

PRESTON TAXI TRADES LIAISON MEETING 11 April 2018

Present:

Riaz Qadeer – RMT Preston Taxi Drivers Branch

Daren Ireland – RMT North West

Mike Thorpe – Licensing Manager, Preston City Council

Dave Lowe – Senior Licensing Technician, Preston City Council

David Johnson – Senior Licensing Technician, Preston City Council

Sonya Wheeler - Senior Licensing Technician, Preston City Council

Minutes from Last Meeting

The minutes from the liaison meeting held on 7 February 2018 were agreed as a correct record.

Enforcement – General

At the previous meeting **MRT** had reported that he had once again received a complaint from a delivery driver that the loading bay adjacent to the Co-op bank on Church Street was being used by hackney carriages as an extension to the Church Street rank and the trade representatives agreed to advise their members that they may be issued with penalty points on their hackney carriage driver licences for a breach of the byelaws if this practice continues. **RQ** requested that licensed hackney carriage drivers should be allowed to use this area up to the junction of Church Street and Avenham Street in the evenings. **DJ** explained that vehicles parked at this location presented a sightline problem for drivers of vehicles egressing from Avenham Street and so the Council could not support such a proposal and indeed could not ignore hackney carriage drivers acting in this manner.

Taxi Ranks

DI asked for an update on his request for the Market Street evening rank to become a 24 hour rank but **MRT** had no progress to report but was aware that all parking arrangements at this location were being reviewed following the completion of the covered market phase of the markets development. He added that Highway officers from Preston City Council and Lancashire County Council were aware of the needs of the trade and agreed that there was demand for daytime taxi services from this location. Action for **MRT** to enquire on progress.

RQ reported that market traders were still parking on the Market Street taxi rank between 2am and 3am on Tuesdays, Saturdays and Sundays preventing the trade fully utilising this rank for patrons leaving Switch Nightclub. **MRT** agreed to monitor from the CCTV Hub and speak to the Markets Manager.

Parking Enforcement

SW and **DJ** reported on recent out of hours' enforcement activity within the city centre and in particular the increase in unlawful parking both on the ranks and generally on footways and other restricted areas. **MRT** reminded those present that it is the view of Lancashire County Council that there is no

significant parking problems in Preston and so no need for late evening enforcement.

Enforcement – Vehicle Inspections

DJ reported that between December 2017 and March 2018 the Council inspected:-

- 4 hackney carriages – 3 stop notices and 1 vehicle defect notices.
- 9 private hire vehicles – 2 stop notices and 4 vehicle defect notices.

Enforcement – Penalty Points

DJ reported that between December 2017 and March 2018 23 penalty point notices were issued in respect of:

- 9 hackney carriage drivers for breach of byelaws
- 5 hackney carriage drivers for breach of policy
- 4 private hire driver for undeclared motoring offence
- 1 private hire driver for breach of condition
- 1 private hire vehicle proprietor for breach of condition
- 2 private hire vehicle proprietors for offences under 1976 Act
- 1 private hire vehicle proprietor for receiving a stop notice

Taxi and Miscellaneous Committee

At its March meeting the Committee refused an application for a private hire driver from a former driver who had previously had his licence revoked by the Council. At its April meeting the Committee suspended a hackney carriage driver's licence for 1 month following a review of his licence for the accumulation of penalty points. The Committee is also issued a written warning to another hackney carriage driver following a review of his licence for the accumulation of penalty points and a written warning to a private hire vehicle proprietor following a review of his licence for the accumulation of penalty points. The Committee had intended to consider an appeal against the imposition of penalty points on his hackney carriage driver's licence for a byelaw breach (ranking on Butler Street) but the driver decided to withdraw his appeal and accept the penalty points.

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 13 June 2018 in Room C at the Town Hall.