman carried out a ballot to allocate 9 additional hackney carriage vehicle licence plates; together with 10 reserves should any of the 9 selected fail to take up their hackney carriage vehicle licence.

The following nine names were drawn:-

1. No. 32 Mr. R. Griffin, 18 Comberton Avenue, Kidderminster
2. No. 29 Mr. F. Cappetta, 133 Bewdley Hill, Kidderminster
3. No. 28 Mrs. T. Cappetta, 133 Bewdley Hill, Kidderminster
4. No. 35 Mr. M. Roffe, 79 Windermere Way, Stourport on Severn
5. No. 6 Mr. D. Gallagher, 73 Lea Vale Road, Norton, Stourbridge
6. No. 42 Mr. M. Cook, The White Swan, Bewdley
7. No. 11 Mr. T. Smith, 2 Oldnall Road, Kidderminster
8. No. 43 Mr. P. Laban, 58 Coventry Street, Kidderminster
9. No. 8 Mr. K. Taylor, 31 Coniston Crescent, Stourport on Severn

The following ten names were drawn as reserves should any of the above fail to take up the vehicle plate.

1. No. 26 Mr. R. South, 88 The Birches, Stourport on Severn
2. No. 33 Mr. K. Malpass, 26 Queen Elizabeth Road, Kidderminster
3. No. 23 Mr. G. Bianco, 30 Grosvenor Avenue, Kidderminster
4. No. 17 Mr. S. Sarvonio, Lucerne, Aggborough Crescent, Kidderminster
5. No. 2 Mr. M.R. Pountney, 39 Welch Gate, Bewdley
6. No. 9 Mr. M. Price, 54 Wassell Drive, Bewdley
7. No. 19 Mr. Stoten, 9 Leswell Street, Kidderminster
8. No. 38 Mrs. J. Bradley, Deux Chevaux Cottage, 80 Welch Gate, Bewdley
9. No. 1 Mr. A. Sheldon, 213 Chester Road North, Kidderminster
10. No. 36 Mr. R. Pountney, 18 Lancaster Road, Bewdley

LIC.13 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

DECISION:

Under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of “Exempt Information” as defined in paragraphs 8 and 9 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

LIC.14 **SUMMARY OF MINUTES**

The following proceedings were considered after the press and public had been excluded from the meeting. A summary of the minutes relating to these items have been made as “exempt information” would be disclosed if the minutes were published in full.

LIC.15 **MINUTES**

The exempt minutes of the meeting held on 10th June, 2005 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

The meeting ended at 12.05 pm.