

Report to Leighton Linslade Partnership Committee
From Margaret James, Principal Public Protection Officer (Licensing)
Subject Leighton Buzzard Hackney Carriage Rank Proposal
Date 6 February 2020

Background

At a meeting of the LLPC on 6 June 2019, CBC submitted a report identifying three potential locations which could be a suitable location for a hackney carriage rank:

- North Street
- Lake Street
- Church Square

At that time, CBC requested the committee's preference in order or for us to start a consultation on the feasibility of the preferred scheme. North Street was identified as the preferred option with Lake Street as a second choice.

In line with hackney carriage legislation, CBC Highways were contacted in advance of the formal consultation for their views on the two sites. In their view, only Lake Street could be considered as it would allow the flow of traffic whereas there was potential for congestion at North Street due to vehicles having to turn around to exit.

At a meeting on 9 October 2019, the LL Planning and Transport Committee resolved to support the commencement of public consultation in respect of the potential relocation of the taxi rank to Lake Street and, on 10 October 2019 the Town Clerk formally requested that the consultation be carried out.

Consultation

The formal consultation was commenced. A total of 34 letters were sent out to:-

Chief of Police
Highways
Local bus and transport companies
Local disability and advice groups
Local businesses adjacent to the proposed rank
HC and PH companies in the town
Leighton-Linslade Town Councillors
Leighton-Linslade Town Council

A copy of my letter regarding the consultation can be found at **Appendix 1**.

The matter was also advertised in the local press and on the CBC website.

A total of 22 letters of objection have been received. Each letter was acknowledged and, on 9 January 2020, a further letter was sent to each objector. A copy of my letter to objectors can be found at **Appendix 2**.

Of those objectors who responded, 15 were happy for me to pass on their letters including details of their names and addresses and 3 asked that their names and addresses be redacted. To date, 4 have not responded to my request. I have redacted the names and addresses from these letters of objection.

We received one email in support of the proposal from CBC Highways.

A copy of each letter of objections can be found at **Appendix 3**.

Recommendation

In view of the number of objections received, the LLPC may wish to reconsider their request to relocate the rank to Lake Street.