



Ryedale District Council

REPORT TO: Community Services & Licensing Committee

DATE: 25 September 2008

REPORTING OFFICER: Finance Manager Street Scene
Beckie Bennett

SUBJECT: **Amendment to Taxi Rank
The Ropery Car Park, Pickering**

WARDS AFFECTED: Pickering.

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek Members approval to change the designation of the taxi rank in The Ropery Car Park in Pickering.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. It is recommended that the full time taxi rank in The Ropery Car Park is amended to a time-restricted rank operational between 1830 and 0600 hours.

3.0 REASONS SUPPORTING DECISION

Since the new taxi rank was introduced in The Ropery car park in August 2007, it has been monitored on a daily basis by the car park attendants. The evidence is that the rank is not being used by taxis during the day and the two bays are effectively stood empty, when they could be used by car park users and generate income for the Council.

Furthermore a number of complaints have been received by users of the car park and local residents who are unhappy that valuable car parking space in a busy car park is being taken up unnecessarily by the taxi ranks.

4.0 BACKGROUND

A programme of new taxi ranks across the district was approved for implementation during 2007 following a lengthy consultation exercise (CSL 23 November 2006).

It was also agreed to review the new ranks during 2008 to assess their success and monitor their usage. Unfortunately the full programme of ranks is not complete due to delays with NYCC therefore it is planned

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to report back to this Committee early in 2009 when a complete review can be undertaken.

However it has been possible to review the ranks which have been implemented on the Council's car parks. In view of the detrimental affect the rank on The Ropery car park is having both from the car park users' perspective and financially for the Council, the future of this particular rank is being raised for Members consideration.

5.0 POLICY CONTEXT

The provision of adequate ranks contributes positively towards the corporate objectives for safe communities and effective and integrated transport networks.

6.0 REPORT

A lengthy consultation exercise was undertaken when the provision of taxi ranks in the district was reviewed and at the time The Ropery car park location was proposed by the taxi drivers due to its proximity to the supermarket.

In August 2007 two parking bays in The Ropery car park were re-designated as a full time taxi rank. As the rank is on one of the Council's car parks its use has been monitored daily by the car park attendants and the evidence to date is that there is rarely a taxi using the rank.

The Ropery car park is a busy car park and a number of complaints have also been received raising the dissatisfaction with the taxi rank occupying 2 valuable car parking spaces.

It was made clear that once the taxi ranks were implemented their use would be reviewed and if they were found not to be used the Council would reconsider their future.

There have been delays with the full implementation of the ranks therefore a complete review of the success of all the ranks has not been undertaken. It is currently not known if the ranks in The Ropery are being used by taxis in the evenings.

It is considered that the most appropriate way forward for now is the re-designation of the rank to a time restricted rank operational between 1830 and 0600 hours.

7.0 OPTIONS

Members have the option to

- ⇒ change the rank to be time-restricted therefore only operational between 1830 and 0800, or
- ⇒ remove the rank completely, or
- ⇒ retain the rank as full time

8.0 RESULT OF OPTION APPRAISAL

The Ropery car park is a busy car park therefore the option to change the rank to a time-restricted rank is considered to be the most appropriate way forward, to ensure users of the car park have the optimum number of spaces available to them which in turn will have a financial benefit to the Council.

9.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The potential revenue generated by the 2 parking bays is potentially £6,900 a year.

There will also be a small cost to change the rank designation and time restrictions as applicable.

10.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

There is a risk when appointing additional ranks of them being under-utilised or their existence having a negative effect. When the additional ranks were introduced all risks were carefully considered together with the Council's legal requirement to provide adequate ranks.

In the case of The Ropery car park it has been found that the rank has not achieved what it was designed to achieve. The evidence supports the best use of the parking bays as car parking spaces to ensure customer satisfaction in a busy car park together with revenue for the Council.

There is a potential risk that the taxi drivers will be unhappy with a decision to reduce the length of time the spaces are available as a taxi rank however given the evidence to date this is unlikely.

Once all the taxi ranks are legally signed and marked it will then be possible review the success or otherwise of the ranks when a report will be presented to a future meeting of this committee.

11.0 CONCLUSION

Since 2 parking bays in The Ropery car park were designated as a full time taxi rank last year their use has been monitored. During the day the ranks are rarely used and a number of complaints have been received from car park users who are unhappy that valuable parking space has been made unavailable unnecessarily.

In view of the current situation it is recommended that the solution to this issue is the re-designation of the taxi rank to part-time (1830-0600 hours) until the complete effectiveness of the rank can be assessed and evaluated. Once all taxi ranks are properly implemented across the district a full review of the effectiveness of the ranks will be undertaken and reported back to Committee.

OFFICER CONTACT:

Please contact Laural Huntington, Taxi Licensing Officer if you require any further information on the contents of this report. The officer can be contacted at Malton Depot
Telephone No 01653-600666 ext 474 and
e-mail: laural.huntington@ryedale.gov.uk



Pickering-The Ropery Car Park
A 2-vehicle all day rank.