Open Decision Item 2

One Corby Policy Committee

15 August 2006

Closure of Hackney Carriage Ranks

Synopsis
For One Policy Committee to consider a proposal to close three under-used Hackney Carriage ranks.

1. Purpose of Report
Consideration by the Committee for closure of Hackney carriage ranks at:
- The Jamb (Old Village)
- The Mews (Rockingham Road)
- Patrick Road (Lay-by opposite Irish/Grampian Clubs)
In accordance with Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 Sect. 63 (5)

2. Background
It became apparent from the recent (2004) Hackney Carriage Survey that the 3 Ranks requiring Committee consideration for closure were only used less than 1% of the time during the survey period (see appendix 1). Other observations have been made by the Licensing Officer and put to Corby Hackney Owners Association (CHOA) at the CBC meeting on 03 March 06. Owners/drivers were also questioned and some answers received were:
- The Jamb: ‘Don’t use it’, ‘I thought it was closed’, ‘its always full of cars’, ‘its easier to pick up in the pub car park’.
- The Mews: ‘Didn’t know there was one there’, ‘not marked up since they did the bridge’, ‘thought it was closed’.
- Patrick Road: ‘Nobody picks up there’, ‘everybody goes in the club car park’, ‘customers want to be picked up/dropped off at club door’.
- CHOA made no objections to the ranks being closed.

3. Report
Part of the 2004 survey is at Appendix 1 for the committee to see the use of the ranks.
Options that have been identified that the Committee may wish to consider:
1. To close the ranks;
2. To close some but not all the ranks;
3. Not to close any of the ranks;
4. Or any other option the Committee may decide upon.

4. Issues to be taken into account:
There will be little or no implications to the travelling public

Financial implications
1. To keep the ranks open would require the Council to resurface and repaint the ranks and new signage put in place. Approx. cost could be £5000 - £15000 depending on number of ranks to be up graded this would require surveying and full costing by the County Highways Dept.
2. On closure there would be no implications as there is no signage to be removed from any of the ranks, as it has been removed or re-surfaced over the years and as never been replaced

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3. There would be an approx cost of £250 for the advertisement to be placed in the local paper.

**Legal Implications**

In line with current legislation and verbal advice received by the Licensing Officer from the appropriate Government Office (ODPM) the following steps are required to enable the unused ranks to be closed:

1. Report to Policy Committee for Consideration of Closure;
2. If closure agreed, appropriate advertisement in local paper;
3. 28 days after advertisement appears ranks may then be deemed to be closed, **if there are no objections**;
4. If there are objections these will be investigated and if required a further report will be brought to the Committee and the objector(s) invited to address members;
5. Contact has been made with County Council Highways dept. who have confirmed ranks are not subject to any Order and records within Corby Borough Council do not go back far enough to ascertain how ranks were first adopted.

**Crime and Disorder Implications**

None

**Best Value Implications**

It will be more economically sound to close the ranks than for them to remain open, monies that could be saved on the general upkeep could be used towards the new ranks in the new regenerated town centre.

5. **Conclusions**

The Licensing Officer, having consulted with all the relevant agencies (ODPM, County Highways dept., CHOA, Owners, Drivers) written references (LG/MP) A76 and 2004 Survey of Hackney carriage ranks) involved in the opening/upkeep/closure/use of Hackney Carriage ranks within the Borough of Corby, proposes that Members consider the options available in accordance with Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 Sect. 63 (5) which empowers the Local Council to open as well as close ranks.

6. **Recommendations**

It is recommended that Members support Option 1, to close the listed ranks.

**Background Papers**

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 Sect. 63 (5)

**Appendices**

Appendix 1 – 2004 Hackney Carriage Survey

**External Consultations**

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
TPI
Hackney Carriage Owners (CHOA)
County Highways Dept.
Owners/Drivers

**Officer to Contact**

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