

Crawley Borough Council

Minutes of Licensing Committee

18 June 2014 at 7.30pm

Present:

Councillor M G Jones (Chair)

Councillor B J Quinn (Vice-Chair)

Councillors B K Blake, B J Burgess, C R Eade, B McCrow,
C J Mullins, D M Peck, R Sharma, D J Shreeves, J Stanley,
K J Trussell and K B Williamson

Also in Attendance:

Mr Martin Feasey
Mr Iain McDonald

Crawley Hackney Carriage Association (Secretary)
Vector Transport Consultancy

Officers Present:

Tony Baldock
Mez Matthews
Bill Nailen
Astrid Williams

Environmental Health Manager
Democratic Services Officer
Licensing Officer
Solicitor

Apologies for Absence:

Councillors L S Marshall-Ascough and C Oxlade

1. Members' Disclosure of Interests

No disclosures of interests were made by Members.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 9 January 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. Licensing Sub Committee Minutes

The minutes of the following meeting of the Licensing Sub Committee were approved as a correct record and signed by the Member indicated below:-

Date	Sub Committee Minutes	Minutes signed by
3 March 2014	Application to Review the Premises Licence – 'JJ Whispers', 107 High Street, Crawley.	Councillor B K Blake (Chair of the Panel)

4. Hackney Carriage Unmet Demand Survey 2014

The Committee considered report PES/157 of the Head of Planning and Environmental Services which requested that the Committee give consideration to the unmet demand survey report which had been undertaken on behalf of Crawley Borough Council and decide whether the Council should continue to operate a policy of limiting the number of hackney carriage licences, and if so, at what level.

Following a question from the Committee, Iain MacDonald, the representative from Vector Transport Consultancy, confirmed that the Crawley Hackney Carriage Association had been consulted as part of the survey and had expressed its wish that the number of licences remain restricted.

The Committee discussed the proposal and were informed that the number of Hackney Carriage licences was currently 123. It was suggested that the downturn in late night activity in the Town Centre since the recession appeared to have resulted in a decrease in demand for hackney carriages. It was acknowledged however, that any increase in demand would be evidenced in a future unmet demand survey which would be conducted at least every 3 years. The Committee was satisfied that the survey showed there to be no significant unmet demand and it commended Vector Transport Consultancy on the production of such a good, evidence-based study.

Martin Feasey, Secretary for the Crawley Hackney Carriage Association, addressed the Committee and expressed his agreement with the findings of the survey. He commented that the number of Hackney Carriages operating in the area had dropped over the past 5 years.

Robert Feasey, an independent Hackney Carriage driver, addressed the Committee and stated that he had not been able to comment on the survey findings as he had not been able to access it until a few days previously. Mr R Feasey was informed that the matter would be taken up with the Licensing Officers.

RESOLVED

1. That, having given consideration to the unmet demand survey report, the Committee was satisfied there was no significant unmet demand for the services of hackney carriages within the borough,
2. That the Council would continue to have a policy of limiting the number of hackney carriage licences issued by Crawley Borough Council, and

3. That the limit on the number of hackney carriages would be the current number issued: 123, subject to any applicant demonstrating exceptional circumstances.

5. Closure of Meeting

With the business of the Committee concluded, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.55pm.

M G JONES
Chair