

**Report of:** Head of Environmental Development

**To:** General Purposes Licensing Committee

**Date:** 28<sup>th</sup> October 2008      **Item No:** 8

**Title of Report** Appointment of a New Hackney Carriage Rank

**Summary and Recommendations**

**Purpose of report:**

To appoint a new hackney carriage rank in Between Towns Road.

**Key decision:** No

**Portfolio Holder:** N/A

**Scrutiny Responsibility:**

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Report Approved by:**

Tony Payne	Environmental Development
Daniel Smith	Legal & Democratic Services
Andy Collett	Finance

**Policy Framework:** None

**Recommendation(s):**

The Committee is RECOMMENDED to:-

Approve to proposal and to resolve that:-

Subject to consultation -

A stand for two hackney carriages be appointed on the south side of Between Towns Road, Oxford from a point 10.9 metres to the south of the east corner of 51 Between Towns Road, westwards for a distance of twelve metres.

## **Background**

1. Oxfordshire County Council have a made a number of changes to the location of the bus stops in Between Towns Road to provide a bus turning facility and as part of this exercise have made provision for a hackney carriage rank. A plan is shown at **Appendix 1**
2. The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 empowers a district council to appoint stands for hackney carriages for the whole or part of the day in any highway in the district which is maintainable at public expense.

## **Consultation**

3. Before appointing any rank for hackney carriages, a district council shall give notice to the Chief Officer of police for the area, seek consent from the highway authority if the area is on the highway and shall also give the public notice of the proposal by advertisement in at least one local newspaper circulating in the district and shall take into consideration any objections or representations in respect of such proposal.
4. Thames Valley Police have been consulted and have no objections.  
**(Appendix 2)**
5. Oxfordshire County Council is carrying out the scheme and has no objections to the appointment of the rank.
6. Comments have been received from the taxi trade and are shown at  
**(Appendix 3)**
7. The appointment of this rank was an attempt by Oxfordshire County Council to deal with the problem of private hire vehicles parking on the bus stop. Since private hire vehicle will not be able to use the rank it will do

nothing to solve their stopping problem but may provide the opportunity for passengers to use a hackney carriage.

8. The lining for the rank is already in place, having been put down by the County Council when the lining for the bus scheme was put in, but is not yet signed.
9. Should the Committee decide that they wish to approve the new stand then a notice will be placed in a local newspaper inviting any further objections. Should there be objections raised following this publication of this notice then it may be necessary to return the matter to this Committee.

**Name and contact details of author:**

**Philip Pirouet**

**Taxi Licensing Officer**

**Environmental Development**

**☎ 01865 252115**

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|-------------------|--|
| <b>Appendix 1</b> | <b>Plans from Oxfordshire County Council</b>         |
| <b>Appendix 2</b> | <b>Letter from Thames Valley Police</b>              |
| <b>Appendix 3</b> | <b>Consultation and comments from the taxi trade</b> |



**Claire Benson  
Manager**

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6<sup>th</sup> June 2008

Your Ref PP Templars rank  
Our Ref HQ 178/1/35 TM 369/2008

Oxford City Council  
Ramsay House  
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OX1 1PT

**For the attn. of Philip Pirouet**

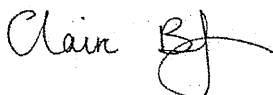
Dear Sirs,

**Taxi Rank in Between Towns Road - Cowley**

I refer to your letter dated 15<sup>th</sup> May 2008 regarding the above subject, in which you invite my comment.

I have no objections or adverse comment to make with regard to the proposals however the Traffic Regulation Order must be properly and lawfully signed in accordance with the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002

Yours faithfully,



Claire Benson  
Manager  
for Superintendent i/c  
Roads Policing

# Taxi Licensing

APPENDIX 3 (1)

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**OXFORD  
CITY  
COUNCIL**

21 August 2008

Ref. PP

Your Ref.

01865 252115

All Operators  
+ Driver Orgs.

Dear Operator,

## **Hackney Carriage Rank – Between Towns Road**

As you will probably have noticed, the County Council have made alterations to the bus stops in Between Towns Road to facilitate a bus turning circle. They have incorporated a new hackney carriage rank in this plan and as a cost saving measure have in fact put down the basic road markings for this rank when doing the re-lining for the bus stops.

There is no proposal to make any changes to the existing rank in Barns Road but his office will obviously look to see what use each of the ranks gets.

The rank new will need formal approval by the City Council who have the responsibility for the appointment of ranks and in connection with this I am writing to ask interested parties if they have any comment to make about this new rank.

Should you have any comments, this office would be pleased to receive them within the next 14 days.

Yours faithfully,

Philip Pirouet  
Taxi Licensing Officer.

Received from

Niaz Mohammed, Manager of Royal Cars.

**Hackney carriage rank**

This new proposal will make life very difficult for the private hire trade, and our customers. A large amount of customers requiring taxis order there car to pick up from this proposed designated space it will mean frequently asking customers to move along the road as it will be unlawful for private hire vehicles to enter these spaces. Evidence of this effect can already be seen from the Hackney Rank on Barns Road. Due to there being a Taxi rank and Bus stop there is no room for any other vehicles to use pick up or drop off points. A typical example of this is a mother with children and shopping orders a taxi from "the Old Cowley Centre Post Office" when the driver arrives he is unable to use the pick up point so has to instruct his customers to either walk round the back cross the road or move down the street, which then can cause problems as many members of the public don't realise the difference between a private hire vehicle and a Hackney vehicle

which causes the impression that drivers are being difficult. Further more we feel that this first problem needs to be resolved before any further propositions take place and that the proposed carriage rank ought to be utilised as a pick up and drop off point, which will benefit both trades and other road users.

Thank you fro your correspondence regarding the new rank facility in Between Towns Road.

Whilst any new rank facility is welcomed by the trade, it has to be in the right place & at the right times of day, otherwise it will simply be ignored by cab drivers & cab users alike.

I realise this rank suddenly appeared overnight as if dropped by martians, it was without any element of consultation from the County Council, which does not surprise me in the leas.

I am disappointed that a rank suddenly appointed by the county is immediately backed up with double yellow lines through it, whilst every other rank around Oxford continues to be abused by private car & Private Hire drivers where yellow lines do NOT exist, however, it would appear that the county have failed yet again to require parking attendants to enforce the double yellows at Between Towns Road rendering the new facility useless.

Its a great pity that the county are not as eager to allow hackney carriages to ply their trade as they are bus operators.

Best Regards

Alan Woodward

8.7

City of Oxford licensed Taxicab Association