



Name of meeting and date: LICENSING AND SAFETY 19th September 2011

Title of report: Bradford Road/Hick Lane, Batley

Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Not Applicable
Is it in the Council's Forward Plan?	Not Applicable
Is it eligible for "call in" by Scrutiny?	Not Applicable
Cabinet member portfolio	Not Applicable

Electoral wards affected and ward councillors consulted: **BATLEY**

Public or private: **PUBLIC**

1. Purpose of report

Two vehicle Hackney Carriage Rank at Bradford Road/Hick Lane Hackney Carriage Rank

2. Key points

Members may recall that at the last Licensing and Safety Committee in March 2011 (previous report attached) Members determined to revoke the rank.

Since that time a number of representations have been made objecting to the revocation. All Batley Ward Councillors have been approached by trade representatives and they have therefore in turn made representations on behalf of the Hackney Trade. At the request of the Batley Ward Councillors this matter has been brought back to the Licensing and Safety Committee for you to reconsider the revocation of the rank that was made in March 2011.

3. Implications for the Council

None

4. Consultees and their opinions

- W Y Police Insp. Money does not have any opposition to the rank provided the limit on numbers is adhered to – see attached email from Insp. Money
- Cllr Hanif Mayet on behalf of all Batley Councillors supports the rank being reinstated. Cllr Hanif believes the rank is integral to the Hackney Drivers ability to earn a living and should not have been removed at all.

- Landlord of 371 Bradford Road – opposes the rank- see attached letter
- Occupants of Private Hire base oppose the rank being reinstated – see attached letter
- Hackney Carriage drivers and representatives – In favour of the rank being maintained. A significant number of drivers and Trade Representatives have contacted the Licensing department to state that this particular rank is important to the Hackney Carriage trade and generates business for them in a particularly busy area at weekends. The Hackney Carriage Drivers also believe they were not given a fair opportunity previously to make representations on the issue of the rank.
- Highways Service are opposed to the rank as they consider that the location is unsuitable and in contradiction to the flow of traffic and road markings for the area.

5. Officer recommendations and reasons

Members are asked to reconsider the matter and determine whether to reinstate this rank or not.

8. Contact officer and relevant papers

Catherine Walter
Licensing Manager (01484 456868)

Name of meeting and date: **LICENSING AND SAFETY 18 March 2011**

Title of report: Bradford Road/Hick Lane, Batley

Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Not Applicable
Is it in the Council's Forward Plan?	Not Applicable
Is it eligible for "call in" by Scrutiny?	Not Applicable
Cabinet member portfolio	Not Applicable

Electoral wards affected and ward councillors consulted: **ALL**

Public or private: **PUBLIC**

1. Purpose of report

Bradford Road/Hick Lane Hackney Carriage Rank

2. Key points

It would appear that some years ago it was determined to create a 2 vehicle rank at this location, operational at night time only. There are differing views from each side of the trade with some representatives saying that the rank was intended to be permanent. Others say that it was experimental only for a 6 month period with a review to follow.

What is clear that if the rank was meant to be experimental a final determination was never made. The report author is unable to locate any documentation that would clarify the permanency issue one way or the other. The rank though has continued to be used since that time until the present.

In 2010 a new private hire base opened beside the rank. This initially led to some complaints regarding the potential for vehicles from the private hire base parking at the base. This was resolved by a condition attached to the Operator license of the private hire base that their vehicles were only allowed to come around to the front of the premises to collect customers. This appears to have worked well.

Hackney carriage drivers who use this rank have complained that private hire vehicles from another nearby base, park their vehicles on Bradford Road in the area immediately in front of the rank. This has led to hackney carriage vehicles ranking otherwise than in accordance with the existing rank.

In 2010 the author received numerous complaints from both sides of the trade about the parking situation on Bradford Road. A hard line was taken with the perpetrators and matters appear to have resolved themselves in that there have been no complaints or representations made now for a number of months from either side of the Trade.

3. Implications for the Council

None

4. Consultees and their opinions

W Y Police Insp. Money does not have any position to the rank remaining.

Landlord of 371 Bradford Road – opposes the rank

Hackney Carriage Representatives – In favour of the rank being maintained

5. Officer recommendations and reasons

Members are asked to consider the content of the report and determine whether to allow this rank to continue or not.

8. Contact officer and relevant papers

C Walter, Licensing Manager (01484 456868)

-----Original Message-----

From: neil.money@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

[mailto:neil.money@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk]

Sent: 26 August 2011 13:24

To: Catherine Walter

Subject: Re: Hick Lane/Bar Street Taxi Rank : NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Catherine.

If the limits of the taxi rank is adhered to then I have no problems with it. The problems arise when too many vehicles park up. This causes problems at many a rank.

Regards.

Neil Money

Inspector

Batley/ Birstall/ Birkenshaw

Neighbourhood Policing Team

Extension 35004

01924 295304

neil.money@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

Jameal Hyder
Hot Spot
369 Bradford Road
Batley
WF17 5PL
Email: [REDACTED]
Mobile: [REDACTED]

22nd March 2010

Planning & Building Control Services
Licensing Department
PO Box 1580
Civic Centre 3
Huddersfield
HD1 9NQ

BUILDING CONTROL & LICENSING SERVICE RECEIVED	
29 MAR 2010	
Allocated To:	[REDACTED]
Action By:	[REDACTED]
Copies To:	[REDACTED]
Copies Made:	[REDACTED]

To whom it may concern

RE: Complaint of illegal use of temporary Hackney Carriage rank outside 371 Bradford Road

I am the landlord of Oakwell Cars, Saffron Restaurant, Hot Spots Snooker Club, and many residential properties in Eyre and Bar Street, Batley. I have ongoing concerns with taxis illegally parking on and around my properties, and the matter needs to be resolved immediately, especially as I have recently rented out my property 371 Bradford Road to Oakwell Cars.

Previously 371 Bradford Road was rented out to Rank Taxis (now known as Batley Prestige), who relocated to Batley Town Centre in 2006. Rank Taxis were a Hackney Carriage taxi firm, and as far as I am aware there is a temporary Hackney taxi rank outside my property on 371 Bradford Road. However I have a number of serious concerns relating to the two car taxi rank, which is being dangerously abused, especially on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings and affecting my businesses and clients.

Rather than limiting themselves to two cars, I have witnessed sometimes up to 13 Hackney carriages queuing from Hick Lane traffic lights, pass Mungo's Club, on the give way of Barr street, pass 371 Bradford Rd, blocking the entrance of Hot Spots Snooker Club, Saffron Restaurant, and Fish Bar, and parking on the give way of Eyre Street.

I feel parking so many hackney carriages on double yellow lines on Bradford Road is a safety issue, resulting in traffic congestion. This is further exacerbated when traffic stops and queues behind the last Hackney Carriage taxi thinking the taxis have stopped at the traffic lights.

Queues of Hackney Carriages are also causing problems between my tenants and me. I have received numerous complaints from the owner of Saffron Restaurant and residents on Eyre and Bar Street. Hackney carriages are parking in the Saffron restaurant car park behind the property, sometimes for up to 15 minutes, as they wait for available parking space on Bradford Rd, and also using the car park as somewhere to turn around in. My client is fuming as this is deterring paying customers and affecting sales. Saffron have had to take on additional costs and hire an employee to 'man' the entrance which has resulted in numerous disagreements with the taxi drivers.

I feel very strongly about Hackney Carriages parking and turning around in my car park, especially as residents on Eire and Bar Street have also raised their concerns that Hackney Carriages have been using up "permit holder only" parking spaces whilst they wait for space on Bradford road.

This issue needs to be resolved as soon as possible, as I have just rented out 371 Bradford Road to new clients; Oakwell Cars. If these 'thirteen' Hackney Carriages continue to illegally park and ply their trade on these premises it will have a detrimental effect on Oakwell's business and ruin owner client relationships through no cause of my own. These Hackney Carriages are making my property unrentable, as it is; it has already taken me 4 years to find clients for this site. If Oakwell decide this property is not suitable due to the above reasons, I will lose revenue

Safety issues – As I have mentioned queues of Hackney Carriages are causing long queues of traffic resulting in traffic congestion. Traffic is having to drive on the wrong side of the road to go past parked taxis. Other private hire taxi drivers are having to double park, or park on the opposite side when coming to pick up their legitimately booked fares, causing traffic to stop on both sides for the private hire driver to pick his fare.

Other drivers are getting annoyed and frustrated and trying to squeeze past taxis parked on both sides. I fear for the safety of customers having to run across the road to their booked private hire taxi, I have personally seen very close misses with pedestrians and drivers trying to manoeuvre around the parked taxis. Who would be held responsible if someone is run over and killed?

I have also noticed that [REDACTED] are parking illegally on Bradford Rd along with the Hackney Carriages, I presume this is because the parking situation with Hackney Carriages is also affecting their custom.

I believe that this issue can be safely resolved if the council intervene and stop taxi drivers parking in the Saffron Restaurant car park, and on Eire Street. Also quashing the temporary two car taxi rank will help eradicate what is fast becoming a major problem.

Please note that I have decided to write to you as a last resort, I have had numerous discussions with the Head of Licensing; Cath Walters and other licensing officers to resolve the matter. I trust you will appreciate the seriousness of this issue and work quickly towards bringing it to a satisfactory conclusion.

Yours Sincerely,

Jameal Hyder

CC Cath Walters, Andrew Prescott

OAKWELL (UK) Ltd

Licensed Private Hire

Head Office
11b Nelson Street
Birtall, Batley
West Yorkshire
WF17 9ER
Email: oakwellcars@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 01924 471111
Mobile: [REDACTED]

06 April 2010

REF: COMP/CW/AP/1

Planning & Building Control Services
Licensing Department
PO Box 1580
Civic Centre 3
Huddersfield
HD1 9NQ

Dear Cath Walters & Andrew Prescott,

RE: Letter of complaint; abuse of temporary taxi rank outside 371 Bradford Road & harassment from Hackney Carriage drivers

We are the proprietor's of Oakwell Cars taxi company and we would like to make an official complaint regarding the temporary Hackney Carriages' rank outside our newly rented premises at 371 Bradford Road, Batley.

I have numerous complaints concerning Hackney Carriage drivers abusing the two car taxi rank. We have noticed that after the Frontier night club closes at 1am, there are over 10 Hackney carriages queuing up from Hick Lane traffic lights to Saffron Restaurant. This is having an adverse impact on customers walking into our offices.

Hackney Carriage drivers are standing outside their vehicles, plying for business – targeting our potential customers. They have also been heard shouting slogans similar to: "we are cheaper than Oakwell", "jump in with us, we won't put our meter on!" Also when customers are waiting inside our offices, Hackney Carriage drivers will sound their horns to attract the attention of our customers.

Many of our drivers have reported that they have felt bullied and harassed by Hackney drivers when trying to pick up our legitimate fares from the office. On occasions, Hackney drivers have blocked our vehicles and taken photographs of Oakwell drivers picking up legitimate fares, all in an attempt to intimidate our employees; the ring leader in this fiasco seems to be taxi number:

[REDACTED] Vehicle registration number: [REDACTED]

Our drivers, along with our Taxi Marshall, who we employed at the request of the council, have been verbally abused. We think it is imperative that the council speak to taxi number: [REDACTED] regarding the harassment and abuse of our employees, including drivers, Marshall and office staff. This is not in any kind expected behavior of a Hackney Carriage plate holder. Please note, the harassment issue has been referred to our solicitor.

As per our license agreement, we make sure that the external footway is kept clean and tidy at all times, however Hackney drivers in their attempt to strain relations further have been seen disposing of litter; including cigarette stubs for our office staff to clean up.

Oakwell Cars has a customer base of 10,000 customers a week, many of whom visit 'The Golden Mile' clubs and pubs regularly. We have received an increased volume of customers walking into our office. Keeping an orderly queue has been made very difficult with Hackney drivers initiating arguments and plying for fares. This causes unnecessary problems, often involving our customers who are worse for drink.

We fear that the constant abuse and harassment from Hackney drivers may lead to further serious problems between drivers, which may lead to physical violence. I'm sure you would agree that no one likes to be stopped, blocked or harassed when going about their legitimate daily business.

We would like to make a plea that the council investigates this matter swiftly, before the issue escalates. Oakwell Cars has no negative feelings against Hackney drivers; as we ourselves employ many Hackney Carriage drivers.

We recommend that the temporary Hackney rank either be quashed, or moved a few meters forward (outside Sizzlers) or a few meters backwards (outside the Saffron Restaurant). We feel that the rank is also a serious health and safety issue and that this may be of concern to the safety officers at the council.

Please forward the Hackney Carriages' temporary rank agreement (terms and conditions) to our Head office by post or via email, for our legal team to examine. Details can be found above.

We hope you will give the above matter the undivided attention which it merits and help us resolve the matter in a in a civil manner.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]

Mr Amer Ashaq & Mr, Fayyaz A. Sayed
Directors of Oakwell UK Ltd

Catherine Walter

From: Catherine Walter
Sent: 07 September 2011 15:31
To: Catherine Walter
Subject: FW: Taxi Rank - A652 Bradford Road, Batley

From: Joe Walker
Sent: 06 September 2011 16:29
To: Catherine Walter
Subject: FW: Taxi Rank - A652 Bradford Road, Batley

Hi Cath,

This rank was put in on a 6 month trial basis & monitored by ourselves & the Police. However, colleagues and the police felt it was unsuitable for the following reasons;

1. Taxis were over-ranking and drivers behaving in an unacceptable manner.
2. The rank is close to the Hick Lane junction, and caused difficulties to traffic flows. This will now be even worse, as the nearside lane is for left turners only, and the right turn lane is for ahead / right turners. This means that when ahead/right turn traffic queues back from the signals, the left turning lane would be blocked. This would cause conflict between motorists and taxi drivers, and it is plainly undesirable to block a 2 lane approach to a busy junction, 50 metres before the signals.
3. Unfortunately, my Operations Manager Liz Twitchett is away until 12 September, and I understand you can't wait until she returns for her comments. However, she spent much time monitoring this rank while it was in operation, and was left in no doubt that it should not be made permanent.

This is all the information I can give at present, but if you do have opportunity to speak to Liz when she returns, I feel that would be very beneficial.

Joe Walker
Principal Engineer
Streetscene
Kirklees Highways
01484-225636

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