

Hackney Carriage Stand – Saffron Walden

Saffron Walden, item 4

Agenda Item

Committee: Licensing

Date: 27 June 2007

Title: Hackney Carriage Stand – Saffron Walden

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Item for
decision

Summary

- 1 This report advises Members of the current situation regarding the location of the Hackney Carriage Stand in Saffron Walden.

Recommendations

- 1 Members determine whether they wish to move towards the designation of additional taxi ranks in Saffron Walden and if so where such ranks should be and how many vehicles they should take.
- 2 Members determine whether they wish to move towards the relocation of the current rank within Market Street.

Background Papers

- Letters from Essex Police
- Letters from Saffron Walden Town Council
- Letter from Uttlesford Licensed Operators and Drivers Association

Impact

Communication/Consultation	The original concept of adding to the current location in Saffron Walden was the idea of the Trade Associations. Consultation has been made with the Chief Constable and relevant Town Council.
Community Safety	None
Equalities	The minor adjustment to the taxi rank in Market Street would have the effect of releasing car parking spaces closer to the Market Square for disabled parking without losing the space for 2 vehicles to ply for hire.
Finance	The Council will incur expense in placing the statutory advertisements. This is likely to be in the region of £1,030. It would not be possible to pass this expense on

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	to the trade, as although the Council is entitled to recover the cost of issuing and administering licences this is a one off expense so not recoverable. Additional expense would be incurred if a further rank were made available in the High Street in the region of £2000. This would include the amending of the Traffic Order and signage. Funding for this project could be made available by the Highway Authority but would have to be assessed in accordance with their priorities.
Human Rights	None.
Legal implications	As the proposal would be for relocating and adding taxi ranks on public highways, the consent of the Highways Authority to the creation of the ranks would be required.
Ward-specific impacts	The proposal affects Saffron Walden.
Workforce/Workplace	None.

Risk Analysis

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Alterations to the Saffron Walden Town Centre may result following recommendations made by the Saffron Walden Initiative	Medium Dependent upon financial resources being made available	Low. Spaces would be further away from the Market Square	Signage would be available for members of the public indicating the location of the ranks.

Situation

- 1 On 31 May 2006 the Assistant Chief Executive gave a verbal report to members following representations made by the Trade Associations to relocate the Taxi Ranks in Stansted and Saffron Walden. Following that report members resolved for officers to consult informally with the respective Town and Parish Councils, the Chief Constable and the Highway Authority.

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- 2 The matters relating to Saffron Walden concerned relocating from Market Street to the High Street with three spaces being allocated on either side of the road.
- 3 Following that resolution, the Town Council were consulted and after a due debate they rejected the proposals on the grounds that it would reduce on-street parking and that they considered that the ranks would not be regularly used.
- 4 The Uttlesford Licensed Operators and Drivers Association who proposed these measures then entered into negotiations with the Saffron Walden Town Centre Management Working Group whereby after due deliberation it was agreed by that Association to reduce the allocations of spaces from 6 to 4 again two being on each side of the road. The location of these stands would be adjacent to both Bus Stops in High Street, Saffron Walden.
- 5 The initial and subsequent correspondence received from the Town Council indicates that they would support a resolution of having one space either side of the highway adjacent to each bus stop.
- 6 The consent of Essex County Council Highways Department must be obtained before any work is commenced however they are unlikely to give that consent unless there is support from the Town Council.
- 7 Consultation with The Chief Constable reveals that the establishing of further ranks in the High Street can help in reducing crime and disorder but they make no comment on the number of vehicles that can ply for hire from that location.
- 8 The Trade Associations seek to retain the site of the rank in Market Street albeit it would be moved closer to the junction with Hill Street thus allowing disabled parking to be used on the current site.
- 9 Consultation with the Trade Associations reveal that they support the proposals for a further taxi rank on either side of the road in High Street, Saffron Walden.