

Deputation to the Council Meeting  
18<sup>th</sup> of July 2007

My Lord Mayor, Councilors

The deputation present are

Brian Heptinstall NTA

Ken Gill LTO

Ilyas Zaman LAPTPA **AL ASGAIH**

~~Zulfiqar Din LITDA~~

~~Qadir Hussain LITDA~~

In total we represent 100% of the Leeds Taxi Trade

I will have shortly completed 45 years as a Taxi Driver in Leeds, and for most of those years I have represented the Leeds Taxi trade both locally and nationally.

In all those years I can remember only one occasion in the early 70s that we have had to resort to this level of protest.

Many of our members thought that we should go to the Ombudsman, another section feel that a demonstration in the City Centre that would cause traffic disruption, would be the only thing that would catch your attention.

I am glad to say that the moderates won the day **this time**.

The reasons for these extremely strong feelings are as follows.

2001 Halcrow Fox report to Council on City Centre Access study

2003 QA consultants report on Evening and Night Time economy to the Council

2003 Development Department final report on the Evening and Night time economy

2004 Licensing Panel report to Scrutiny Board

2004 Licensing Panel working Group

2005 Corporate Scrutiny Board report on taxis

2006 City Services Rank proposals report

**All of these reports had one common thread. It was the need for urgent assessment of the city centre ranks. To take into account the growing numbers of the public who require transport out of the City Centre.**

**The need to create ranks that would help in the dispersal of large numbers, exiting places of entertainment and causing serious public order problems. They would also cut down serious illegal plying for hire of private hire drivers who park up throughout the City Centre**

**Every report made recommendations on ranks**

**All attempts to progress these recommendations both by elected Members of the Licensing Panel and Licensing section officers has failed.**

**Officers who should attend meetings and explain the lack of progress on ranks just fail to turn up. Consultation with Highways has almost disappeared and it would seem only to give lip service to the taxi rank problem**

The Highways/City Services departments have failed to carry the work forward, a list of proposals were made in June 2005. They failed to respond to the recommendations; they failed to respond to you the elected members and more importantly they failed to respond to the requirements of the Public

A report to the Director of City services in July 2006 said

There is a need to assess both the 24 hour ranks and the night time ranks.

And it was proposed that 14 new ranks be created which can be inspected on drawing TF34/54/10j

It proposed to convert all existing ranks from their current 76 Misc Prov sec 63 control to designated on street parking places which would give the Councils parking enforcement team the necessary power to enforce when they took over parking enforcement

The reports Recommendations were

The Director to approve the proposals as indicated on drawing TF34/54/10j

To Request the Director of Legal Services to advertise the draft parking places, to provide the new night time ranks and convert the existing ranks to Parking Places

**Since the Council took over the parking enforcement role, 80 Taxi rank spaces have become free parking places for members of the public. The ranks have become unworkable**

**Not one ticket has been issued, Due to the failure to create the Parking Places Orders prior to the start of the regime.**

It is important to recognize that the public want ranks at places that are well lit, covered specifically by CCTV and under cover and importantly that are close to hot spot.

The shorter the distance to a rank the less time to cause a disturbance.

The private hire trade that ply for hire illegally park up outside the very places that we should have ranks. It has become so bad that the Licensing Panel have had to draw up new conditions to combat the practice. In last night press there was another prime example of illegal private hire in the City Centre; we now have bogus illegal private hire.

There are 80 rank spaces 24 hours a day

There are a further 36 in the Station that the taxi trade pay for on an annual basis

A total of 116 spaces

There are a 106 night time only spaces

There are 262 saloons and 275 Wheelchair Accessible taxis

Total 537 Leeds Taxis