

St John Street Area Residents' Association

c/o the Secretary, 55 St John Street, OX1 2LQ

stjohnstarea.residents@gmail.com

Appointment of Hackney Carriage Stands

Proposal for a Taxi Rank in Little Clarendon Street Oxford : Objection

This Association represents the interests of the residents in the area from St Giles to Beaumont Buildings and Wellington Square to Gloucester Green.

We refer to your notice in the Oxford Times of 31.1.19 proposing a taxi rank on the southeast side of Little Clarendon Street from 18.30 hours to 08.00 hours.

This Association has no objection to a taxi rank on this site until midnight. Indeed, such a rank may well be helpful to hospitality businesses in the street, all but one of which, we believe, close by midnight. However, we are concerned that a rank on this site after midnight will inevitably attract most or all of its customers from other areas. Most of these customers will be leaving bars or clubs and are likely to come from the City Centre or Walton Street after drinking alcohol. The obvious route from the City Centre would be along St John Street and through Wellington Square; that from Walton Street would be up Little Clarendon Street.

St John Street is entirely residential, except for one house. Because the houses are three or more stories high and built directly on to the pavement, noise at night echoes round the street. This Association is concerned that residents will be disturbed by revellers coming along St John Street towards taxis in Little Clarendon Street in the early morning. There are also residents in Wellington Square and some of the houses there are used by Rewley House as overnight accommodation for participants in its courses. All these people would face disturbance. People walking to the taxi rank from Walton Street would have to pass the large post graduate block in Little Clarendon Street and other student accommodation in order to reach the rank and would cause disturbance to residents in them. The post graduates study diligently and, as far as we are aware, are not among those who stay out until the early morning.

Noise of people waiting for taxis, doors slamming, engines running etc after midnight would disturb all those in Little Clarendon Street, which is narrow, and may affect Wellington Square also.

If there is a need for a late night/early morning taxi stand in this area, then Walton Street would be more suitable. There are several pubs/clubs in Walton Street which appear to stay open until the early hours of the morning whose customers might need taxis. The stretch of Walton Street outside Oxford University Press buildings is wide and much wider than Little Clarendon Street so minimising the risk of accidents between taxis or their customers and passing traffic. Neither side of Walton Street in this area has any residential or student accommodation so disturbance would be minimal. Has this area been considered?