

Licensing Committee – 9th October 2007

7. Taxi Rank Audit and Update

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Purpose of the Report

To inform the Licensing Committee of the outcomes following an extensive audit of all the taxi ranks in the SSDC area.

Recommendation

That the Committee recommend that this report go to the relevant Area Committees for approval to update rank orders and explore any need for relocation of ranks as required.

Background

A comprehensive assessment of each of the ranks was carried out between March and July 2007 in conjunction with the Highways Agency. Details about the ranks, their location, length etc are as follows.

Details of all the Taxi Ranks

YEOVIL – Hendford

This taxi rank has been properly marked within the terms of the Highways Act. It is properly signposted and DDA compliant.



Length of rank: 15.5m,
 Width of rank 2.9m
 Height of kerbstone None
 Markings: broken yellow lines
 Sign: 25cm (Height) x 35cm(Width) Height from ground 65cm
 Information on sign: No waiting except taxi's 9pm – 7am
 Writing on road: 'Taxi'

Action to be taken:

Administrative updates to originating rank order required.

YEOVIL – Silver Street Rank



Length of rank 50.9m,

Width of rank 1.8m

Height of kerbstone 11cm

Markings: broken yellow lines

Signs: Yellow 28cm (height) x 22cm (width) Height from ground 95cm

Blue 42cm (height) x 30cm (width), Height from ground 2.22m

Information on signs: No waiting at any time except taxi's (x3); Taxi Rank, Please use first taxi in rank (x1)

Writing on road: Taxis' (x3)

Action to be taken:

Administrative updates to originating rank order required.

YEOVIL – South Street



Length of rank: 12.8m, Width of rank 2.7m Height of kerbstone 11cm
 Markings: broken yellow lines
 Sign: 25cm (Height) x 35cm(Width) Height from ground 85cm (should be 2.2m)
 Information on sign: No waiting at any time except taxis
 Writing on road: 'Taxis'

Action to be taken:

Administrative updates to originating rank order required.

YEOVIL – Clarence Street



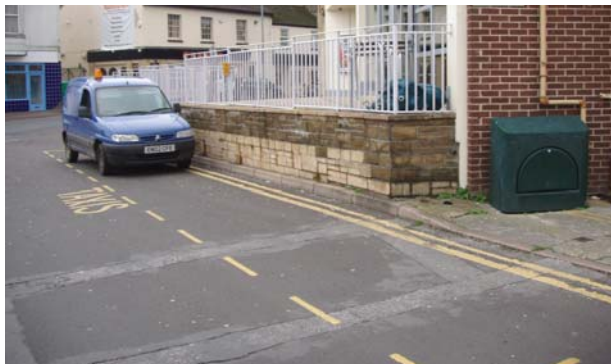
Length of rank: 35m, Width of rank 2.1m Height of kerbstone 14cm
 Markings: broken yellow lines
 Sign: 25cm (Height) x 35cm(Width) Height from ground 2.2m
 Information on sign: No waiting at any time except taxi's 9pm – 7am x 2
 Writing on road: 'Taxi' x 3

Action to be taken:

A full consultation was conducted with all the Licensed Hackney Carriage drivers in SSDC. We received 69 responses. Of the 69 responses 67 had not used the rank since the closure of Le Jardin (97%) and 60 out of 69 (86%) wanted the rank moved to another part of town.

The Licensing section will seek approval to look at alternative locations for these rank facilities.

YEOVIL - Stars Lane



Length of rank: 15m, Width of rank 2.2m Height of kerbstone N/A - wall on one side
 Markings: broken yellow lines
 Sign: 25cm (Height) x 35cm(Width) Height from ground 77cm
 Information on sign: No waiting at any time except taxis
 Writing on road: 'Taxis'

Action to be taken:

Following incidents of crime and disorder at the taxi rank outside of The Chicago Rock Night Club the police have requested that the taxi rank be relocated to the Stars Lane Car Park. This has been trialled for a number of weeks and has found to increase taxi capacity and reduce waiting time for customers thus dispersing people from the area and reducing crime and disorder in the area. The licensing section will seek approval to further investigate the police request.

YEOVIL – Labour Club



Length of rank: 23.8m, Width of rank 2.8m Height of kerbstone - None
 Markings: Faded white lines
 Sign: No taxi sign only a no public right of way sign (shown above)
 Writing on road: 'Taxi's only x2'

Action to be taken:

Further investigation will be required in terms of the originating rank order, and the future status of the rank

Yeovil – Somerfield Car Park



Length of rank: 6.6m, Width of rank 2.5m Height of kerbstone 16cm
 Markings: broken yellow lines
 Sign: 25cm (Height) x 35cm(Width) Height from ground 65cm
 Information on sign: No waiting except taxi's 9pm – 7am
 Writing on road: 'Taxis only'

Action to be taken:

With the proposed development of the site it may be necessary to relocate the current taxi rank. We would be expecting the developers of the project to cover any costs. The licensing section will seek approval to investigate relocation of the spaces when required.

CREWKERNE - Somerfield



Length of rank: 5.7m, Width of rank 2.4m Height of kerbstone None
 Markings: White lines
 Sign: None
 Writing on road: 'Taxis' x 3

Action to be taken:

Due to the redevelopment of the site by Waitrose the current rank will need to be relocated. At the appropriate time, the licensing section will therefore seek approval (in conjunction with the Highways Department) to find a suitable relocation site in Crewkerne.

ILMINSTER – Market Square



Length of rank: 11.2m, Width of rank 1.9m Height of kerbstone 16cm
 Markings: broken yellow lines
 Sign: 30cm (Height) x 40cm (Width) Height from ground 2m 30cm
 Information on sign: taxi rank stand for 2 taxis

Action to be taken - none

CHARD - Guildhall



Length of rank: 20.7m, Width of rank 2.3m Height of kerbstone 13.5cm
 Markings: broken yellow lines
 Sign: 26cm (Height) x 30cm(Width) Height from ground 2m 3cm
 Information on sign: No stopping except taxis
 Writing on road: 'Taxis' x 3

Action to be taken:

None

CHARD - Cerdic



Length of rank: 5.5m, Width of rank 2.2m Height of kerbstone
 Markings: broken yellow lines
 Sign: No sign
 Writing on road: Taxi

Action to be taken:

None

MARTOCK – North Street adjacent to the Precinct



Length of rank: 5m, Width of rank 1.8m Height of kerbstone 11cm
Markings: broken yellow lines
Sign: No sign
Writing on road: Taxi

Action to be taken:

The Licensing section can find no record of this rank being formalised by SSDC and further enquiries will therefore be required concerning when it was created and by which authority before a recommendation is made

Financial Implications

The cost of advertising the taxi rank proposals and the cost of the removal of the line painting on the highway for ranks which are proposed to be removed. At least some of these costs should be offset by the Somerfield developments in Crewkerne and Yeovil.

Implications for Corporate Priorities

Corporate Aim number 4: Ensuring safe, sustainable and cohesive communities.

Other Implications

Officer time in both the legal and licensing departments

Background Papers: *Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976*
