

Central Pier (Marine Road) Rank

Re the proposed abolition of the taxi rank known within the trade as the 'Pier Rank', I would like to bring to the committee's attention my objection and also the reasons for this late submission.

On Wednesday last I read in the Visitor newspaper that it was intended to abolish the above taxi rank and transform the area into a children's play area. I immediately mentioned this to other drivers who work almost exclusively on the ranks within Morecambe and none of them were aware of this proposal. I mentioned it to the Chief Executive's assistant and received a telephone call from Wendy Peck enquiring as to the nature of my complaint.

I asked when the trade had been consulted and I was told in 2012 but there had been no response. This is plainly untrue as I myself made a comprehensive reply (see attached - the black type is a verbatim copy of the proposals issued by the Licensing department and the red type is my response) which included why the change to this particular rank was not feasible due to the extensive road alterations necessary. As can be seen the initial proposal was totally impractical and the assumed meaning, that we use the lay-bye outside Nat West Bank, would also not work because of vehicles continually parking there whilst the drivers nipped into the bank, shop, etc.

I then asked when it was advertised and where, I already knew the answer. It has been Lancaster City Council policy to only publish public notices in the Lancaster Guardian, a practice I have complained about since Steve Waring's days and which reinforces the belief of bias against Morecambe. Thanks to the Chief Executive it has now been agreed that matters pertaining only to Morecambe will be advertised in the Visitor.

This did not alter the fact that by the time I found out it left very little time to respond before the deadline.

In conclusion, in future there needs to be full consultation within the trade, not just a select few owners who have not driven a taxi for years and are primarily based in Lancaster and proper publication of notices in the relevant paper and possibly to the attachment of a notice on the posts on the rank in question as is done in planning applications. I would further suggest that at present all taxi rank allocation be left untouched until such time as the effects of the closure of Tesco are better understood.

Objection - William Riley

CC:
Subject:

Summary, 19/11/11
market street rank, Morecambe

Regarding the Licensing meeting next Thursday. An alternative suggested, but not yet considered; move rank to Tunstall street and Anderton street. 24 hours, no stopping except taxis, reverse the traffic flow on Tunstall Street, change loading area to a taxi rank, no entry except taxis from Central drive. Anderton street to have taxi rank on west side, reverse traffic flow. Loading on west side of Market street. The Licensing Manager attended an early meeting with Mr. Inman, where this was suggested.