

Crawley Borough Council

	Report No: PES/079	F
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Report to Licensing Committee

14th June 2012

Hackney Carriage Stands

1.0 Key Points

- 1.1 There is no statutory duty for a local authority to provide Taxi Stands for Hackney Carriage Vehicles, however the council has the power to appoint ranks if they have the permission of the land owner.
- 1.2 Requests have been received to provide additional Taxi Stands within the Borough of Crawley as it is felt that currently there is insufficient space to accommodate the current fleet.
- 1.3 Additional Taxi Ranks should provide enhanced customer care to the paying public. This would include persons with walking difficulties, as there would be more options available.
- 1.4 This report requests approval, subject to statutory consultation, for the appointment of 3 new hackney carriage stands in the borough of Crawley.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Licensing Committee is asked to:

- (a) **Approve the proposed locations of the 3 new hackney carriage stands as detailed at paragraph 4.4 and in Appendices A, B and C of this report and,**

- (b) Authorise the Head of Environmental Services and Planning, or officer acting on her behalf to submit a public notice to a local newspaper stating the authority's intention to appoint the stands, and**
- (c) In the event of no objections being received within the statutory consultation period, approve the appointment of the stands as detailed to come into effect on the day after the last day of the consultation period, and**
- (d) Note that in the event of any objections being received and not withdrawn, a new report to be presented to Committee for consideration.**

ANGELA TANNER
Head of Planning & Environmental Services

3.0 Background

3.1 Crawley Borough Council has been approached by the Hackney Carriage Association to consider appointing additional Taxi Stands due to the over subscription to the existing Taxi Stands within the borough.

3.2 Section 63 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions Act) 1976 provides that a district Council may from time to time appoint stands for hackney carriages for the whole or any part of a day in any highway in the district which is maintainable at public expense with the consent of the highway authority, and on any other land in its district (which is not a highway) with the consent of the land owner. The Council is also empowered to vary the number of hackney carriages permitted to be at each stand.

3.3 It is a requirement of the legislation that before appointing any stands for hackney carriages, a district Council shall (1) give notice to the Chief Officer of Police in the Police area in which the stand is situated and (2) shall also give public notice of the proposal by advertising in at least one local newspaper and shall take into consideration any objections or representations made in respect of such proposals which may be made in writing within 28 days of publication of the notice.

3.4 There are currently 123 licensed hackney carriage vehicles operating within the borough from five stands, located at the following:

- Marks & Spencer (7 Spaces)
- High Street (5 Spaces)
- McDonald's (15 Spaces)
- Three Bridges Station (8 Spaces)
- Crawley Station (3 Spaces)

3.5 At peak time there is insufficient space at the above stands. Evidence of this has been confirmed both by monitoring historical data on CCTV at peak times and the 'local knowledge' of the licensing officer.

4.0 Current Situation

4.1 Current problems exist due to insufficient space for the number of hackney carriage vehicles that are operating at any one time.

4.2 Crawley Borough Council has approached by representatives of the Taxi trade in respect of gaining additional rank space within the borough.

4.3 Five sites were identified as potential new rank space and are as follows:

- Sussex House (10 Spaces)

- Lloyds TSB (5 Spaces)
- Queensway (4 Spaces)
- High Street (3 Spaces)
- Broadway (6 Spaces)

4.4 The above sites have been presented to West Sussex County Council's Highway Department for their consideration and of the 5 submitted 3 were identified as being suitable and no objections were raised, being:

- Sussex House (temporary until development of site), attached as **Appendix A**
- Lloyds Bank, attached as **appendix B**
- Queensway. attached as **appendix C**

The other two ranks were rejected by West Sussex County Council due to the location and current traffic regulation orders.

4.5 The Chief of Police (via Chief Inspector Steve Curry, District Commander) has been contacted in relation to the provision of additional Taxi Stands. He has raised no objections to the proposed stands.

4.6 If no objections are made from the general public following the advertising of the proposed stands, the Council will then be in a position to appoint these 3 proposed sites as new stands for hackney carriages.

4.7 Should any objections be made from the general public following the advertisement of the proposed additional stands then these objections will be presented to a subsequent meeting of the Licensing Committee for consideration.

5.0 Ward Members' Views

5.1. The views of ward members have not been considered at this stage, but will be included when the proposed ranks are advertised to the general public.

6.0 Staffing, Equalities, Financial and Legal Implications/Powers

6.1 There are no staffing related matters other than additional time spent preparing adverts for the consultation.

6.2 All financial costs are recovered through the self-financing of the licensing office.

6.3 All legal implications have been taken into consideration i.e. advertising and consultation.

An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed n

7.0 Risk Implications

7.1 None

8.0 Environmental Impacts

8.1 Additional Taxi Stands will allow persons to possibly queue outside premises that will be adjacent to the stands.

9.0 Other Implications

9.1 None

10.0 Links to the Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Plan

10.1 The proposals contained in this report relate to the following key areas of the Sustainable Community Strategy

Community Cohesion	y	Community Safety	y
Young People and Children	y	Health and Well Being	y
Older People	y	The Environment	y
The Local Economy	y	Social Inclusion	y

The following key principles are applicable:-

(i) Working together	y
(ii) Dignity, respect and opportunities for all	y
(iii) Involving People	y
(iv) Making it last	y

The report relates to the following areas in which the Council operates to enhance the town and the quality of life of local people:-

(i) Prosperity	y
(ii) Community	y
(iii) Environment	y
(iv) Value for Money	y

11.0 Reasons for the Recommendation

11.1 Due to the over demand for existing taxi stands there is a detrimental effect on both the drivers of hackney carriage vehicles and other road users during peak times when hackney carriage drivers are queuing to gain position on the stand. New stands will assist in resolving this issue.

12.0 Background Papers

12.1 None

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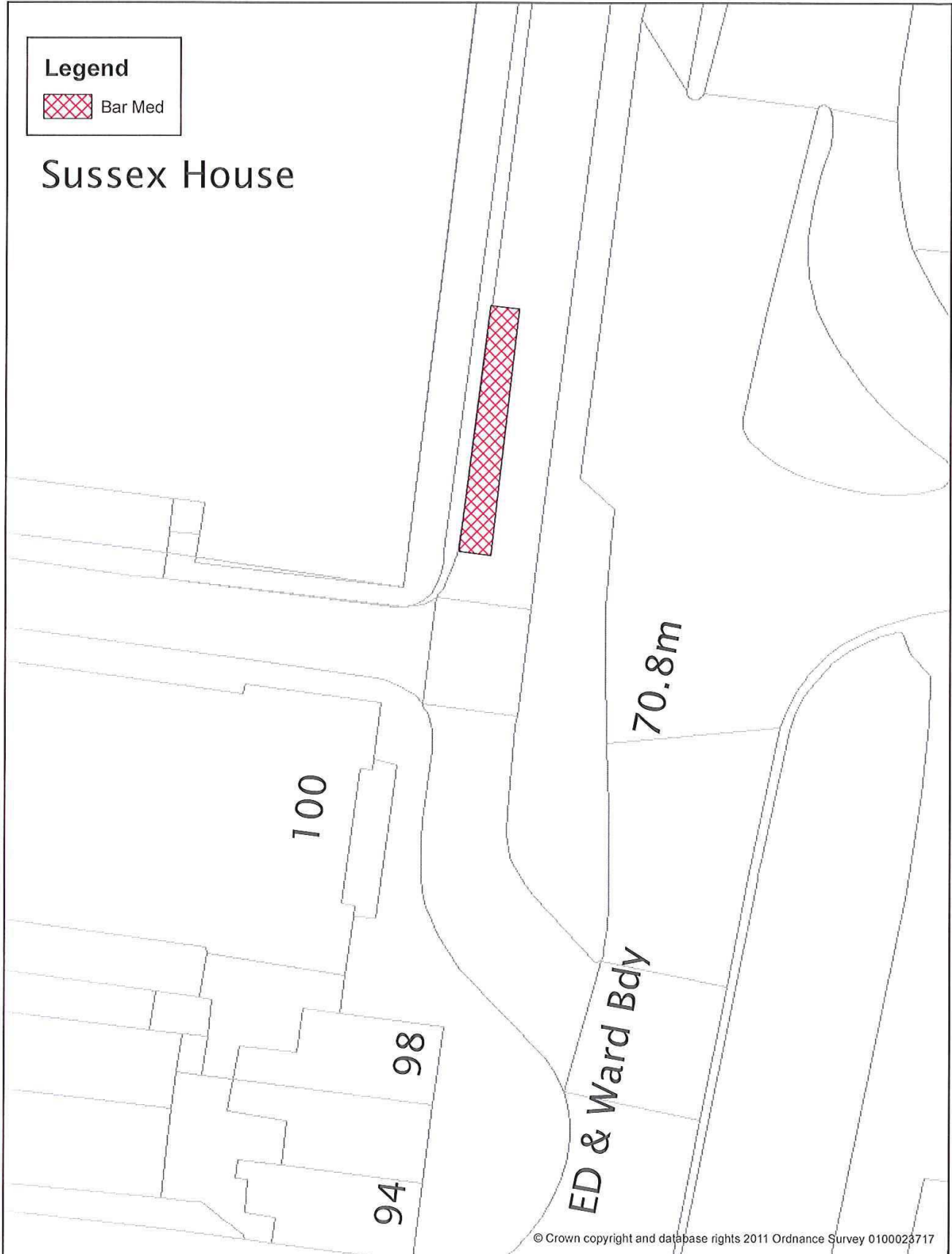


Taxi ranks

Appendix A

Crawley Borough Council
Town Hall
The Boulevard
Crawley
West Sussex RH10 1UZ

Tel: 01293 438000 Fax: 01293 438603



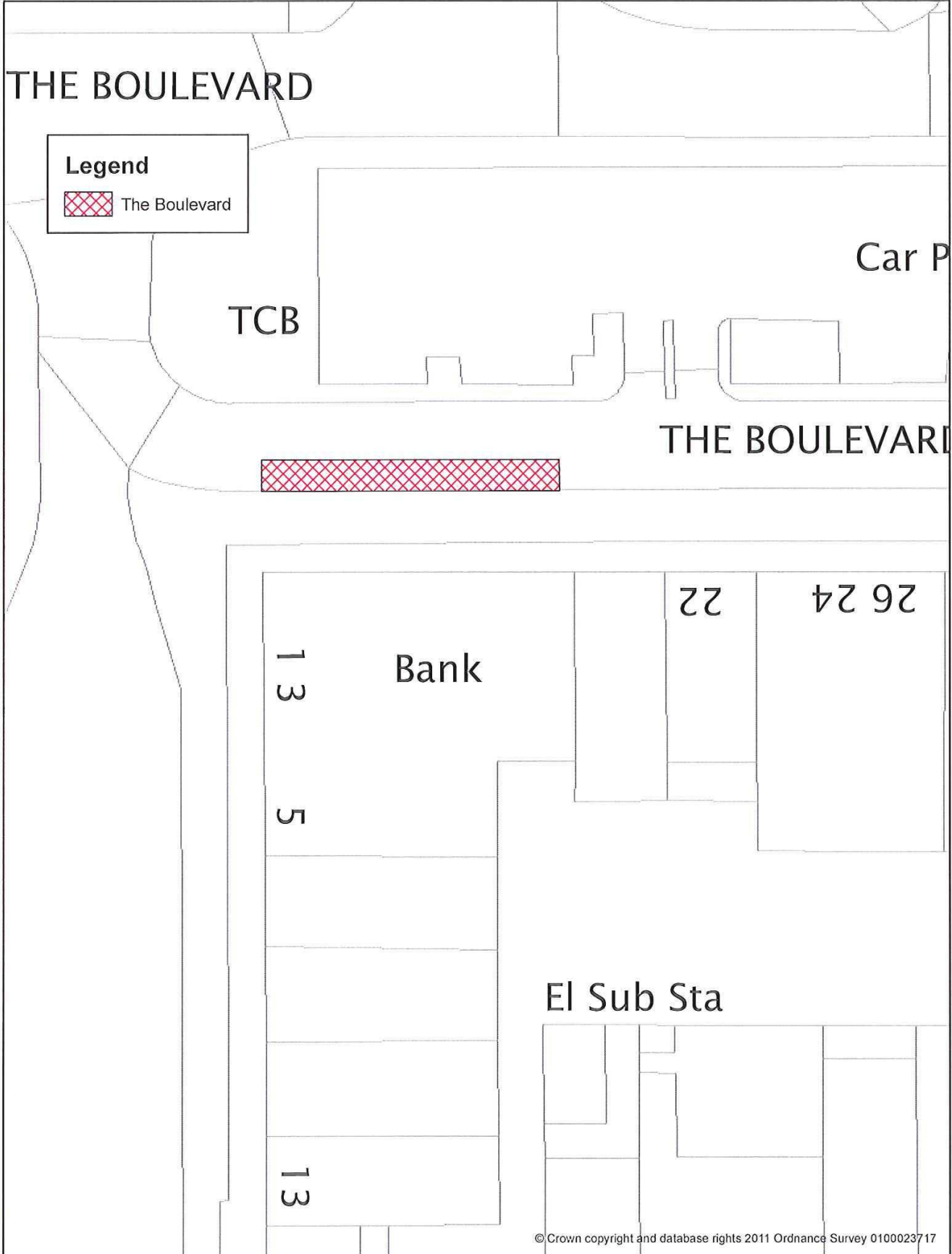


Taxi ranks

Appendix B

Crawley Borough Council
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Taxi ranks

Appendix C

Crawley Borough Council
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