



# Sevenoaks

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Despatched: 30.03.12

## LICENSING COMMITTEE

11 April 2012 at 6.00 pm

Conference Room, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks

### AGENDA

#### **Membership:**

Chairman: Cllr. Pett

Cllrs. Abraham, Mrs. Ayres, Ayres, Clark, Cooke, Davison, Mrs. Dawson, Firth, Fittock, Hogarth, Mrs. Parkin, Piper, Raikes and Walshe

|   | <u>Pages</u>   | <u>Contact</u>            |
|---|----------------|---------------------------|
| 1. <b>Apologies for absence</b>   |                |                           |
| 2. <b>Minutes</b>   | (Pages 1 - 8)  |                           |
| <i>Minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 1 February 2012 (attached) and of the Sub-Committee held on 20 March 2012 (attached) and 2 April 2012 (to follow)</i> |                |                           |
| 3. <b>Declarations of interest</b>  |                |                           |
| 4. <b>Actions from the previous meeting</b>   |                |                           |
| <i>None.</i>  |                |                           |
| 5. <b>Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Fees 2012-13</b>  | (Pages 9 - 18) | Claire Perry<br>Ext. 7325 |

To assist in the speedy and efficient despatch of business, Members wishing to obtain factual information on items included on the Agenda are asked to enquire of the appropriate Director or Contact Officer named on a report prior to the day of the meeting.

Should you require a copy of this agenda or any of the reports listed on it in another format please do not hesitate to contact the Democratic Services Team as set out below.

For any other queries concerning this agenda or the meeting please contact:

**The Democratic Services Team (01732 227241)**

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**LICENSING COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee  
held on 1 February 2012 commencing at 6 p.m.

Present: Cllr. Pett (Chairman)

Cllrs. Abraham, Mrs. Ayres, Ayres, Clark, Cooke, Mrs. Dawson, Firth, Fittock, Hogarth, Mrs. Parkin, Piper, Raikes and Walshe.

16. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Davison.

17. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A Member enquired whether the Magistrates Court had received appeals to the Committee's decisions at its meeting on 26 October 2011. Officers advised that the appeal hearings were expected in early April 2012. An appeal had also been submitted to a decision made under delegated authority prior to Christmas 2011.

Regarding the Taxi Licensing Policy a Member was concerned that, in his experience, Liquefied Petroleum Gas vehicles had insufficient space to carry wheelchairs. The Chairman confirmed this matter had been considered.

Resolved: That, the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 26 October 2011 and the Sub-Committee held on 18 November 2011 be approved and signed by the Chairman as correct records.

18. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Councillors present declared a personal interest in Minute Item 21 by virtue of knowing Cllr. John Underwood, who was a taxi driver in the District.

Cllr. Clark declared a personal interest in Minute Item 21 by virtue of knowing Graham Maxted, who was a taxi driver in the District.

Cllrs. Mrs. Dawson, Mrs. Parkin, Pett and Piper declared a personal interest in Minute Item 21 by virtue of knowing Colin Annetts, who was a taxi driver in the District.

Cllr. Mrs. Dawson declared a further personal interest in Minute Item 21 as taxis were her main mode of transport.

19. ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Report No. 4)

The Licensing Partnership Manager advised that the weight of opinion was falling against reducing the minimum number of passenger in the Taxi Licensing Policy to allow the use of smaller vehicles. Any such reduction could increase safety concerns. The proximity of drivers and passengers in 2-seater vehicles also raised difficulties, especially as drivers often carried cash. Officers would continue to investigate the matter.

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The action was noted.

20. GAMBLING ACT 2005 – FEES FOR 2012/13 (Report No. 5)

The Licensing Partnership Manager introduced the report and explained that fees had been set annually since 2007. Proposed fees were based on cost-recovery plus inflation. Officers had used the Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS) toolkit to calculate the costs for the Licensing Team over the year while assessing the risk of any additional costs. Inflation was set at 3% in line with the Council's budget. She was satisfied that fees should be set at cost-recovery level only because these would be more defensible if challenged.

In response to a question she advised that the statutory maximum fees had not been changed since they were introduced. However, Sevenoaks District had only 8 betting premises and the fees for these were not at the statutory maximum. The Council would have difficulty successfully arguing for higher limits.

The fees for both the Gambling Act and Hackney Carriage and Private Hire were based on cost-recovery. This did not apply to Licensing Act 2003 fees and so the Licensing Partnership was still endeavouring to make efficiencies. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 had been passed and would allow Council to set their own fees under the Licensing Act 2003, but the Council needed to await secondary legislation.

It was unanimously:

Resolved: That the Gambling Act 2005 fees for 2012/13, as set out in bold in Appendix B of the report, be adopted.

21. HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING: LICENCE FEES 2012/13 (Report No. 6)

The Licensing Partnership Manager confirmed that, as under the Gambling Act, the taxi licensing service was self-financing. Proposed fees were based on assessing income and expenditure over the past year plus a 3% inflationary rise in line with the Council's budget.

Some fees, such as the initial and renewal application fees for Hackney Carriage Driver's Licences had not risen in 3 years and so had risen accordingly. The Council was now able to insist on enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) searches and the £44 fee reflected this.

Following a cost analysis the fee for a replacement vehicle plate had fallen to £23 and the cost of a replacement identification badge was aligning with other Authorities in the Licensing Partnership.

Two amendments were made to the proposed fees as set out in the report. The replacement identification badge costs was to be £9 and the fee for a change of address or name on a licence was to be £11.

The Medical Provider fee was not set by the Council directly but the contract was currently out for tender. It was thought the fee may fall. She replied to a Member of

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the Committee that the tender took account of female drivers, who made up approximately a third of the drivers in the District, and allowed them to be examined by female practitioners.

The Licensing Partnership Manager answered Members questions. She explained how the “knowledge test” worked and the process for receiving a licence. It was possible for drivers to learn the routes for one area of the District but then to move. Officers believed they had processes in place to prevent people fraudulently taking the tests on behalf of others.

The enhanced CRB checks did not prohibit those with criminal records from becoming drivers but they were less likely to be allowed if they had committed a sexual offence, particularly on minors.

She explained that she did not expect complete harmonisation between the Licensing Partnership Authorities for fee levels, but she would try to bring them closer. There would be some difference because, for example, Tunbridge Wells and Maidstone Borough Councils both had unmet demand surveys. The Head of Environmental and Operational Services added that the governance section of the Partnership Agreement stated that each Authority reserved the right for their Committee to set its own fees. There would be no requirement for harmonisation.

Resolved: That from 1 April 2012 the list of fees and associated costs for licences in respect of hackney carriage drivers and vehicles and private hire drivers, vehicles and operators be varied as set out in the report as amended.

THE MEETING WAS CONCLUDED AT 6.47 P.M.

Chairman



**LICENSING HEARING**

Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Hearing  
held on 20 March 2012 commencing at 10.30 am

Present: Sub-Committee E: Cllrs. Fittock, Hogarth and Piper (substitute)

Also present: Mr. M. Cassum - Applicant's Representative  
Mr. H. Tulu - Applicant  
Mrs. J. Bolton - Licensing Officer  
Mrs. H. Langford - Legal Adviser  
Ms V. Etheridge - Democratic Services Officer

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Resolved: That Cllr. Fittock be appointed Chairman of the meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

No declarations of interest were made.

3. MOBILE CATERING UNIT, LAY-BY, ADJACENT TO THE PORTOBELLO  
INN, LONDON ROAD, WEST KINGSDOWN, KENT. TN15 6JB

The Hearing gave consideration to a report by the Community and Planning Services Director giving details of an application for a Premises Licence for the The Mobile Catering Unit, Lay-By, Adjacent to the Portobello Inn, London Road, West Kingsdown, Kent. TN15 6JB . The application was made by Mr. Hidayi Tulu, 32 Adam Close, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 3DT. It was noted that an objection had been received and that accordingly the application had been referred to the Sub-Committee for determination.

No representatives of West Kingsdown Parish Council, the objectors, were present. However a late submission had been sent to the Licensing Officer. The Chairman advised that the Sub-Committee had not seen this information and asked the Applicants if they agreed that it be submitted. The Applicants agreed and paper copies of the email were circulated.

The Chairman adjourned the Hearing to provide all those present with an opportunity to read the late submission from the Parish Council.

At 10.54 a.m. the Hearing adjourned.

At 10.59 a.m. the Hearing reconvened.

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Licensing Hearing - Tuesday, 20 March 2012

The Hearing heard from the applicant's representative in support of the application. In response to the issues raised in the late submission, the applicant's representative replied that they had offered to reduce the hours of operation applied for by one hour on Fridays and Saturdays to coincide with the Public House opening hours which the Parish Council had still objected to; that they had consulted Kent Highways and had understood that as they were causing no obstruction to the highway there was no problem with them parking there; and that the mobile catering unit did trade on Sundays but only until 8.00 p.m. The application therefore stood as applied for.

The Legal Advisor responded that the licence application was a separate issue to the highways issue, which was a matter for Kent Highways to consider, but that the Hearing did need to assess the application against the licensing objectives and one of those objectives was public safety.

In response to questions about possible noise nuisance, the applicant's representative advised that no generator was used, the engine was not run and the extraction fan ran off the battery. The van was parked near a public house and car park in a lay-by on a busy road. The window of the unit faced the footpath, and there was still enough room in the lay-by for a bus.

At 11.15 a.m. the Hearing Members and Council's Legal Adviser withdrew to consider the issues raised.

At 11.26 a.m. the Hearing Members and Council's Legal Adviser returned to the Council Chamber.

The Chairman informed the Hearing that the Sub-Committee had had regard to the representations made by the Applicant and interested parties, to the guidance issued under s.183 of the Licensing Act 2003 and the Council's Statement of Licensing policy.

It was therefore unanimously,

Resolved: That the Premises Licence in respect of The Mobile Catering Unit, Lay-By, Adjacent to the Portobello Inn, London Road, West Kingsdown, Kent. TN15 6JB subject to the conditions contained in the licence attached as an appendix to these minutes, be granted.

THE MEETING WAS CONCLUDED AT 11.27 am

Chairman



**Notice of determination for application premises licence**

**To: MR HUDAYI TULU OF MOBILE CATERING UNIT**

**Of: LAY-BY, ADJACENT TO THE PORTOBELLO INN, LONDON ROAD, WEST KINGSDOWN, KENT. TN15 6JB**

**Ref: 11/03328/LAPRE**

Sevenoaks District Council being the licensing authority, on the 16 November 2011 received an application for a premises licence in respect of premises known as the Mobile Catering Unit, Lay-By, adjacent to the Portobello Inn, London Road, West Kingsdown, Kent TN15 6JB.

On the 20 March 2012 there being valid representation which was received and had not been withdrawn, a hearing was held to consider this representation, and having considered it the Licensing Sub-Committee determined as follows:

**To grant the Premises Licence:**

**Section L:** To allow late night refreshment on Monday to Thursday from 23:00 to 00:00 hours and Friday and Saturday from 23:00 to 02:00 hours outdoors.

**Section O:** Hours premises are open to the public on Monday to Thursday from 23:00 to 00:00 hours and Friday and Saturday from 23:00 to 02:00 hours.

**To add the conditions on the Licence as follows:**

1. That litter, if evident, is collected and removed, within a radius of 50m at close of business.

Reason: For the Prevention of Public Nuisance

**This licence granted at the Hearing is effective from the 20 March 2012.**

Dated: 20 March 2012

Signed .....

Chairman – Licensing Hearing

Signed .....

Designation – Licensing Officer

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Please address any communications to:

Licensing Regime  
Community and Planning Services  
Council Offices  
PO Box 182  
Argyle Road  
Sevenoaks  
Kent TN13 1GP

**Note:** Pursuant to Part 1 of Schedule 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 as amended, any party eligible to appeal must appeal to a magistrates' court within 21 days beginning with the day on which the appellant was notified by the licensing authority of the decision appealed against.

LICENSING COMMITTEE – 11 APRIL 2012

HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING: LICENCE FEES 2012/2013

Report of the: Community and Planning Services Director

Status: For Decision

**Executive Summary:**

This report considers the appropriate licence fees and associated costs of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licensing for the 2012/13 financial year to ensure that the 'Taxi Licensing' service remains self-financing, in accordance with the Council's Service and Budget Plan.

**This report supports the Key Aim of safe communities and effective management of Council Resources.**

**Head of Service** Head of Environmental and Operational Services – Mr Richard Wilson

**Recommendation:** It is RESOLVED that from 16 April 2012 the list of fees and associated costs for licences in respect of hackney carriage drivers and vehicles and private hire drivers, vehicles and operators be varied as follows:

|  | Existing Fees        | New Fees             |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence</b> |                      |                      |
| On initial application                   | £154 for three years | £159 for three years |
| Criminal Records Bureau Search Fee       | £44                  | £44                  |
| On renewal                               | £110 for three years | £115 for three years |
| Criminal Records Bureau Search Fee       | £44                  | £44                  |
| <b>Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence</b>  | £272 for one year    | £280 for one year    |

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|  | Existing Fees                      | New Fees                                 |
|--|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Private Hire Operator's Licence</b>         |                                    |  |
| On initial application                         | £284.50 for three years            | £294 for three years                     |
| On renewal                                     | £91 for three years                | £94 for three years                      |
| <b>Private Hire Driver's Licence</b>           |                                    |  |
| On initial application                         | £154 for three years               | £159 for three years                     |
| Criminal Records Bureau Search Fee             | £44                                | £44                                      |
| On renewal                                     | £110 for three years               | £115 for three years                     |
| Criminal Records Bureau Search Fee             | £44                                | £44                                      |
| <b>Private Hire Vehicle Licence</b>            | £272 for one year                  | £280 for one year                        |
| <b>Additional Costs</b>                        |                                    |  |
| Change of Hackney Carriage to Private Hire     | £64                                | £66                                      |
| Change from Private Hire to Hackney Carriage   | £85                                | £88                                      |
| Replace Vehicle Plate                          | £37                                | £23                                      |
| Replace Identification Badge                   | £26                                | £9                                       |
| Vehicle Re-test<br>Vehicle Partial Re-Test     | £54.85 Half the current<br>MOT fee | £54.85 Half the current<br>MOT fee       |
| Change of Ownership of Licensed Vehicle        | £63                                | £65                                      |
| Attempting "Knowledge Test" after two failures | £47 for each attempt               | £48                                      |
| Vehicle Tests –                                |                                    | Owner turning up without their insurance |

## Agenda Item 5

|  | Existing Fees       | New Fees  |
|--|---------------------|---|
|  |                     | documents will be charged half the fee and the test will not go ahead.              |
| Copies of existing licences  | £8 each             | £8 each   |
| <p><u>Replacement Vehicles</u></p> <p>If a licensed vehicle is replaced during the valid licence period then the cost of licensing the replacement vehicle will be £280. However, if the vehicle is replaced within six months of the issue of the licence then the fee will be reduced by £100 in the first of those six months; £90 in the second; £80 in the third; £70 in the fourth; £60 in the fifth and £50 in the sixth month.</p> <p>If a licensed vehicle is replaced temporarily for up to 2 months because of damage to it then the fee will be £99 to test and licence the replacement vehicle and a further £99 to test and re-licence the original vehicle.</p> |                     |   |
| Medical Fee for new and renewal driver licences for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire payable directly to The Cedars Surgery   | £55 for three years | £55 for three years<br><br>NB: Medical provider tender will be sent out during 2012 |

### Background

1. This taxi licensing service is required to be self-financing and the proposed increases to fees will ensure this is maintained.
2. The licence fees and associated costs of 'taxi' licensing are also increased in line with a 3% inflation rate in accordance with the Council's Service and Budget Plan.
3. Careful monitoring of income and expenditure has been carried out over the current financial year to minimise the need for additional increases and the income from licence fees and associated costs, together with expenditure has been in accordance with the objectives laid out in the budget plan.
4. Members are reminded that the fees for the hackney carriage and private hire driver licences were last reviewed by this Committee in January 2009 for the period 1 April 2009 until 31 March 2012.
5. In the past year the fee for the Criminal Records Bureau Enhanced Search, at the present, has gone up from last year to £44.
6. The cost of the Driving Standards Agency, currently £79.66 (weekdays), the cost of the medical , currently £55 and the Criminal Records Bureau Enhanced Search, currently £44 which a new applicant has to pay, means that in addition to the licence fee set by Members, a new applicant for a driver licence will have to pay, if

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the recommended licence fee increase is approved, a total of £337.66 from 16 April 2012 whilst an applicant for a renewal of a licence will pay a total of £214 from the same date.

7. The Licensing team have written to all Hackney Carriage Proprietors, Private Hire Operators, and all Drivers on 13 February 2012 to give all parties the opportunity to make comment. Their comments are attached as Appendix A for Members consideration.

|                  | New applicant for driver licence | Renewal of a drivers licence |
|------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Application      | £159.00                          | £115.00                      |
| CRB              | £44.00                           | £44.00                       |
| Medical          | £55.00                           | £55.00                       |
| DSA driving test | £79.66                           |                              |
| Total            | £337.66                          | £214.00                      |

### Key Implications

#### Financial

8. The cost of licence fees takes into account the need to maintain a 'self financing' position for the service. The proposals contained in this report will achieve this.

#### Legal, Human Rights etc.

9. Should parts of industry believe the authority's fees are at a level which is greater than the costs of the statutory functions then it would be open to them to undertake judicial review proceedings. Should this arise, the authority would need to evidence how it arrived at the fee levels to demonstrate that they have been calculated on a cost recovery basis only.

#### Equality

10. Hackney Carriages and Private Hire vehicles available to all groups within the community.

### RISK ASSESSMENT STATEMENT

11. If the proposed licence fee increases are not agreed, as proposed, then financial support to the Taxi Licensing Service will have to be born from within the Council's budgets.

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**Sources of Information:** Local Government (Miscellaneous) Provisions Act 1976.  
Taxi Licensing Policy

**Contact Officer(s):** Claire Perry Ext. 7325  
Jessica Bolton Ext. 7480

**COMMUNITY AND PLANNING SERVICES DIRECTOR  
KRISTEN PATERSON**

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Feedback from the Hackney carriage and Private Hire proposed fee increases

| Contact                               | Comment  | Ref | Officers comments and recommendation to include in final version for Full Council |
|---------------------------------------|--|-----|---|
| Peter Howell H86                      | <p>I suspect this may be a theme that you are going to hear from the majority but I at this time would not wish to see any further increase in fees.</p> <p>As we are all aware we are in times of austerity. I'm sure that your department is targeted to make cutbacks and savings where ever you can.</p> <p>Against this we, taxi operators, are facing almost weekly increased costs.</p> <p>A few examples would be fuel, insurance, radio rents, maintenance and tyres.</p> <p>Against this we have seen a drop in overall income over the past two years, and the boom times are longer and longer coming. By boom times in mean Christmas and holiday season.</p> <p>So I would hope that the Council will announce a freeze in the fees until things start to improve.</p> |     |   |
| Badge 597 Mr Cunningham               | In agreement with proposed changes.  |     |   |
| Badge 1092 Mr Mohammed Sawgatur Rahim | No comments.   |     |   |
| Badge 277 Mr Crouchman                | A very reasonable set of proposals thank you.  |     |   |
| Badge 792 Mrs Crouchman               | A very reasonable set of proposals thank you.  |     |   |
| Badge 1009 K Durham                   | Increase appears proportionate to current rate of inflation. No objections to increase.  |     |   |
| Badge 940 Mr Lee Hurley               | In this very difficult time for everybody with petrol practically doubling in the last five years, rising the fees in any area is totally wrong and does not help anybody. My yearly income has dropped by 30/40%.   |     |   |

| Contact                   | Comment   | Ref | Officers comments and recommendation to include in final version for Full Council  |
|---------------------------|---|-----|--|
| Badge 135 Mr Powell       | <p>Hackney Carriage Vehicle test. Having merged with other authorities, I find it unacceptable that you would even consider raising these changes. Surely the reason for merging was to increase efficiency and effectiveness and reduce costs in all licensing areas. Therefore the costs reductions should be passed on to the end users. The current charge for an MOT test is £54.85. If you multiplied this by 2 and added say £20 to cover the meter test the true cost of the Hackney test should be in the order of £130 nothing like the £280 proposed.</p> <p>Furthermore, The Council has a monopoly on where taxis can be tested which is unfair in terms of competition and contrary to Government guidelines. Since you raised the matter as a consultancy document, please respond to these issues before I take the matter further.</p> |     | <p>In addition to the steps outlined by Mr. Powell there is also the cost of producing the licences, administration in maintaining the record and enforcement carried out by the Licensing Officers. The provision of enforcement has increased year on year for the past two years.</p>   |
| Badge 715 Rodger Landless | <p>Email: As the challenging financial times are still prevailing, the council could freeze the fees for 12 months and apply them next year when perhaps the austere times have improved.</p> <p>Form: I would have thought in these challenging economic times that perhaps the District Council would have considered freezing the fees for one year and applying these charges next year.</p>  |     | <p>Dear Roger,</p> <p>I understand the need to keep costs as low as possible. The new fees have an average increase of 3% which is less than inflation. Also a couple of the costs have been reduced e.g. replacement plate now £23 and replacement badge £9. These reductions have been able to be made as a result of the Partnership.</p> <p>Hopefully, economic environment permitting, I hope that we can introduce further savings as a result of the Partnership next year.</p> |
| Badge 888 Mr Wise         | <p>I do think fees should stay as they are to go along with current climate. Things are very hard for us all. (BUT) if they go up then we have to go along with that. Thank you for the input.</p>  |     |  |
| Badge 1099 Mr Uddin       | <p>I think slightly high. Basically, I think keep all the fees as same as it is.</p>  |     |  |
| Mrs Warner P 44           | <p>I acknowledge and accept these prices to be fare.</p>  |     |  |

| Contact                        | Comment   | Ref | Officers comments and recommendation to include in final version for Full Council   |
|--------------------------------|---|-----|---|
| Badge 994 Mr N Cobb            | Replacement vehicles – I agree that the annual fee needs to be charged on the new (replacement) vehicle but pro rata rebate should be paid on unused period of previous vehicle, or maybe on set monthly rate for any unused months. The present system encourages owners to keep potentially un roadworthy vehicles on the road for final six months of licence period, as there is no financial incentive to change the vehicle sooner. |     | Vehicles are checked twice during their year of licence. Therefore there is no likelihood of un roadworthy vehicles being used.         |
| Badge 380 Mr Reeves            | All acceptable and good to see plate and badge replacement fees down.   |     |   |
| Badge 468 Mr Philip Cottingham | Although some fees have been held (two minor fees actually reduced) all the major fees have been increased roughly in line with inflation. At a time when business appears to be declining and all other costs are rising, particularly insurance and fuel, I suppose one should be thankful that you have at least shown a degree of restraint in rescheduling your prices.  |     |   |
| Badge 903 Mr Raymond Jackson   | Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence – I think that this fee is excessive and unfair when the renewal fee in Maidstone and Tunbridge is considerably less. Their conditions and regulations are identical to ours and they even use the same testing station.   |     | The Hackney Carriage/Private Hire vehicles are tested at Dunbrik. No other authorities use this testing centre.                         |
| Mr R Lock Plate H              | No objections to all of the proposals.  |     |   |
| Badge 848 Miss J Jones         | Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence £280. – Why are we paying £50 more for the same test as Tonbridge and Maidstone?   |     | The licence fee includes two tests (Maidstone only test their vehicle annually), administration in issuing the licence and enforcement. |
| Badge 1019 Mr Colin Annetts    | With 212 Hackney Carriage and 89 Private Hire each paying £272 (to rise to £280) you have an income of £82000p.a. plus drivers 'three year' Licence fees and other bits and pieces. In TOTAL an income of some £97000 to £100,000 per year for Sevenoaks District.<br>I do not see how you can justify these fees when lawfully you should only recover <u>the costs</u> of operating the TAXI Licensing administration.                  |     | The increase in income equates to a 3% inflation factor.  |

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